

# OAKLEY BOWLERS



## CHRONICLE



**SEPTEMBER 2016**

**ISSUE 3**

From our President - Mary Varndell	3
Captain's Log	4
Spencer's Snippets	6
Ladies Secretary's Salutations	9
Green Report	10
Clubmark	11
Hospice Cup	13
Team Reach Rotary District Bowls Final	13
Whitchurch League	14
Thank You from Charlie Philip	14
Catering Chit-Chat	15
Thank You from Duncan Wilkins	15
Jack High	16
Keswick - An extract from a non-bowler's diary	17
News from the North!	20
The Saga of Bob and Barbara's Roof	21
Tuffs Teaser	22
Editor's Corner	23
Tuffs Teasers' - Possible Answers	23

## From our President – Mary Varndell



All too soon the end of the season is upon us and the end of my outdoor year as President. Yesterday I was privileged to witness the dedication of twenty or so members put the green and club house “to bed” for the winter. I suspect that not all of Oakley Bowling Club realise the very hard work that entails – walking many miles behind very heavy machinery, wheeling a great many barrow loads grass, moss, soil, etc that the many processes carried out on the green throw up. The ditches and mats also have to be cleaned; benches, paving slabs, patio pavers, windows, inside the club house all have to be cleaned. I was very humbled to see the men – and ladies! – many of whom are not in the first flush of youth! giving all their energies so that we can walk back in next year and have a lovely club house and great green to play on. Trevor and his band of merry men work very hard and I would like to say a very personal thank you to them all. But do remember this all has to be done again in the Spring before we can play. There is an old saying is many hands make light work so, when the time comes, go and give them a hand and show that you appreciate all that they do. It’s not just the men that are needed, there are many jobs the ladies can do as well. I just wonder how many realise that there are some jobs that have to be carried out daily on the green throughout the winter.

I am very proud and privileged to be President of Oakley when it has been awarded Club Mark status. This is, without a doubt, been achieved by the great efforts and dedication of Peter Bown. We all owe him a great big thank you. Others have of course contributed in various way, and we thank them as well, but the main work has been done by Peter.

There have been many highlights during the season, not least of all our recent tour to the Lake District. Spencer did a great job of recording the events of the week and our many ups and downs but I think everyone enjoyed it one way or another – I certainly did. I was certainly touched by the lovely picture of Derwent Water that was presented to me on our last evening. Thank you everyone.

Other highlights have been the success of our players in external competitions and leagues all of which will have been documented by the captains. Congratulations to you all, Oakley is very proud of you. A special mention has to go to our “youngsters” Heather, Nicole and Ashley. They have brought us many thrills with their successes throughout the season all of which have been aptly reported on by Spencer. They have also the hope that, with encouragement, more of their age group will play this great game of ours.

We now start our programme of winter friendlies and I hope to see there. Good Bowling and enjoy.

# Captain's Log

from Barry Lee, Men's Captain



## ANOTHER BIT OF BARRY'S BANTER

Well thats it for another year, I think Oakley have done very well this year. The green is now put to bed until next April.

In the last Chronicle I got as far as game 17 in the Friendly list, by the end of this week we will have played 22 Friendly games over the season. Last year in Margaret's year as President we won 7 games out of a possible 20 this year so far we have won 8 out of 22 and on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> we will play a new fixture Three Mile Cross ( near Reading ). It may be our 9<sup>th</sup> win. I also said in my last Banter that 68 members had played so far, this has now risen to 84 members !! not bad at all well done the Club.

Game 18 was an all men's 6 rink game against the Royal County of Berkshire . A very nice warm day great fun with the men and great food. We lost overall but well done Fred Norris's team with Sean the sheep, David Gunton and Jim Dixon who had the highest winning rink of 27-13.

Our next game was with our long standing friends at Lymington a great day a bit breezy but fairly warm. We lost overall by 14 shots but have a guess who had highest rink !!! Yes it was Jocky again, well done Camila, Margaret and Jim Dixon.

Game 20 was a 7 rink match against Waterside (nr Southampton) Margaret took us to their green on her tour 2015 with 12 mixed rinks. We started the game but unfortunately it rained so the game was called off half way. So they asked if they could come to us this year. As it happened neither of us were able to play as we were given tickets to the ' Battle Proms' at Highclere Castle where we had a great afternoon and evening, and It seemed you did not miss us, winning 145-117 (28shots). Well done Ruth Bown's team of Chris Williams, Dave Bowers and Ashley Nethercliff winning 38-10.

Game 21 was not so good for us against Hyde Abbey, they could only raise 10 players so it had to be cancelled. Thank you to all the players who had their name down.

Game 22 our next game was a touring team from Plymouth 'Sir Francis Drake' BC, the weather was hot and with tea at 10 ends we finished the afternoon after 16 ends. So they could have more time with us. A very enjoyable afternoon with lots of friendly people. They said they would like to come again in fact they said ----" NO WE ARE coming again!!" The best food they have had over the tour! well done Margaret and the ladies. And well done Derek Easton and his team Val Ryan, Terry Varndell and Kevin Vickers. 20-8 .

Game 23 was a new fixture with Oakley this year Tilehurst (nr Reading). We had a little rain for a few minutes and a great afternoon was had even after being told we have an international player in the club and 6 Middleton Cup players in the club. We only lost by 22 shots Well done Stan Mond and his team Carolyn Ford, Gil Virgo, and Camila. 23 -14 .

Game 24 was with the University of Reading, they rang at the beginning of the week with 9 players but by the end of the week they raised 13 players (out of a total membership of 38) . Very many thanks to Val and John Ryan who kindly offered to play for them to make their 15. Even with 2 of our club members playing for the opposition we still lost 65-87

BUT ! well done Barry Lee's team, Sandra Lee and Brian Beswick. His 1<sup>st</sup> win of the season!! (don't say a word).

Game 25 was a mid week game against the Hampshire Clubs Past Presidents Association where we had 5 Triples, and we WON ! only by one shot 79-78 . A special well done to Heather Statham's rink skipping in her first friendly with Jim Dixon and Camila 15-11. Although I have said Game 25 that was actually our 21<sup>st</sup> game as 4 games have been cancelled.

After a good and a little wet Tour, we looked forward to the President v Vice President game on the 17<sup>th</sup>. It was a very cold and breezy day with about half an hour of sun mid game , The President won 78-64 with a smaller attendance this year. After the game we all went over the club for a warming drink on the "Bosses" followed by a great meal provided by Tracy & Robbie also on the "Bosses" A very big Thank you all.

Sunday was the closing spoon drive and a much warmer day, 26 players attended with 24 playing. Margaret organised the Tea & Biscuits while I was reserve for Frank who was playing his first game after a spell in Hospital. Well done to Sandra Lee who had the highest Lady score and to Ted Trantum and Jonathan Rouse both having the same score but Ted won 11 ends and Jonathan 9 ends. All received a prize.

The Yardstick has been running again this year with 10 games played a total of 30 members attended over August and September, the same as last year, 4 of which only played 1 game I am wondering if more advertising should be done to the Opening and Closing days together with the Yardstick competition could encourage more to join in.

Well now to Indoor Bowls. Spencer has reminded us about the short mat games on Monday afternoons and Thursday afternoons, and If you would like to play some Indoor Friendlies over the winter please send in the form Spencer sent out a few weeks ago . If you have not got a form please let me know and I will drop one in for you. There are 10 games over the winter months, and I hope to get the first two out in a few days. Riverside ( Winchester ) is now only a 5 Triples game starting at 2-pm not 2-30pm.

I hope to see you all at the End of Season Dance up at Malshanger Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October. It starts at 7-30pm and there is a Supper of Fish & Chips, Sausage & Chips, Chicken & Chips, or Veggie Burger & Chips. Please book your Tickets - Just £10.

Many thanks for all your help over the Season.

## Spencer's Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



The Club's congratulations go to Nicole Rogers, Ashley Nethercliffe and Heather Statham, all of whom played so well at the National Championships at Leamington Spa. Nicole reached the quarter-final in the Junior Singles (Under 25) and was runner-up in the Sutton Winson Trophy (Under 18s) having beaten Ashley in the semi-final – quite an achievement for one club to provide two of the last four in a competition that featured 128 players. Nicole, skipped by Heather also reached the quarter-final of the Junior Pairs where they bowed out to Sophie Tolchard, who is to be England's Singles representative at World Bowls to be held in New Zealand in November.

These fine performances did not go unnoticed by the England selectors and the club was delighted when both Ashley and Nicole were selected to be part of a 12 strong (6 boys and 6 girls) England Under 18 team to play Wales in a Test Match at Barry. Both acquitted themselves very well and were instrumental in helping England to a Test win. I know they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and, having shown the selectors what they can do, should be able to look forward to more representative honours. In 2017 Nicole will no longer qualify to play in the Under 18 events but Ashley and Heather will and both have been invited to an England Junior Academy weekend. We wish them good luck.

It has, however, not just been our Juniors that have had success on the green. Over the last 6 weeks of the season the Club has had the following successes (I hope I have not missed anyone):

NHWBA Two Wood Singles R/U – Laura Butler

NHWBA Triples R/U – Camilla Kingshott, Laura Butler and Val Ryan

BDBA Pairs R/U – Terry Heath and Ted Brown

BDBA Triples R/U – Terry Heath, Ric Newson and Ted Brown

BDBA Two Wood Triples R/U – Terry Heath, Ric Newson and Ted Brown

BDBA Champion of Champions R/U – Terry Heath

Whitchurch League Singles Winner – Terry Heath

Whitchurch League Pairs Winners – Terry Heath and Ric Newson

Whitchurch League Champion of Champions R/U – Terry Heath

Whitchurch League Novice Singles Winner – Heather Statham

Whitchurch League Novice Singles R/U – Nicole Rogers

Success has not just been confined to the green as the Club has recently been awarded Clubmark accreditation by Sport England – the only Bowls Club in Hampshire to be so accredited and one of only 11 bowls clubs throughout the Country. Achieving this award means that the club is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages as well as helping parents and carers know that they're choosing the right Club for their young people. It indicates that the Club has high standards of welfare, equity, coaching and management and that we provide the right environment which ensures the welfare of members and encourages everyone to enjoy sport and stay involved throughout their lives. A huge amount of work went into ensuring we were able to demonstrate that, as a Club, we not only had in place the

necessary policies and procedures but also that we adhered to them and we are enormously grateful to our Treasurer Peter who led on all this. It must have been enormously frustrating for him to complete more than 75% of the process only for Sport England to change the rules but we can now say we are the first Bowls Club to have achieved the award using the new on-line system. Congratulations on the award have been received from the Chief Executive of Bowls England and we are now waiting to hear when the formal presentation of our certificate will take place. Perhaps the final words of the Assessor who visited the Club recently define us as a Club. He said in his report “*It is very hard to define what makes a "strong/good club" but yesterday I visited a club that satisfies its members, is always looking to improve and has that friendly feel that you can't describe until you visit it for yourself.*”

Membership now stands at 130 but, as in most years, we should expect there will be a number of people who for varying reasons, will not re-join for 2017. The Recruitment and Retention Sub Committee will, as normal, be looking at how we can maintain numbers and ensure the membership is not skewed too much towards a particular age group and would welcome from members any ideas for recruitment initiatives.

## CLUB TOUR TO THE LAKE DISTRICT

On 3rd September the tourists set off on their long awaited trip to the Lake District. It was a smooth journey on our Moreton's Executive Coach, equipped with on board wi-fi, and soon after 5pm we were in our home for the next week - the Skiddaw Hotel. Situated on the main street in Keswick it has a conservatory, ideal for people watching and this proved a popular meeting place throughout the holiday.

Sunday saw most people up bright and early and after breakfast it was leisure time around Keswick. The attraction of the shops was too great for some but others made the short stroll to Derwentwater through the beautiful Crow Park with a few venturing on to Friars Crag with its stunning views along the lake. Around noon we boarded the coach for what should have been a short trip to Caldbeck but we became lost around Cockermouth with our driver John patiently ignoring the back seat drivers with their mobile phone maps. No doubt an occasion when he regretted the coach having a satellite wi fi connection! Still by the time we arrived at Caldbeck, a village high on the Fells we had experienced some wonderful views. The village is famed for its connection with the huntsman John Peel, whose grave is in the churchyard. The locals were extremely friendly and there was a good deal of banter throughout the afternoon but they gave us a bowling lesson with Oakley managing only two winning rinks. The hospitality had to be experienced to be believed - wonderful scones with lemon curd or Cumbrian rum butter as well as scrumptious home baked biscuits.

Monday did not go to plan. Mary had planned for a drive over the Kirkstone Pass to Windermere followed by a boat trip to Ambleside and then a leisurely trip back via Grasmere but no one at Cumbria County Council had thought to tell the Tour of Britain cycle race organisers that they should plan their route so as not to inconvenience Oakley BC. Plan Z had to be used and to avoid the closures we travelled to Ambleside using the main road and then to Bowness where we caught a boat to Lakeside. From there we had to journey back to Keswick on the motorway. For most of the day it rained so we would probably not have seen much over the Kirkstone Pass but nonetheless it was disappointing for those on their first visit to the Lakes that their day was curtailed.

Tuesday saw the party split up. 18 members went off to Appleby in Westmoreland where they marvelled at the work that had been done to restore the green and pavilion following Storm Desmond. The game was close, again we came second,

but we left having had an enjoyable afternoon with friendly hosts. With only 18 tourists going to Appleby the rest had additional time to explore. Some walked around Derwentwater or took the launch. Others caught the local bus up the Honister Park past Buttermere and Crummock Water. Whatever they did, all enjoyed themselves.

Wednesday saw the tour heading for Carlisle, where members spent the morning browsing the city centre with some visiting Carlisle's new museum and others the Castle and Cathedral. After lunch we made our way to Courtfield Bowling Club.. It was unusually a warm day and we had a warm welcome on the green. Friendly as the Courtfield bowlers were, they took no prisoners and we failed to win on a single rink with the President's rink skipped by the Secretary getting a bowling lesson. Again the hospitality was excellent with scones and fruit bread after the game and we made the short journey back to Keswick in good spirits.

No wonder Cumbria is green and has so many lakes. Thursday was driver John's compulsory day off and it had been planned that the tourists would spend the morning wandering around the market before going to Fitz Park to play on the best green in Cumbria. Another plan went wrong. It rained all morning though some brave souls went shopping and then at around 12.30 Mary had the disappointing task of informing us that as the rain was still falling out of the sky and as the green had puddles on it the match had been cancelled. We did, however, have the consolation of meeting up and reminiscing with Jan Foster and Dave Huyton who had travelled up from their new home in Lancashire.

The rain continued overnight and we woke on Friday morning to find the skies overcast but it was dry - just. Sadly the forecast for the afternoon was for heavy rain and late morning, following conversations with Croft Bowling Club it was decided to cancel the game. John, our driver, did, however, take us on a short mystery tour up the Whinlatter Pass and by the time we arrived back at the Skiddaw the rain had begun. The decision to call off the game proved a good one as it poured all afternoon and evening. The Farewell Dinner, where we were joined by Cumbria Secretary Margaret Docherty and husband, was as usual a great success. "Tour Virgin" Chris Williams gave a splendid vote of thanks to President Mary for all the work that had gone into organising such an enjoyable week and on behalf of all tourists presented her with a framed picture of Skiddaw with Keswick in the foreground. Replying Mary paid tribute to all who had helped her and presented the prestigious Black Mark trophy to Linda Smith (Black marks raised almost £300 for the Hospice), the Wooden Spoon to Hazel Solomon and the Tour Trophy to Peter Bown.

Saturday came too soon and by 9.15 am we had set off on the long trip home. The early part of the journey was in good weather but it was raining by the time we stopped for lunch at the Spread Eagle. From there it was one more comfort break before we were back home after a tour where we had an excellent coach and driver, a well located hotel with comfortable rooms and good food and friendly and hospitable hosts. Admittedly the weather might have been better but on arrival home the general view was that the tour was highly enjoyable and we now look forward to Devon in 2017.



# Ladies Secretary's Salutation

From Lesley Allard, Ladies Secretary



I can't believe it's all over! Where has the summer gone?

By all accounts Mary's tour to the Lake District was a great success, even if the weather was mixed. Everyone enjoyed visiting the area and a relaxing stay in a good hotel.

The Indoor season has arrived and I have the list for the NHWBA luncheon to be held at Loddon Vale IBC on Tuesday 8 November. This is always an enjoyable event and Oakley Ladies have several runners-up trophies to collect. If any ladies (all ladies who play outdoors are welcome), would like to go please give me a ring on 397435 and I will give you details of the menu. I need names and payment (a cheque for £18 made payable to NHWBA) please before 14 October, when I have to take list and payment to the Autumn council meeting.

Once again Oakley ladies played their old friends Hook ladies in the annual fixture and were the victors for the first time for several years. Well done ladies! The Assessor for the Clubmark Accreditation was impressed with the friendly attitude and obvious enjoyment on the day.

We have received Clubmark Accreditation now, thanks to the hard work of Peter Bown and many members who make Oakley BC such a great Club. This is your club run by volunteer members who maintain the Clubhouse, equipment, green and surrounding area and as such keep down the Membership Fees! Your club needs you!!

Mavis Titheradge (Mave the Rave!) is recovering from the shock and chest injury following a car accident. Get well soon Mavis.

The Club mourned the passing away of Reg Chaplin, the husband and great support of Past President Beryl. Reg was an excellent wood worker and made the boxes for the Club trophies as well as the wooden spoons awarded on tour. A tribute to Reg, written by Spencer, was read out to the congregation at the funeral, attended by many Oakley members, past and present.

Best wishes to the incoming President Jim Fitzgerald. We hope that he and his wife Pat enjoy the ride!

## *Birthday Thanks*

I had a wonderful 90th birthday with lovely celebrations with my family and friends. Thank you to you all who sent greetings and particularly for the gorgeous bouquet of lovely freesias from the Bowls Club. I was overwhelmed as they were so beautiful and lasted such a long time.

I am sorry I haven't been able to play much this season. I am now feeling much better so hope to be seen more at the club. Thanks again to everyone.  
Mavis.

## *Happy Anniversary*

Congratulations to Val and John Ryan and to Jo and Roy Holland, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently.

## Thank you

A thank letter was received from Val and John Ryan for their flowers for their golden wedding.

"A big thank you to all you lovely people for the beautiful flowers for our golden wedding anniversary. It was such a surprise to find them on our doorstep. Once again a big thank you. Jo & Roy XXXX"

## **Green Matters by Trevor Wearn**

8:00am on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September saw the main Green Team assemble to begin the task of the autumn renovations. It did seem a shame considering how well it looked after a testing season, but, after a slight hitch caused by the scarifying machine complaining about the extra effort we required from it, we were ripping into the surface and barrowfull after barrowfull of thatch and spoil were carted away. Around 9:00am the rest of the volunteers arrived to tackle all the other jobs that are part and parcel of putting the Green to bed for the winter and Spencer was soon looking suitably bedraggled in his wellies and waterproofs as he jet-washed all the ditch mats! After a mid-morning break to devour some very much appreciated Bacon & Sausage sandwiches supplied by President Mary and Terry, work enthusiastically continued until by dinnertime all the ancillary jobs were completed, leaving just ½ dozen to down some homemade soup supplied by Coral and carry on with work on the Green itself. The weather determined finishing time for the day however when at 3:00pm the forecasted light shower arrived, turning quickly into an un-forecasted downpour!

Tuesday dawned better though and a full day by the main Green Team men saw us finish up ahead of schedule with only a few hours on Wednesday needed to finish up. Just some spraying and fertilizing to do and we can sit back and watch the grass grow – only for a little while though, the winter work schedule starts next week and someone has to go up to the Green each day to keep an eye on it!

My sincere thanks to the Green Team and the Gardening Team for the many, many hours put in over the season and to all the volunteers who helped us over the last few days. I just hope the members are just as appreciative of all your good work which helps keep Oakley Bowling Club right up there with the best!!

If you'd like to get involved in the work on the Green or surrounds, which as I said earlier has to go on all the year round and particularly if you are mechanically minded as I really need someone to help with the routine servicing of our machines, please contact me, my phone number and email address are in the Fixture Card.

Winter well then, I'll think of you (maybe!!) while I'm still bowling outdoors, in the sun, in shorts over the next month, have a Great Xmas and New Year if I don't see you before then (I might just stay in Spain!!),  
Hasta Luego!



**from Peter Bown**

Following the return from the Club Tour to Cumbria, the Club was visited by the Sport Hampshire & IOW Clubmark Assessor. This was the final stage of the Clubmark process and, two days later, it was confirmed that we had achieved the Clubmark accreditation status. A presentation of the Certificate will be arranged by the Assessor.

Statistics are difficult, but from the Sport England Club Matters website, at the point we attained accreditation almost 2,650 clubs had attained Clubmark accreditation representing approximately 13% of registered clubs. However, there are only 20 bowls clubs with Clubmark, and we believe only 11 of these are outdoor clubs.

Having led the Clubmark process for the past 18 months, I have been asked three key questions on a regular basis. These are:

What is Clubmark?

How can Clubmark benefit the Club?

What were the main changes needed to attain Clubmark?

### **What is Clubmark?**

Clubmark is the universally acknowledged cross sport accreditation scheme for community sports Clubs.

It shows that a Club provides the right environment which ensures the welfare of members and encourages everyone to enjoy sport and stay involved throughout their lives.

An accredited Club is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages as well as helping parents and carers know that they're choosing the right Club for their young people.

### **How can Clubmark Benefit the Club?**

As a single, national standard, Clubmark gives sports clubs of all types structure and direction. Clubs awarded Clubmark have seen many tangible benefits, such as:

**Raised Profile** – Clubmark is a highly valued accreditation. As well as raising the profile with local authorities, NGBs and other sporting and community bodies, all accredited clubs are listed on a national database and in other directories, to help them to publicise what they do, attract new members and grow.

**Continuous Improvement** – Accreditation encourages a club to adopt better, more organised systems and structures, thus helping them to run more effectively and efficiently.

**Marketing and Communication** – Clubmark gives clubs the confidence to promote themselves. All Clubmark clubs can access the Clubmark member's area, utilise the Clubmark logo and take advantage of other brand resources as well as bespoke information to help generate more publicity. The universal brand, recognising

quality clubs across more than 30 sports is a really valuable marketing tool.

**Developing Coaches** – As part of Clubmark, clubs are entitled to receive help to develop the skills of coaches. This, in turn leads to better quality provision and improved player performance.

**Increased Membership and Retaining Members** – Clubmark stimulates real thought about how clubs cater for members. Addressing issues like equity and child protection gives members and parents confidence when choosing a club.

**Links with Schools** – Clubmark clubs are normally the first invited to work with local schools and schools are being encouraged to signpost pupils to Clubmark clubs.

**Funding** – Many funding bodies state that applicants must be Clubmark accredited or working towards it.

### **What were the main changes needed to attain Clubmark?**

Oakley Bowling Club was very lucky in as much as it was already a well-run club. Clubmark had been looked at by the Committee in about 2011 but, at the time, it was considered that there was too much to do and efforts were concentrated on the new pavilion. Since then the Clubmark rules have been refined and the Club has introduced Health & Safety and Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. When the gap analysis was done in 2015, it was decided that the Club should apply for Clubmark. The process has been slow and the rules have been changed three times since then.

As part of Clubmark, the Club had to review and update or implement policies and procedures to meet the Clubmark Criteria. As a result, there is now a new Policies and Procedures tab on the website; this covers Policies (new ones are for Welfare and for Equity & Fair Play), Codes of Conduct (covering club officials & volunteers, coaches and bowls etiquette generally), and Role Descriptions (covering President, Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer and Coaches).

As a result of the Clubmark process, the Committee has an improved understanding of its catchment area, has been able to better target recruitment drives, and has developed and recorded its coaching structure and their qualifications.

### **Going Forward**

As always, there is more that can and will be done and there are three target areas for the coming year.

The Committee feel that they need to obtain feedback from members (especially as we have recruited so many over the past three years) as to how the club is run, whether the playing opportunities are correctly targeted, and what social activities should be considered. A survey will be circulated to achieve this.

In addition, the Committee wish to review the coaching structure (anyone wishing to become an Activator Coach or Level 1 Coach should speak with Ruth Bown or Sue Dixon).

There is also an intention to develop a coaching plan for existing members that will develop skills at all levels.

## HOSPICE CUP

**from Keith Turnbull**

Now that the Spoon Drive season is complete, I am pleased to announce that for the second year running, the Winner of the Hospice Cup is Ted Trantum.

Runner up is Marion Bringes and in third place is Colin Clarke.

As you might be aware, introduced a slight variation on the scoring system at the start of this year. Instead of scoring purely on aggregate shot difference over the season, I applied a weighting factor, which is designed to reward players who attend regularly and submit all their scorecards (even the poorer ones!).

However, as it turned out, the result this year would have been the same either way. Final Scores were as follows:

NAME	FINAL SCORE	TOTAL SHOT DIFFERENCE	NO. OF SCORECARDS SUBMITTED (TOTAL POSSIBLE WAS 21)
Ted Trantum	70	+98	15
Marion Bringes	51	+76	14
Colin Clarke	32	+68	10

I can also report that, subject to confirmation, a total of £572.50 was raised by the Spoon Drives for St Michael's Hospice this year. Congratulations again to Ted.

## FOUR MEMBERS REACH ROTARY DISTRICT BOWLS FINAL

**from Jonathan Rouse**

A team comprising Kevin Vickers, Jonathan Rouse, Jim Graydon and Jim Lawson have reached the final of Rotary District 1110 bowls competition. The four members belong to the Rotary Club of Basingstoke Deane which meets at Test Valley Golf Club every Tuesday Evening.



There are over 70 rotary Clubs in District 1110 which covers most of Hampshire, The Isle of Wight, parts of Dorset and Wiltshire and The Channel Islands.

The team has won through three rounds to reach the final thanks to perhaps three home draws at Oakley. They nearly did not get very far as in their first match against Southampton Magna Rotary Club they were 9-12 down on the final end but pinched it 13-12.

The next round was somewhat more comfortable with a win against Bishops Waltham 19-8. A home draw in the semi final placed us at home to Southsea Castle when after a slight scare the final result was 14-9.

Gillingham (Dorset) are the opponents in the final which is waiting to be arranged.

## **WHITCHURCH LEAGUE**

**from Val Ryan**

### **Woodpeckers winning Division 4 of the Wednesday Whitchurch League**

As most of the team were (on tour) it was left to John Yarrall, Laura Butler, John and Valerie Ryan to represent our team and collect the trophy. It was held at St. Mary Bourne, on Saturday 10th September.

The afternoon involved everyone who entered the Whitchurch League and were runners up or won, and were available!

It was played as a rinks format, and was played in good fun, despite the rain, which was unforgiving.

After the game our hosts gave us a very nice supper, as is the norm for St Mary Bourne, then followed the presenting of the trophies, cups, and shields.

Heather Statham beat Nicole Rogers in the Novice singles, and collected her trophy, Terry Heath won several, also Ric Newson. Sorry If I've forgotten anyone, next time I'll take notes.

## **THANK YOU**

**from Charlie Philip**

I want to start by saying what a pleasure it has been to join the Oakley Bowls Club. I first came along to the Oakley Sport Weekend and continued with the Bowls for Fun evenings, which really gave me an insight, not just to bowls but also to the friendliness of the club. A huge thank you especially to those who gave up their time to try and teach & encourage us in the finer techniques of bowls & maybe one day we will actually get the hang of it.

Initially I came along to a few of the Spoon drives and more recently to some of the Yard stick evenings. This has really helped me gather experience without too much fear of spoiling a serious game, ok I know some of you take it very seriously & others take it as a time for fellowship and practice. It is always encouraging to us newcomers to see some of the longer standing players getting the bias the wrong way round as well as sending the bowls a long way past or short of the Jack. It was a shame the last evening was cut short by the thunderstorm but that's Britain for you and wasn't it a humdinger of a thunderstorm too. I again apologise for my lateness on the few evenings I came and enjoyed the banter around it & hope I give as good as I get, its all part of the friendliness of the club, as well as making me feel accepted by you all.

I look forward to meeting some of you during the closed season at the indoor friendly's and will try and put my name down for some of the actual games next season, whether I get picked or not is another matter.

See you all soon.

## **Catering Chit-Chat**

### **from Margaret Lee**

I can't believe it's the end of the season already although from a catering point of view it's been a very busy one. We seemed to have a lot of home games (15 in total) + 2 hosted games and 2 touring teams so as I said it's been a busy season for catering.

I would like to thank ALL the ladies and gents who have helped over the season. I have always had enough volunteers to make the sandwiches and cakes for the friendlies and on the hosted games I have had a lot of support for getting the meals ready and serving them.

I would particularly like to thank Carolyn Ford, Vera Rhodes, Averil Adams, Sandra Lee, Val Ryan and Camila Kingshott who has made sandwiches and or cakes for every home game. Also thank you to Linda Smith, Coral Wearn, Carolyn Ford, Vera Rhodes and Averil Adams who have help with the hosted games. I know without their help I would have been struggling to keep to the high standard. This year we have only had tea half way through the game for 2 or 3 games which has made the catering a lot easier to manage. To those who prepared the buffet for after the games I would like to say thank you for your support. You are too many to mention by name but without you all doing your bit OBC's reputation would not be as it is today.

After the Bowls England game on Wednesday 25 May I had so many compliments about the range of sandwiches and cakes for the buffet at lunch time and the meal after the game. In fact all of the clubs that visit are very complimentary about the food. This is not just down to me, as I point out to them, it's also the team work and the wonderful support I get from you all.

Oakley has a very good reputation in the bowling world so the pressure is on to keep up the standard but I am sure that the ladies and gents of Oakley BC will rise to the challenge.

Thank you one and all.

## **THANK YOU**

### **from Duncan Wilkins**

I would like to please say a big thank you to all the A Team bowlers who helped to bring the runners up spot to The Club. I know we have two teams entered in the BDBA league, I don't particularly like the A and B tag, because they also had a very good season finishing 3rd . A big thank you goes to all the teams involved, and here's to a season in the top flight, and hopefully more success.

JACK HIGH

from Coral Wearn



The 'Jack High' is a Fund Raiser for Oakley Bowling Club and makes a significant financial contribution.  
If you are not already a member and would like to take part please contact:-

Coral - Tel: 01256 353704 or Email: [coral.wearn@virginmedia.com](mailto:coral.wearn@virginmedia.com)

The Subscription cost is £2 per month - **£24 paid annually**.  
The draw payouts are dependent on the amount of subscriptions collected to the date of each draw.

*The average payout is 1 payment between £30 & £50 per month  
and between 3 & 5 payments of £10 per month.*

**THE MORE MEMBERS THE HIGHER THE PAYOUT.**

## **THE 'JACK HIGH' CLUB RULES**

**The rules of the Club are as follows: -**

The membership subscription per share will be **£2 per month** and each share will be allocated a number. For Jack High purposes the year will run to coincide with the Bowling club year i.e. November to October and payment will be collected in advance at the Annual General Meeting, or by direct electronic payment to the Treasurer (Sort Code 20-05-00, Account No.13741443). New Members who join the Jack High Club during the year will be required to pay subscriptions only for that part of the year remaining.

Non-payment will automatically disqualify the share from winning.

If at any time it becomes necessary to dissolve the Club the 'Jack High' Club committee guarantees to refund all subscriptions received except those relating to draws that have already taken place.

All members will be notified of the numbers allocated to their shares and will participate in draws for the benefits specified in Rule 5.

The benefits will consist of prizes each calendar month (*number of prizes and amount of each prize will be dependent on the amount of subscriptions collected to date of draw*), these draws will be made monthly at a Club function i.e. Friendly



Match, Club Day, Annual Dinner Dance etc.

The numbers of the prize-winners will be determined by a draw made on each of the said occasions, with numbers being drawn at random by Club members present.

Each prize will be paid to the winning member by the member responsible for running the Jack High draw.

Members may have as many shares as they wish, each being charged at £24 per year.

**Below is a summary of ‘Jack High’ profits paid to Club Funds between 2003 and 2016 – So please keep your contributions coming to support us – everything bit, no matter how small, helps towards keeping the Club running efficiently.**

Year	Income	Prizes Paid Out	Paid to Club Funds	Cumulative Profit	Year	Income	Prizes Paid Out	Paid to Club Funds	Cumulative Profit
2003	£2204	£1100	£1104	£1104	2010	£2088	£1020	£1068	£8807
2004	£2387	£1160	£1227	£2331	2011	£1944	£960	£984	£9791
2005	£2184	£1080	£1104	£3435	2012	£2040	£1020	£1020	£10811
2006	£2136	£1080	£1056	£4491	2013	£2178	£1020	£1158	£11969
2007	£2132	£1000	£1132	£5623	2014	£2040	£1020	£1020	£12989
2008	£2074	£1000	£1074	£6697	2015	£2112	£1062	£1050	£14039
2009	£2002	£960	£1042	£7739	2016	£2064	£1020	£1044	£15083

**I will be at the AGM with full details of Jack High and will be available to collect your payments and enrol any new members.**

## **Keswick – An extract from a non-bowler's diary**

**From Chris Lee**

As a non-bowler what did I want to achieve from my week in Keswick? The answer was to combine trips to interesting places, terminating where possible at the bowling greens where the tourists were playing. I could see that I could achieve this most days, at least until the weather intervened.

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

The first morning in Keswick was an orientation trip around the town, checking out some shops for Sandra, confirming bus timetables and visiting Booths supermarket – it made Waitrose look downmarket!

The afternoon was a trip to Caldbeck and after being dropped at the bowling green, I set out along the river Howk to the remains of the bobbin mill, which once had the largest watermill (42 feet diameter) in the country, and now has some impressive waterfalls in the limestone gorge. Returning across the gorge on a footbridge, I reached the village, which has an interesting shop with a petrol pump outside (not very common these days) and then visited the adjacent

churchyard with the grave of John Peel (“Do ye ken John Peel”), which Spencer Kerley found ahead of me. Walking alongside the churchyard a restored watermill can be seen, this time on the Cald Beck after which the village is named, and which forms the boundary of the Lake District National Park in this area. Following the beck, the Oddfellows Arms was reached, which proved to be a disappointing visit with indifferent staff. I then returned to the bowling club in time to watch the end of the game and to participate in the excellent tea provided.

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

The day started disappointingly, but accidentally turned into a success. Today was a coach tour of the Lake District, but it clashed with the Cycle Tour of Britain, which was also in the Lake District, resulting in many roads being closed. We travelled first to the coach park to receive a briefing on what was hoped to be the route, and then returned to the hotel to pick up Jocky and Vera who had missed our initial departure. We stopped first in a rainy Ambleside and after a quick look around Sandra and I retired to the Queens Hotel – the oldest building in Ambleside, with a very chatty barman. The coach then took us to Bowness, tickets for a cruise to Lakeside over an hour later were distributed and time for pickup in Lakeside confirmed. As we left the coach a quick check of the timetables showed that there was an earlier cruise leaving almost immediately and we quickly boarded, as it would give us plenty of time to take a trip on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway.

The boat departed at once but the cruise was not very interesting with some rain, mist and everything looking grey. At Lakeside we joined the steam train and travelled to Haverthwaite. Now with over an hour available we had plenty of time to look around, visit the engine shed and have an excellent homemade lunch in the station restaurant. We returned to Lakeside by the next train and caught the coach back to Keswick. A very lucky and successful day.

### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

Today the bowling was in Appleby but Sandra and I stayed locally and were joined by Marion & Keith Bringes. We walked to Derwent Water, took a launch also carrying Ric and Sue Newson, to Hawse End on the far side, and walked alongside the lake. At one point we reached a large puddle where a gallant young man offered to give Marion a piggyback as she didn’t want to get her new boots wet! We continued down the length of the lake and along the bottom, crossing the Chinese Bridge over the Derwent river to reach the Lodore Falls Hotel, where we met Ric and Sue again, for an excellent lunch of triple-decker sandwiches. After lunch we walked up to the Lodore Falls. They would look better when there were fewer leaves on the trees, and we then walked down to the lake to take the launch back to Keswick. The journey back was quite funny because a rather ancient lady with too much make-up came round selling tickets and then she came round a second time collecting the tickets she had just sold us. Bizarre.



### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Today I was allowed out on my own and took a bus to Carlisle. The next part of my journey was on a rail replacement bus to Appleby because the floods of last winter had caused major subsidence that was still being repaired. I then joined the train to Ribbleshead. It stopped several times, at carefully restored stations including Dent the highest station in England at 1150 feet. (Nothing like Jungfraujoch, the highest station in Europe at 11,332 feet that is also worth a visit.)

Arriving at Ribbleshead a brisk walk took me down to the viaduct, a symbol of this line, and responsible for both the attempt by British Rail to close the line and the successful opposition which resulted in restoration of the viaduct. Returning to the station, and reluctantly passing by the Station Inn, I visited the exhibition about construction of the

viaduct, before crossing the double track to the north bound platform in time to catch the train, this time further north to Armathwaite. A short coach ride brought me back to Carlisle, where a 15 minute walk took me to Courtfield Bowls Club in time to watch the end of the game and in time for tea.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

Thursday was market day in Keswick and a very wet one. As well as the market, Sandra and I visited The Puzzling Place a museum of optical illusions. An interesting and enjoyable place to visit. With Sandra bowling in the afternoon, I took the 77 bus that takes a circular route from Keswick. I got off at Gatesgarth and walked along the side and back of lake Buttermere, ending in the village of Buttermere in time for a late homemade lunch in the Bridge Inn. I then took the next bus over the Honister pass back to Keswick. Travelling through places with names such as Buttermere, Borrowdale, Brandelhow makes you feel like you are travelling through a JRR Tolkien novel. After dropping my bag at the hotel I set off for the bowling green to watch the end of the game only to meet Peter and Ruth Bown who told me the game had been cancelled. Oh well, no tea today!

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

Sandra was not bowling today so we made an early start, catching a bus to Workington, walking to the railway station and catching a train to Ravenglass, the only coastal village in the National Park. The train was late, but fortunately the connecting Ravenglass and Eskdale narrow gauge steam train waited for us and we were soon underway, sitting at the back of the rear carriage with an excellent view of the line. I will digress here, as the history is interesting. The line having been initially built to 3 foot gauge to take iron ore from the hills above Boot to connect to the main line never made money and closed in 1913. In 1915 WJ Bassett-Lowke the model maker bought the line, and between 1915 and 1917 re-laid the line to 15 inch gauge to enable him to test his largest models under harsh conditions. The quality of his models has resulted in replica Bassett-Lowke models still being made today. Furthermore during this time, in 1916 Bassett-Lowke bought 78 Derngate in Northampton where he employed Charles Rennie Mackintosh to redesign the whole house, the only house Mackintosh designed outside of Scotland. 78 Derngate has now been fully restored and is well worth a visit if you are in that area.

The journey to Dalegarth for Boot, for some reason this always makes me think of (William) Boot from the novel Scoop by Evelyn Waugh (an entertaining book which is well worth reading), takes around 40 minutes. After looking around, watching the locomotive being turned on the turntable, visiting the shop and café we joined the returning train, sitting in an open carriage (perhaps not entirely wise as it did rain a bit on the return journey). At Ravenglass we visited the Ratty Arms, so named after the Cumbrian name for the railway La'al Ratty, meaning little railway, before joining the main line back to Workington. We had intended to take the bus to Cockermouth to join the bowlers, but as the bowling had been cancelled we stayed on the bus back to Keswick – another tea missed!

### **Finally**

My thanks go to President Mary for organising this tour to Keswick. I really enjoyed visiting so many places and the company of the Oakley bowlers. As a non-bowler I had a wonderful time.



## News from the North!

From Jan Foster and Dave Huyton



### **Hello again from a sunny Knott End on Sea!**

I'm writing this missive the day after the last game of the season! It certainly has been an interesting transitional season from Flat to Crown, but we've really enjoyed it, and I now feel like I can play a good game! Dave has, of course played Crown before, and has been in demand for his skills by more than one team. We've both been playing for the Young Vets on Wednesdays, we're still very unsure what the qualification is for Old Vets, as several of the players are well into their eighties!

Dave was supposed to be involved in hollow tining, scarifying etc. today – and putting the Green to bed for the Winter, but we've got rain, and so it's been put off for another day. The Green-keeping is not done in the same way as at Oakley, indeed our Greensman is the Groundsman at Blackpool Town FC!

Last week we had a Floodlight Competition, a round was played each evening from 6.30p.m. and Finals all day and into the evening on Sunday. This was a Pairs competition with a top prize of £250. There are many such competitions at this time of year, and some of the better players can come away with enough money to pay for a holiday! Pairs came from all over Lancashire, the furthest being from Oldham, which is a good 2 hour drive away. Bacon butties, Sausage butties and cakes etc. were available throughout, together with tea and coffee etc. There was a draw each day, and overall, we made about £1,000 for the Club. We've got one more fundraiser before the end of the year in the form of a Car Boot Sale in mid-October – wish us luck for good weather!

Now I want you to cast your minds back (particularly those of you who went on Tour!) to Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September. The weather forecast for the day was none too bad, and the Tourers were due to play at Appleby. We set off bright and early from Knott End in order to surprise the team. It only took us about an hour to get there, and we got to the Bowls Club in time to have a good chat with the Greensman (Trevor!) who showed us the High Water Mark of 2015 compared with that of 2005. The former was about 18ins higher than the latter! Seeing the lovely Green and surroundings and the very nice Clubhouse, it was difficult to comprehend that it had been under so much water and rubbish for so long. The Club Members had certainly done a fantastic renovation job and deserve all credit.

We went off to get some lunch, and by the time we returned on foot, the coach was just depositing the players in the Car Park. Dave leaned over a gate and asked what “you foreigners” were doing in these parts, and Sue and Jim Dixon were very surprised to find that they knew the questioner quite well! We had a lovely afternoon, which proved to be very hot and sunny, watching an excellent match. A good time was had by all. Tea after the game was interesting, as it included scones and the local delicacy of Rum Butter – you either love it or hate it, a bit like Marmite. I'll leave you to decide which side of the argument we came down on! All I'll say is that I really like Marmite!

On 8<sup>th</sup> September, we decided to go to Keswick (again about an hour away) and watch another match, as we had not seen everybody on the previous visit. Unfortunately, the Lake District delivered a very normal, very rainy day, and so there was no play. However, we spent a few enjoyable hours having a good catch-up with a lot of people. We realised that we must have changed an awful lot in a year, when Ric Newson failed to recognise us!

Our Indoor season starts with the first League game on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, and continues on Saturday afternoons, and Tuesday evenings until 4<sup>th</sup> March with Finals Day. This is a very enjoyable way of keeping fit and in touch with everyone in all the local teams, throughout the Winter. We also take part in a Scramble (similar to a Spoon Drive) every Tuesday from noon until 4p.m. As you can see Tuesdays can prove to be very busy if we also play in the evening! Well I expect that your Indoor Friendlies will be starting soon. We wish you lots of luck and enjoyment.

Very best wishes to you all,

Jan Foster & Dave Huyton (not forgetting Bundle the dog!)

## **THE SAGA OF BOB AND BARBARA'S ROOF**

In July 2015 we moved into a small bungalow on the Old Worting Road and intended to knock down a few walls and do a loft conversion. Nothing too difficult!! Just over a year later we've extended out at the back and side and had a completely new roof.

When we started looking at a loft conversion everything was fine until the structural engineer realised what walls we wanted to remove on the ground floor. Apparently we were in danger of the whole building imploding! So we had to have a rethink as we wanted to increase the living space not just add bedrooms. Eventually we decided to extend at the back of the property and around the side replacing the old garage with one integral to the property. We were also changing the shape of the roof at the back giving us a bedroom over the new extension.

So far so good, having got planning permission and found a builder off we went. All was going ahead well so we decided to source the roof trusses for the extension. The new trusses would be preformed to accommodate an upstairs room rather than having cross over beams reducing the usable space. After talking over various options we decided to go with a company from Reading and their surveyor arranged to visit. Whilst surveying and measuring he pointed out to us that to accommodate the new roof and staircase we would be replacing quite a lot of the old roof. Had we thought of utilising the whole of the roof space, old and new, as the loft space was huge? It then turned out that it was easier and not much more expensive to replace the whole roof rather than try to tie old and new together. Also the whole new roof would be supported on the outer walls leaving us free to knock down any internal wall we wanted to. Benefits all round, we would get our extra living space and the loft conversion!!

There was only one problem with this plan the old roof had to come off and we could end up losing some ceilings too, we would need to move out. However it was arranged that this would all happen whilst we were away on the bowls tour to the Lake District. Also Mary and Terry offered us a place to stay until the bungalow was habitable again.

We had a daily report from the builder whilst we were on tour and luckily the weather was fine which helped. The main event was scheduled to happen on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September. There were nerves all round and the builder had a sleepless night whilst he worried would the crane arrive on time, would the roofing gang turn up on time and last but not least would the trusses arrive and also fit. All was well and everything went like clockwork. The whole thing caused a great

deal of interest locally with neighbours telling us how exciting it had all been. The team of builders working next door stopped work to watch as the huge trusses were swung into place and the roofers got them all bolted down.

When we arrived back from the tour our first view of the new roof was from the coach as we approached the Buckskin roundabout. It looked huge and very open and it had been raining all day. Having picked up our car from Kay and Spencer's we drove round to see everything for ourselves. It was quite a shock as everything was very open and very wet. Fortunately anything which hadn't gone into storage was covered with tarpaulins but it was a relief that the weather improved allowing everything to dry out.

I'm writing this whilst staying in Ric and Sue's house which they kindly offered as they were going away for a week. We have also enjoyed Mary and Terry's hospitality and not least Terry's cooking which is superb and look forward to a few more days with them before we can move back in.

I'm pleased to say the roof is now felted, batoned and by the time you read this hopefully retiled. Most of the new windows will also be in and fingers crossed we will be pretty much rewired (thanks to Martin Smith) and replumbed. Work continues apace and we are itching to get back in to start cleaning up and get decorating and putting in the kitchen.

It's very strange being homeless but we've been so lucky to have the help and support of friends and family. We look forward to the finished product when anyone interested will be able to pop in for a coffee and a look around to see what eventually we will have achieved.

## Tuffs Teaser

from Frank Tuffs

Complete each square so that the words down are the same across eg:

D A M E  
A R E A  
M E L T  
E A T S

M A T E A T E	P A L E A L E	C R E W R E W	W I D E I D E
D R A W R A W	S H O T H O T	P A I R A I R	K I N G I N G

## Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

### QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

"One never notices what has been done, one can only see what remains to be done"

(Marie Curie, Scientist (1867-1934))

"Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world"

(Marilyn Monroe, Actress (1926-1962))

### DID YOU KNOW:

I would like to thank Sir Michael Colman for his response to my "Did You Know" article in the July issue regarding a canteen being set up 148 years ago by Colman's for their workers and being provided with a hot meal for a minimal cost.

Here is his response "When I first worked at Colman's in Norwich, which was in 1948, only 68 years ago the cost of lunch was 1 Old Penny a day - the same as it had been 80 years before that!"

### Tuffs Teaser's - Possible Answers

M A T E	P A L E	C R E W	W I D E
A R I D	A L A S	R A V E	I D E A
T I M E	L A M P	E V E R	D E A R
E D E N	E S P Y	W E R E	E A R N
D R A W	S H O T	P A I R	K I N G
R I C H	H O P E	A C R E	I R O N
A C R E	O P E N	I R I S	N O V A
W H E N	T E N T	R E S T	G N A T