

CROFTERS' CHRONICLE

Volume 1 / Issue 5. June 2023

KINGSCROFT BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER.

£540 Raised so far for Disability Bowls England

Many thanks to members who have already generously donated to this worthy charity. There are too many members to name individually, however, I will name two: Eddie Newell for his driving energy and Tricia Tams for the knitted creations.

It is my hope to raise £1000 by December 2023 and the donation to DBE will state that the conation is from all Members of Kingscroft Bowls Club.

A sincere thank you to all

Mick Harris

President, Kingscroft BC

Big Bowls Weekend -- report

On Sunday 28th and Monday 29th May, Kingscroft opened its doors to allow anyone interested in bowls, to come along and have a go. Both days were well attended – at least 5 rinks being used throughout the sessions, but not so busy that we could not give everyone attending a chance to spend time on the green and have a good opportunity to try it out.

Three new members joined over the weekend, so welcome to Kingscroft to Robert and Joy White, and Claire Jay.

This was Kingscroft's first Big Bowls Weekend and an experience for all of us. I am sure we will have learnt lessons from this though, and make improvements next year.

May I thank everyone who turned up to support the event.

Men and Ladies book their places at Leamington

Joe Dawson, Chris Moore, Jonathan Green and Nick Wardle are our Leicestershire County Fours champions and therefore advance to the National finals in Leamington Spa in August.

Meanwhile, Pam Sutton, Julie Wilkins, Kath Fudger and Catherine Locking have also qualified for the National finals at Leamington in the Ladies open fours. The same four also have a chance in the senior fours having reached the final. The winners go through to Leamington.

Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall, directed by Helen, plus Chris Gray are also through to Leamington having qualified at the DBE Open pairs tournament at Oakham.

Tegan Grewal was part of a successful Leicestershire team that won the Regional final of the Amy Rose trophy and will contest the semi finals onwards at Leamington in August.

Well done everyone!



Jane Herbert also off to Australia

My last newsletter highlighted all our Kingscroft players who had been selected for International duty.

Missing from the list – because the announcement had not been made at the time, was Jane Herbert, who will be going to the World Championships in Australia with Bowls England, as a Director.

What is a DBE bowls Director?

Jane's role as Director for the visually impaired is to be the eyes for the player. Sounds simple, but not as easy as appears.

Jane started playing bowls for Western Park in 1991 and has had her own successful career at club, county and national level, but two years ago, agreed to be Director for Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall.

It is quite easy to forget when one sees Sally-Ann around the green at Kingscroft, that her vision is seriously impaired. With no

peripheral vision, (like looking down a Biro) and a depth of field measured at 6m, Sally-Ann would not be able to bowl without her director standing behind her and describing the course of her bowl, the final resting position and the distance from the jack – all using a clock face key and distance measured in everyday items eg, egg box, shoe box, pallett. In pairs matches, when Sally-Ann is at the non-bowling end, Jane has to describe the approaching bowl so that Sally-Ann is looking in the right spot as the bowl enters her field of vision. This has to be done for every bowl bowled, including the oppositions woods, away from or towards the jack so that Sally-Ann has a complete picture of the developing head. Jane's own bowling experience is also important as she advises Sally-Ann on line etc. to avoid short woods.

The skills acquired are not specific to directing Sally-Ann. Jane was at practice matches against Australia ahead of the Commonwealth Games last year and successfully directed for DBE there.

Whatever it is that Jane does, it has been recognized by Bowls England as special, and Jane has been selected to travel to Australia, where she will be directing Alison Yearling and they will be getting together before the Worlds to fine tune their working relationship. Directors are included as team members and Jane will receive her International Cap.

Why does Jane do this? It is a huge commitment to be at every match that Sally-Ann wants to play and each match requires higher concentration levels than would be the case is able bodied matches. When asked, Jane replied “ I like giving something back to the sport that I so enjoyed in my bowling career”

Jane also said that she takes inspiration from working with DBE and the way people overcome their disabilities to perform at the highest level. Jane said it is very humbling.

I am sure that the whole club will want to wish Jane a fantastic time in Australia and hope that she can direct BE to World Championship success.



Play getting underway at the President's day 3,2,1, competition. Over £200 raised on the day for the President's charity, Disability Bowls England.

Weekday matches

Weekday matches continue to be well supported by our members, and our captain, Gary Hughes is enjoying success with his team selections.

Up to the end of May, the results from the 7 matches played is Won 6, lost 1.

This time of year, there are County games that need to be played on Thursdays and that may reduce the number of people available for weekday friendlies. It is important then that those not involved in the County games continue to support Gary by making themselves available for selection.

Weekend matches

Captains Tom Clancy and David Orton have to select two teams most Saturdays. Up to June 10th, the record stands at played 9, won 6,lost 3.

Home advantage seems not to apply, as two of the losses were at home games! However, the loss to Kirby Muxloe at home was avenged by beating them at their green last Saturday.

There have been 3 cancelled games – one at Sweet Pea as their new green was not ready and two cancelled on the Coronation weekend.

The next five weekends are also double games so the captains will continue to need your support.

Ladies Top Club

Congratulations to the Ladies top club team for reaching the Leicestershire finals of the Top Club.

On the way to the final, Kingscroft beat Blaby, New Lount and Market Bosworth.

The final is to be played by 2nd July against Birstall.

The team would welcome travelling support for the final – the date yet to be decided but will be circulated to membership .

Mens Top Club

The Men's Top Club team have reached the semi-final where they are to meet Knighton Victoria.

The men have played Soar Valley, Wescotes and Shepshed to reach the semi-finals.

As I am writing this, Knighton Victoria have not accepted any of the three dates offered before the deadline, and Kingscroft may be through to the final by default.

I will keep members informed of future fixture dates.

Leicestershire County News

Middleton Cup: Leicestershire lost the first game v Essex by one shot. A must win game at home to Norfolk on the 17 June.

Johns Trophy: Leicestershire beat Norfolk in their first match. The second match was cancelled as Huntingdonshire have pulled out of the competition. Next match v Bedfordshire on the 17th June.

Balcomb Trophy: Leicestershire through to the semi final, to play Suffolk on 25th June.

Walker Cup: Leicestershire's first match is against Bedfordshire, to be played at Narborough BC on the 18th June (13.30hrs).

White Rose Trophy : Leicestershire lost in the regional final to Cambridgeshire.

Amy Rose Trophy. After beating Suffolk, then Northamptonshire, Leicestershire went on to beat Norfolk in the Regional Final.

Kingscroft is well represented in the Mens and Ladies County teams so well done to all.

And Finally! I can only write about the club from information I receive. If you have news or achievements that all members should know about, please let me know. Thanks.Eddie.