



YBA September Newsletter

As the winds and the rain lash against my study window this week I was rather pleased that the outdoor bowling season has finished for me this year!! I know there are a few hardy clubs with events still planned in September and I applaud their determination to get every possible end in before the greens are closed until the spring.

Understandably, outdoor bowling news slows down at this time of the year, but for many the 'closed season' of autumn and winter months is when much work is undertaken to ensure our sport can move forward. The YBA are working closely with Bowls England (BE) on several areas of our game. In some cases this work will offer YBA members the opportunity to have their say through surveys. Now I know we all love a survey just as we love an AGM but these surveys are an important way of finding out people's views. I fully understand that there will always be some who think the 'decisions have been made' or that the survey 'is rigged' but as someone involved in the preparation of one of these surveys can I say that neither of these statements could be further from the truth. The BE Affiliation Working Group (AWG) is keen to find out information through its survey so that the national bowling view can be considered. Now that's not the same as whatever the survey results say goes, but they are a key informer for the decision makers, who in the AWG's case will be the BE Board.

So please look out for BE surveys which we will highlight through clubs (I know most of these will be closed until spring), the YBA and BE websites and Bowls Yorkshire (our Facebook page). As someone quite wise once said "You're damned if you do and damned if you don't", and that's the position BE are in around these surveys!! So please have your say – if you choose not to, then you have no opportunity to inform the areas for decision being looked at.

2023 YBA AGM

From surveys to AGMs – stop falling asleep!! The 2023 YBA AGM is currently being arranged for a date in November. If you have anything you want raising now is the time to make your club representatives, who will be coming to the AGM, know. More on this in next month's Newsletter.

COACHING

The YBA are trying to arrange a BE Coach Bowls course for the winter months. Lee Coutts (leecoutts.yba@gmail.com) is kindly co-ordinating this, so if you fancy gaining a BE recognised coaching qualification and helping others develop their bowling standard, drop him an email.

MEN'S STUFF

The Men's Northern Counties Championships took place at Heaton Hall, Manchester on Saturday & Sunday the 2nd/3rd September. There was a full schedule of matches throughout both days with tough competition. Congratulations go to all our competitors but a special mention must be made of Gary Bunce who beat off extremely tough opposition to be crowned Northern Counties Singles Champion!!

Remember if you wish to play for the County next season just drop either myself or Lee Coutts (leecoutts.yba@gmail.com) a text/email or Facebook PM. Don't wait for that nomination form to appear on the wall of your soon to be closed clubhouse!

LADIES' 'BITS & BOBS'

The Yorkshire Ladies have had a good season winning the Northern Counties Stella Cup and coming a very close second in the Northern Trophy . Just a reminder we will be holding our annual luncheon and presentation of trophies at York Pavilion Hotel Fulford York on October 17th and ladies from all affiliated clubs are welcome. You can book a luncheon place £28 by contacting ladies secretary Vivien on Vivien.yba@gmail.com . “

Vivien Wilton-Middlemass

AND FINALLY....

The YBA mixed Top Club semi and final took place on Saturday 2nd September at Smiths Dock BC. Thirsk and Dunnington BCs reached the final with Thirsk BC coming out as the winners in this closely fought event. This was the first year of this particular competition and the organisers are keen to hear if anything could be done to improve on the competition. One suggestion is to play the competition down to a final, rather than a semi final and final on the same day. Do you have a view? Drop me a line if you do. Oh and for those clubs who didn't enter this year, get it in the diary for next season; it has been a great competition in which men and women, boys and girls can all play bowls alongside each other.

AND FINALLY, FINALLY....

I know I mentioned it last month but... qualification for next season's BE National Championships and Competitions will follow the same criteria as this year. In short, the counties who have the highest number of entries will get two qualifiers for the Championship events. We managed to be above the line this year but only just, so if you want to see the county send two qualifiers in each discipline to the Finals next season please get entering!!

Regards

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