

OAKLEY BOWLERS



CHRONICLE



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ISSUE 1

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT - JIM FITZGERALD



Well the outdoor season will soon be upon us. The weather is improving; let us hope it stays that way. I am really looking forward to a full programme of games; I hope you are too.

Thank you to all those members who supported Barry and the club, playing the indoor friendlies, we may have not won any, but certainly enjoyed playing them.

The club Dinner and Presentation evening at Test Valley Golf Club was a huge success. Our distinguished guests had an enjoyable night, as we all did. I know a lot of hard work goes into the planning and organisation of the event, to those involved many thanks for a great evening.

I would like to congratulate Nicole and Ashley on winning their various indoor competitions and on being selected as reserves for the England Junior International Trials to be held at the end of May.

Well done to Oakley "A" team for winning the Cushion Trophy against Basingstoke Town. Thank you to all who took part in the various Oakley teams.

The Opening Spoon Drive is on the 22nd of April, I look forward to see you all on the green.

I think my ramblings are done, except to say, I hope you all have a great bowling season, but most of all that you enjoy every minute of it, I certainly will.

Captain's Log

from Barry Lee, Men's Captain



Here we go again our 39th year at Oakley Bowls Club outdoor season As some of us say, Proper Bowls. We open on Saturday 22nd April and it says 3-00pm. The weather this year will be good so no excuses (unless its raining hard and cold then we will stay in the warm and dry).

To round off our indoor season which started in October and went through to March. 10 games were played with a great number of 51 names on my list, very many thanks to all of you. Some of you only wanted to play 2 or 3 but a lot of you played 6 or 7 games. I did put one or two of you as skips as I thought we were quite short of bowlers who could handle the task sorry if I upset any one. The results of the games were the same as last year. We won just one! But again we did have a bit of fun.

Now for the Outdoor year Averil Adams has very kindly taken the job as The President of the North Hants Womens Bowling Association, so the club will be looking after Averil as well as Jim this season. And on the 29th & 30th we have our OCA sports weekend which is always a good weekend to see new people from around Oakley. Our next big day is on Friday 5th May. Where we meet up with the IOW Lady Presidents Touring team. There is a game in the afternoon and Oakley Ladies have to Provide 6 rinks !!! so we will have a list up in the Ladies Changing Room please help support these games.

Our first friendly is an away game on Sunday 7th May at Devizes, it is a special one for them as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. I will be putting up lots of sheets this next week so members can see whats on and fill as many as possible please. I will have a lot more to say later .

Spencer's Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



Well done to the Oakley "A" team of Bob Goodyear, Dave Harrison, June Harvie, Ashley Nethercliffe and Nicole Rogers which defeated Basingstoke Town to win the Cusheon Trophy and £250 at Loddon Vale. Four finals in four years between these two teams leaves the overall score 2-2.

The Club's congratulations go to Nicole Rogers who representing England in the Junior International Series held at Islwyn IBC was at 2 in a rink skipped by Katherine Rednall that won all its games. Nicole also had a great run in the Ladies National Indoor Singles where she reached the Last 16 before bowing out to England star Rebecca Field. Two days after that disappointment, Nicole bounced back to win the County Indoor Singles title for the third successive season.

Congratulations go to Ashley Nethercliffe on his selection for a Middleton Cup trial and to Ruth Bown and Nicole who have both been invited to the Johns Trophy Trial. Ashley and Nicole have also been selected as reserves for the Bowls England Junior International trial.

Members probably know by now that the club, this season, entered a second team in the Stan Hardman Thursday Afternoon League. The two captains are Derek Easton and Peter Bown. If anyone wishes to play in this league and has not yet indicated so then Derek or Peter would be delighted to hear from you.

The Open Weekend is over 29th and 30th April and the Recruitment and Retention Sub Committee has done a great job in advertising the event. We hope plenty of prospective members will visit the green and to give them a favourable view of the club it helps if they can see members enjoying themselves and participating in activities.

Bowls Hampshire Mini Tour Nov 2017. As usual the County is running a mini tour to the Dorset Bowls Resort. Details have been circulated recently.

40th Anniversary and Club Uniform

The Committee, in looking at how we should celebrate in 2018 the 40th Anniversary of the Club' establishment establishment, has decided that this would be an opportune time to update our Club uniform. A Sub Committee comprising Kevin and Janie Vickers, Sue Dixon, Barry Lee and Christine Williams was therefore set up to look at possible shirt designs, suppliers and costs. This Sub Committee has now reported back and, as a result, the Committee has agreed:

- A design for the new sublimated shirt – see picture



- Shirts should be obtained from ACEIT, an Australian company which is not only the Bowls England uniform supplier but also supplies shirts and jackets to a number of County Associations and Clubs
- Playing members will receive one free shirt with the shirts being introduced for 2018. It is planned to have them available at the November AGM.

The new shirt will be registered for play in 2018 and should be worn by Oakley players when competing in County and Association Competitions and Leagues.

In addition, the Committee has agreed that we should introduce a shower proof jacket (similar to those worn by Bowls Hampshire) which will complement the current fleece obtained from Cotswold Bowls. This jacket in the Club colours will also be obtained from ACEIT.

There is still work to do in deciding the numbers and sizes of shirt to be ordered and establishing how many individuals will wish to purchase additional shirts and the likely demand for jackets. The Committee felt, however, that members should be made aware now of the changes so that they do not in 2017 go out and buy shirts that will, by next year, have been superseded.

Ladies Secretary's Salutation

From Lesley Allard, Ladies Secretary



Here we are again! Where did the Winter go? I expect that we shall find out in May. I hope that you all wintered well and have managed to shake off all those lingering coughs.

!NORTH HANTS LADIES FRIENDLIES !

As a start to the season there is a list for ladies to enter their names to play in two North Hants Ladies Friendly games.

The first is at Hawley on Friday 2 June and the other at Portsmouth in Friday 9 June. There will be a coach for this one from the Leisure Park.

DO PLEASE PUT DOWN YOUR NAMES FOR THESE VERY FRIENDLY LADIES GAMES AND SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT OF NHWBA, OUR VERY OWN AVERIL ADAMS.

The draw for the North Hants Ladies Competitions will take place at Oakley Bowling Club on April 11. Make a note in your diaries for the North Hants Ladies Luncheon on 7 November. After the debacle at Loddon Vale last year the venue of the luncheon has been changed, for this year only, to the Malsanger Club, to support Averil.

LADIES: Please do look at the Notice Boards both in the main Club House and in the Ladies Cloakroom for notices of games and other occasions which have been provided for your enjoyment during the Outdoor Season. The Social Committee have been busy in their efforts to provide outings and entertainment for you all. Please support them.

THIS IS YOUR CLUB AND COMMITTEES DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT!

Recently we sadly lost Denis Carter, and many members of the Club turned out to North Waltham Church to support Margaret and the family in their loss.

We also learned of the death of Mary Britchford in Australia. Mary was a very good player and a prominent member of the Club together with her husband Past President Bill before they moved to Australia about 20 years ago.

GET WELL SOON

Eric Lamkin who suffered a nasty fall while out walking and spent time in hospital. We hope that you will be back on the green again soon Eric!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Graham Tompkins, who is in hospital recovering from an operation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ted and Ann Brown who celebrated their Golden Wedding in March and to President Jim and Pat Fitzgerald who celebrate their 50th Anniversary this month.

P.S. I know that Martin Smith's parents who always support our events, especially the barbecue, will celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary in June!!

If you have a significant birthday or anniversary coming up or know of anyone who has, please let me know and I will arrange suitable greetings to be sent on behalf of the Club.

Happy Bowling

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the club for the flowers, chocolates and good wishes sent to Ann and I for our Golden Wedding. Ted and Ann Brown.

Hospice Cup 2017

(The Monday Spoon Drives)

From Keith Turnbull

As usual these will take place at 2pm every Monday (including Bank Holidays), commencing

Monday 24th April 2017

Please arrive in good time to change and check-in ready for a prompt start at 2pm.

Everybody welcome, especially new/recent members – this is a good opportunity to meet other members and gain experience of bowling competitively but in a friendly social context.

No need to book – just turn up as often as you wish.

£2.00 participation fee, which includes tea & biscuits and a donation to St Michael's Hospice.

On the Green

From Trevor Wearn

April 22nd, Opening Spoon Drive. When I was given that date at the beginning of the year it seemed an eternity away so no need to panic Mr. Mainwaring! Even in the second week of March when work started to ramp up, with very cold winds blasting across the Green outdoor bowling was nowhere to be seen on the agenda. Now, as I write this, only 3 weeks to go and with a multitude of jobs to be completed, there is also a slight tightening of the buttock muscles to contend with!

I suppose members could be forgiven for assuming that after the Closing Spoon Drive the Green Team either went off on holiday, went indoor bowling or just put their feet up until the start of the next season. Far from it!! Following the 3 or 4 days of extensive renovation work at the end of September the Green has been aerated every 3 weeks, topped off with the mower occasionally to keep it at around 10mm long (yes, it does keep growing!), sprayed several times to contain the moss, disease and leatherjackets plus a daily visit, except when frost prohibited, to brush off the dew and wormcasts. Now since the beginning of March it's been mowed twice a week, rolled 4 times, aerated twice, scarified once with another to go before the start, fertilized and the summer season spraying regime started. And that's just the green itself! The rest of the gardens and surrounding grass have needed work, plus the maintenance work on the pavilion, sheds and equipment. The good news is, it's all been worth it as it looks pretty good at the moment!

Now, some food for thought for you. From now until the end of September there will be at least 30 man hours per week spent by volunteers keeping the Green and its surrounding in the pristine condition we all expect it to be in. Should we not have those volunteers and have to contract for that work, taking £15 per hour as a conservative cost, that equates to a cost of £450 per week, £1800 per month and a staggering £21600 per year – and that's just the summer. Indeed, clubs who do contract out just for the very basic work on the actual green in most cases get very little change from £10000 a year. All right, maybe we on the Green Team don't graft as hard as a younger worker earning a living would so it takes us a bit longer, and that's the point. None of us is getting any younger and we're all, particularly me, are beginning to feel the strain a bit after 3 or 4 hours work and then wanting to go out for a game of bowls. We really do need one or two more volunteers, who are mechanically minded enough to work the machines, and who are prepared to commit to a few hours regularly a week to help us out. Of course, it's not all graft, the team also gets to natter at coffee breaks and I'm told there is something profoundly rewarding and satisfying about working out in the open air after maybe a lifetime of office work (just ask Keith!). As I've pointed out on many occasions, if we come to the end of the road and the club has to contract out the main work at £10000 per annum, that could potentially add to 120 members around £80 to EACH subscription. Think about it.

OK, let me just change hats and put the happy hat on and hope the Green meets all your expectations for the season and wish you well in any competitions you've entered and have a great bowling season.

Catering Chit-Chat

Margaret Lee

Here we go again another busy season at least it is from a catering point of view. We have 2 touring teams and 9 hosted events plus all the usual friendlies so I'm going to need a lot of help this year. The catering rota will be displayed on the kitchen door as usual so please make sure you check to see if your name is on the list and tick off if you are available. That saves me from phoning around to make sure we have enough helpers. Full instructions on what to do will be available and you only have to put the food out for the bowlers to help themselves. We now have a dishwasher over at Malshanger club so that will make life a little easier.

One of the reasons we have a lot of hosted games is that Averil Adams is the Women's North Hants President this year so I hope you will all help to make it a good year for her by giving your support in helping with the hosted games. Carolyn, Vera and myself will be cleaning the kitchen before the season starts and would appreciate you all leaving the kitchen as you find it. If the stocks are getting low either leave a note in the kitchen or give me a ring and I will replenish the cupboards, fridge etc.

I'd like to wish everyone a successful and happy bowling season.

Welfare Officer

Sandra Lee

The Safeguarding Policies and Procedures have been updated and these are now available to be viewed on the website and on the main noticeboard in the Club.

News from the North!

From Jan Foster and Dave Huyton



Hello again from Knott End on Sea! We are already into the second full week of the outdoor season - our Green opened on 19th March! The new President of Stalmine managed to bowl a few woods, but it was too wet to do much else! Since then however, all the Leagues are underway. Dave is Vice-Captain of the Monday afternoon Men's Vets in the Over Wyre League. He is also playing in the Fleetwood Men's League and the Wednesday Mixed Vets (which I also theoretically play in!). Dave has won his first four games of the season so far! I'm down to play in the Over Wyre & District Tuesday afternoon Ladies League, the Blackpool & Wyre Ladies Wednesday evening League and also the Wednesday afternoon Mixed Vets. As you can see, another busy Bowling Season is planned!

The start to my Bowls season is unfortunately some time away – I can theoretically start playing after Friday, 7th April, following my heart surgery. However, 10 days after my heart procedure, I decided to do a flying leap in the garden, and have managed to snap a tendon off the radius of my right arm!! Would be my right arm wouldn't it? I'm going to practice left-handed from Saturday 8th April, with a view to getting my place in the teams once the strength in my left arm is up to it! Fortunately, I'm pretty ambidextrous so am hoping I'll manage to bowl, one way or another, before too long!

Stalmine Bowling Club is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. We are having lots of fundraising events, and I have volunteered to run a Race Night following the Oakley model. Keep your fingers crossed that it's a success!! Thought you might like to see a photo of our Clubhouse.



Going back to the Winter Indoor League for a moment. Our team The Wyresiders came 7th overall. However, we had a fantastic success in the League Knockout and managed to beat the League winners – The Rowdies – in the Final!! We were absolutely cock-a-hoop, and the Rowdies were very crestfallen, although they took the defeat well. Who says the underdog can't have his day? The Presentation Dinner was on the same evening, and we collected a HUGE shield – plus £60 Prize Money to be shared amongst the team!

We hope that when your season starts that the weather and the luck is with all Oakley's teams.

Take care and hopefully we'll see you all before too long!

Dave, Jan and Bundle the dog XOX

Tuffs Teasers

from Frank Tuffs

Car Anagrams

1. Ear gag
2. Or pelt
3. Top sin
4. See lid
5. Run in case
6. I go in tin
7. Sled hit hag
8. Use on spins
9. Screw in end
10. Ice clen
11. Turn puce
12. Work a bend
13. Test bale
14. I am out cat
15. Steeper dome

Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work"

(Thomas Edison, Inventor (1847-1931))

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream"

(C. S. Lewis, Author, (1898-1963))

Tuffs Teasers - Possible Answers

1. Garage
2. Petrol
3. Piston
4. Diesel
5. Insurance
6. Ignition
7. Headlights
8. Suspension
9. Windscreen
10. Licence
11. Puncture
12. Breakdown
13. Seatbelt
14. Automatic
15. Speedometer