

BEDFORD BOWLING CLUB

Incorporating Bedford Bowling Club (1904) and Bedford Women's Bowling Club (1914)

NEWSLETTER 2024

New Season

We have had some new members from last year, so we welcome Ken Bean, Roy Boness, Clare Cole, Trevor Jennings, Alan Keena, Joe Panarisi, and Ian Parish. We lost a past member this year as, sadly, Fred Spiniello died suddenly at the end of 2023. We also 'lost' Marie Crowe as she has moved to Wilstead and joined their club. We hope she will visit the club as a competitor as well as a friend. We understand Janet Taylor is also leaving for Priory Bowling Club. We wish her well at her new club.

We also lost a club last year, as it was officially announced at the County AGM, Russell Park Bowling Club has now closed for good. We knew this was likely, but it is still sad to record a club closing. They were the oldest bowling club in Bedford Borough, starting in 1903. One year before us.

This means we still need more members! Especially lady members!! So please remember this year to invite friends along for a friendly "roll up". **This newsletter, as last year, will be on the website as a PDF document to view at any time.**

Clubhouse Opening and Cleaning

We hope to open the club for playing on Friday, 26th April, subject as always to weather conditions. See the reasons why in the next paragraph! Cleaning rota for men is included with this newsletter.

Play and roll-ups.

It is hoped that play for the new season will commence from ***Friday, 26th April***, but this may have to be put back if the weather lets us down. Our first home competition will be on ***Wednesday, 8th May against Leighton Buzzard*** – so not much time to get used to grass bowling! Our first away competition is on 1st May against Bedford Priory. Which is a men's match. Roll ups will be organised as last year with the Tuesday roll-ups being a sort of "mini league". Colin hopes this will be more 'self-organised' by players rather than needing him to turn up every Tuesday to sort people out!

We hope to be advertising our club again this year. Both online and physically with notices in the park.

Competitions

Ladies & Men's competitions will be run as in 2023. We will again be asking players to **OPT OUT** of singles competitions **if they do not wish to compete**. Players can, of course, give byes later if they find they cannot compete for personal reasons. As last year you will have to volunteer for three competitions. These are (a) Both Mixed Pairs competitions and Aussie Pairs Competition. And (b) the Friday Mixed Triples, So, with this newsletter will be a form to fill in if you wish to be considered for the above competitions. We are considering making the Friday Mixed Triples a SIX team competition. And re-naming it as the "Late Summer Triples".

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As other competitions such as County Leagues, Local Leagues, County competitions will vie for member's time – not to mention holidays, family commitments and so on, there will be **deadlines and rules** for the timely completion of club competitions.

Annual Subscriptions and Fees

The Club subscription for all social and playing members has risen to £30. The reason for the increase is charges from Bowls England have risen by £2 per year per member. And County Bowling membership is also rising. The Council green fees have risen to £68.30 but this is the first increase in 2 years. Some members may wish to join other clubs as well as our own. This is OK, but please remember to only pay ONE Council Green Fee! To use our club facilities, you only pay the £30.00 membership fee.. You will also have to choose which club you play for in which league! Please pay Sue Pegley as soon as you can.

Public use of the green

Our arrangements for supervising public use of the green are the same as last year. Enclosed, for the men members, is the rota covering both the Club cleaning duty and weekly period of being on call to supervise public bookings, the latter being the Monday to Sunday inclusive around the Thursday cleaning duty. The cleaning and tea rotas for the ladies will be issued separately by Maureen. Additional guidance for those committee members accepting bookings includes the advice that, if four or more rinks are already booked or expected to be in use, it is quite in order to say that there is not a rink available. A note on the procedure for accepting public bookings is available on request.

Around the Green and Clubhouse

We are once more indebted to Kevin and his team for all their work over the winter in maintaining the green. It is looking good, and we have great hopes for playing on it this summer. We have looked at the rink markers at the side of the green, and decided to replace them with painted plywood markers which will be cut, painted, and then screwed into place on the wood edging. This will make Terry's task of painting them every few years a lot easier.

A successful application was made for Ward Funding from Councillors Charles Royden and Wendy Ryder for purchase of more coaching and practice woods in small and children's sizes, so we will have a stock available for newcomers to try, and for use on open days. New storage shelves will be put up to keep them neatly together.

On the awkward subject of cars being allowed into the park, this is **STILL** a "work-in-progress" with the Borough. We now have permission for contractors' vehicles to enter the park on our behalf. As well as some of our own cars for maintenance/building purposes.

Matches and Team Selections

Team sheets for Men's 2 Rink County League and all friendly matches will be posted on the appropriate boards. Please sign up! Do so even if numbers appear to be sufficient because it helps the captains to have reserves to call on and it ensures that everyone is given a fair share of the action in friendly matches. Please check the fixture card to see when the first fixture will be held.

To help with the cost of food and transport your committee have agreed a scale of charges for various matches and food. The document outlining these costs/expenses is issued with the Newsletter.

Internal Club Events on the Green

Domestic club events for this year are the Roger Gilmour Trophy (27th July), President's Day (27th July), Captains' Day (10th August) and the Finale Challenge – formerly the Presidents' Challenge - (18th September). We have combined Roger Gilmour and President's Day once again as Concerts in the Park now take up TWO weekends, and it is less work for the committee. Final Day(s) will be on the 31st August and 1st September – over 2 days and we hope to have ALL finals played by the end of Sunday! There may be some finals needed to be played on Friday, 30th August, and some may overflow to the Monday or Tuesday. We hope this year to again make more of Finals Days with food and drinks on Saturday evening, 31st August. More details of this later.

Monday Triples League

We are again taking part this year. Please try to support Terry and the club by playing when possible. We won our division of this league last year, so we will be promoted this year. Onward and upward!

Tuesday Triples League

The ladies will be competing in Division One this year and the Knock-Out Cup. The ladies hope for a more successful season this year.

Club Clothing

On this subject, the club has obtained sponsorship for new club shirts. Various committee members have been assisting Sarah Metz, who undertook to research this matter. As a result of her hard work, we will have new club shirts on order. And thanks to sponsorship– we have the cost for one shirt per member covered and supplied free, courtesy of Interfoam. Extra shirts will be charged to each member. The shirt will carry a new club logo as well as the sponsor's logo. At no extra cost, names can be printed onto the shirts, though anybody can carry on with the enamelled name badges.

Our **NEW** two -colour club bowls stickers are still available (free!), and your committee asks you to ensure that in matches all bowls carry the Club stickers.

Recruitment

This continues to be a concern. Although we recruited some members last year, we are still sometimes struggling to find enough people to make up teams. Many of our members are elderly or unable to compete for 18 ends. So, please try to think up ideas for recruitment this year. We will hope to organise open days for the public on late May Bank Holiday as part of the “Big Bowls Weekend”. Please keep the dates free in your diary to lend a hand. These are the 24th to 27th May. We need as much publicity for this event as possible, so any ideas are welcome! In the early part of the season we shall hold some additional sessions for prospective new members. Your support in these sessions will be appreciated.

Also, please note we are now on social media – Facebook page is “Bedford Bowling Club, uk”, and there are links to the site from our club web page.

Data Protection

This year, if you are joining the club, you are automatically agreeing to our use of your data. This is as follows: -

Name, address, e-mail address (where relevant), telephone contact (land & mobile), emergency contact phone number, date members joined the club, membership status, which club keys are held by a member.

These details (in printed and/or electronic form) will be distributed to all playing members each year for the following purposes: -

1. To enable club captains to contact members to arrange players for club, friendly, County and other matches.
2. To enable members to arrange substitutes in the event they cannot play in a match.
3. To enable members to contact players in a match when they are giving them a lift to an away match.
4. To enable club officers to contact a relative or friend in the event of accident or emergency.

Date of members joining are held to determine eligibility for Life Membership of the Club.

Membership status is recorded to enable the Treasurer to issue correct invoices each year.

Club keys are recorded to enable the Club Secretary to request keys back from members leaving the club.

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 6th November 2024

The 2024 AGM will be held at 10.00 hours on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at St. Mark's Church, Wren Room.

Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation

This year's Dinner and Trophy presentation will be at Bellini's in Clapham. Where we had a very good evening last year. The date is still to be arranged as I write.

March 2024

Enclosures:

List of Members 2024.

Competition Entry Forms for All Club Matches.

Guide to Club Competitions and Rules

*Members' rota for cleaning and being on call to supervise public bookings.

Match fees and Expenses.

Fixture List 2024

“*” – Men members only