

Birstall Bowling Club Newsletter

April 2023

Season 2023

Welcome to the 2023 outdoor season. Depending on the weather and conditions, it is hoped that the green will be open for roll ups from Tuesday 11th April.

Subscriptions due: Thanks to everyone who have already paid their subscriptions for the year. Please contact our Treasurer Rick Everitt to arrange payment if you haven't done so already. A gentle reminder that you will not be allowed to play unless your subscription has been paid.

Club fixtures: Please help your captains out by indicating your availability on the sheets on the relevant noticeboards, and by ticking off promptly when the teams are selected.

Club competitions: If you haven't entered yet, please speak to Jan Everitt or Roger Bartlett to get a form. The cost is £1.00 per competition and the closing date is Friday 28th April. Finals day is Sunday 17th September with a contingency of Sunday 24th September if necessary. Please make sure you are aware of the competition rules which are displayed in changing rooms.

Club website: The club website www.birstallbowlingclub.co.uk is regularly updated with news about the club, and you can register to receive updates by email. We also have a Facebook page

National and County Competition News

Bowls England. The national competition draws have been done and can be found on their website www.bowlsglengland.com The national finals at Leamington will run from Thursday 10th to Sunday 27th August. See the Competitions Portal section of the website for all the details.

Bowls Leicestershire. The competition draws are on the website www.bowlsleicestershire.com Leicestershire will have two Leamington qualifiers in all women's and men's Championship events, except for Senior Fours and Junior Pairs where there will be one qualifier.

Parks Matches and Competitions

Several Leicester City & District Parks Association matches have been arranged this season which any member can play in. An email was sent out in February with a list of fixtures which are all on Sundays. Please speak to Roger Bartlett if you would like the list sending to you again. Please note that six matches clash with our own mixed fixtures.

The Parks competition draws involving our members are displayed in the men's changing room. Semi-finals take place w/c 17th July with finals the week after, both at South Wigston. We have entered a team in the Bramley Bowl which is mixed and involves ten players in a Top Club format. If you would like to play, a list to append your name is also in the men's changing room.

League News

Loughborough Triples League: Our two teams are in Division 1 and matches start on Monday 24th April with reigning champions Sands away to Shepshed and Lighthouse at home to Brush. The first game between the two Birstall teams takes place on Monday 12th June.

Leicester League: We are in Division 1 with the first match on Wednesday 3rd May at home to Countesthorpe. The first round of the cup is on Wednesday 24th May against Knighton with two rinks home and two away.

Ladies Friday Triples League: We have three teams entered with the first matches being played on Friday 23rd June. 14 teams in total will take part in the competition. £100 was donated to charity from the proceeds of last season.

Potters 2024

Marlene and Roger Bartlett have arranged a trip to Potters in March 2024. An email was sent on 8th March with the details. The cost, if a minimum group booking of 21 is reached, is £459 per person based on a standard bungalow (with supplements if you wish to upgrade to bungalow plus or the hotel). This includes all meals and drinks (with the odd exception) during your stay, a minimum of four bowls matches, sports, leisure activities and live entertainment each night. The above price is based on self-drive as the quote for return coach travel is £1500. A £50 deposit per person is required by 10th April to secure your place. More information about the resort can be found on Potters website www.pottersholidays.com or by speaking to Marlene or Roger.

Bowls Big Weekend

We will be running sessions again this year as part of Bowls England's Bowls Big Weekend. This takes place from Friday 26th to Monday 29th May (Spring Bank Holiday) and our session times will be decided shortly. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way (welcoming visitors, on the green advice or coaching, providing tea and coffee etc), please contact Steve Bacon.

Laws of the Sport

There have been several amendments (mainly minor ones) to the laws of bowls which come into force on 1st April. A new law book has been produced which is useful for anyone who plays or marks in matches or competitions. Each book costs £5.80 but there are substantial discounts for a total order of 30 or 50 copies. Please text or email Steve Bacon if you would like a copy so that he can collate orders and get the best price.

County of the Year

At the recent Bowls England Awards Dinner, Leicestershire was voted County of the Year. This accolade was achieved thanks to the hard work of volunteers in the county, the success of Bowls Big Weekend, embracing development programmes and introducing Bowls Bash and Play Bowls into clubs. The county was also praised for its well-structured website.