**LOWDHAM BOWLING CLUB**

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**Newsletter**

**August 2016**

Dear Member

The season moves on apace and we shall shortly arrive at finals weekend. Summer finally arrived with temperatures soaring and like many others I found myself wishing for the return of cooler days. Peter’s competitions moved forward satisfactorily with many familiar names contesting the finals.

On the organisational front, your committee has been addressing certain aspects of new and routine interest and I have been asked to relay to you details of ‘behind the scenes’ negotiations and decisions which were discussed at the committee meeting on 28 July.

1) **Website** – the address of our website is lowdhambowlingclub.co.uk and is available through Safari. As soon as it is up and running an email will be circulated. We shall then be able to inform you of events, dates, results etc. on line.

2) **Recruitment** – we are pleased with this year’s recruitment drive, which has attracted some newcomers with obvious potential. We were assisted both administratively and financially by a national scheme – ‘Playbowls’ - introduced by The Bowls Development Alliance. John Higgins, as an authorised coach ran a training course during May, which we hope may be repeated next year. Coaching continues during our Monday afternoon roll-ups, and by introduction to match-play in our programme of friendly matches.

3) **League matches** – we have been approached to participate in yet another afternoon league, but this was unanimously rejected by your executive. The existing calendar is already too large and the number of likely participants too small. Our team captains have noticed a marked difference in the numbers of available players between home and away matches. They wish me to remind you that provision is made for car-sharing, in that selected players are asked to indicate with a ‘D’ if they intend to go direct to an away match. Captains will endeavour to organise lifts as otherwise necessary with the participants coming to some agreement on sharing petrol costs. This is not a new arrangement – our fixture booklets and individual team selection sheets give clear instructions on this topic.

Your committee is concerned about members not making themselves available for away matches, and has discussed possible schemes to make them more attractive financially, but relies on your goodwill to render these unnecessary.

4) **Clubhouse cleaning** – the voluntary list on our notice board has received sparse support this year and the names on it can be identified as the ‘usual regulars’. This is clearly unfair and your committee has decided that the voluntary list will be replaced by one which allocates members names in pairs to specific weeks throughout the year.

5) **Friendly matches** – the availability and selection system for our friendlies has failed completely, possibly because of our crowded league and cup programme. Our intention is to select 12 players from those available, mixing beginners with more seasoned operators, to continue our development programme. However, on no occasion (other than the Notts HVP visit which is special) have I received as many as 12 from which to select. Most of my opposite numbers in our opponents are experiencing the same problem, and at my instigation, we have operated a loose arrangement whereby prior to the match we exchange numbers and plan the match format accordingly. This usually means some people playing for the opponents, but in a spirit of friendliness and goodwill it has worked well so far. Obviously the shape of each match cannot be resolved until shortly before it, so participating players need to carry 4 woods to cover all eventualities. We still need to observe our existing availability/selection sheet system, which ideally should allow me to post some sort of team selection at least 7 days before the event. Please give me as much help as you can!

6) **Bowls stock in Alan’s shed** – Alan Derry and I have twice attempted to introduce a control system for our stock of woods kept for the use of newcomers etc. In the foreseeable future we may see the installation of a racking system, but for the time being we rely on members goodwill to keep trace of our stock. There is an identification schedule pinned to the wall of the shed and every playing member should familiarise themselves with it. Some of the woods are available for sale but **not** necessarily for the benefit of club funds. If you are involved in any such sale, ensure that the owner gets to know about it, that the price is agreeable to both parties and that the sheet is suitably adjusted. Depending on the condition of woods being sold, I would suggest that a price of between £30 to £50 for a set of 4 is a reasonable starting point. If you have been involved recently in the sale of such woods please let me know. If involved in temporary loan of woods please ensure they are returned after use to the place whence they came!

**Warning –** members using this shed to store their own woods must accept there is a real risk of them being sold or loaned out. The club cannot accept any responsibility.

7) **Smoking ban** – following some complaints your committee has decided to extend the no smoking area to include the playing area, although there is no intention to restrict the surrounds of the green subject to sensible and safe disposal of the cigarette ends. Obviously the ‘no smoking’ ban already covers the vulnerable wooded structures of our clubroom, toilets and outdoor changing areas.

8) **Keys and padlocks** – it is particularly irritating when you have to secure the premises after an event to find that the locks etc. are not where you expect them to be.

Committee has asked me to establish a sensible routine which everyone can follow.

The outer gate padlock should be locked back on to its hasp after the gate has been opened and the ‘Alan’s Shed’ padlock stowed on the same nail which the clubroom key occupies.

Once opened the clubroom key should be kept in the inside keyhole.

9) **Ground developments** – the re-setting of the green surrounds, ditch boards etc. has been completed on the two sides and the intention is to complete the other two during the close season.

10) **Social events** – unfortunately the square dance had to be cancelled through lack of interest and your committee would welcome any suggestions from our membership for possible replacement events. We always aim for a congenial but competitive meet, in an available venue with a secondary intention to build up club funds. Evenings (with or without refreshments) and Saturday afternoons, could be used. Please give this your attention and contact Eileen with any ideas.

11) **Life membership** – a proposal to invite certain senior members to accept life membership will be made at the AGM.

**Christine Bailey Cup**

Just to remind you that this trophy is presented annually to the member who, in the opinion of the membership, has contributed greatly to the success and wellbeing of our club, other than in a playing capacity. Every club member has a vote which needs to be submitted to Secretary Michael Stone before the end of September, in order that the trophy can be presented at our presentation evening. Do it now! (email, phone, letter, face-to-face, word of mouth, bongo drums, semaphore, morse code – but do it please).

**Presidents cup day – Sunday 7 August**

President Barbara, on a beautiful day, was happy to host 40 members and friends at this celebration of her year in office.

The first part of the afternoon saw the final of the knock-out cup contested by the Tuesday trips teams. This year’s finalists were Mavericks (Eileen and Gordon Webster skipped by Geoff Gittins) and Bobcats (Anne and Bob Malt skipped by Austin Kelly). The quality of performance was very good and more even than the score of 6-0 to Mavericks after 4 ends, would suggest. Bobcats opened their score on the 5th, and by the 7th had taken a lead which they retained to the end. The 11th end saw brilliant play by both sides with several successive woods claiming the jack, before Geoff took it with his last wood. The next end however was disastrous for Mavericks when despite some near misses they yielded 4 shots, leading to a Bobcat win by 15-10.

After presentation of the trophies, players and spectators enjoyed an excellent buffet meal prepared by President Barbara. Thanks to her and all who assisted her in any way.

**Gala day – Sunday 14 August – theme Olympics**

*‘To help you open these Olympic Games*

*Accept this torch without any flames.*

*The reason is…..let it be known*

*Lowdham’s green is a no smoking zone’.*

These words accompanied the surprise arrival of a 2012 Olympic torch, enabling President Barbara to open Lowdham’s version of the games in iconic fashion. Our MC Jenny Franklin, with the assistance of Tony and the Derry’s, had set up the green for a variety of on-going activities and it was a delight, on a glorious day, to see so many people sporting the red, white and blue.

Prize winners were as follows:-

**Target Bowls Ladies – Verona Spencer Men – Graham Scrivener**

**Golf Putting Ladies – Joan Welbourne Men – Colin Davey (visitor)**

**Between the Strings Ladies – Cath Butler Men – Bill Russell**

**Nearest the Ditch Ladies – Margot Griffiths Men – Steve Marsh**

**Spider Colin Hobson**

**Roving Jack Winners -Barbara Perkins & Bill Morris**

 **Runners up -Cath Butler & Cliff Rycroft**

**Various picture and word puzzles were also contested throughout the afternoon.**

**Winners were – Sue Bodkin (flags), Yvonne Morris (who is it?) and Jo Kelly (sporting anagrams).**

The last event was completed by 4.45pm when everyone flocked to the magnificent buffet to which everyone had contributed. Imagination and good cooking skills provided a wide range of dishes, enough to satisfy all appetites. After a good natured prize giving Jenny and Margaret ran the raffle draw for lots of donated prizes.

Statistics of the afternoon –

In attendance – 49 members and friends, including one 6 year old Jack Bowen (Anne and Bob’s grandson) whose energy and enthusiasm continued much longer than any of us! Even teenager Michael Stone.

**Donation to the Nottingham Hospice - £50**

**Balance to club funds - £170**

**Congratulations and thanks to Jenny and her organising team and to everyone who was clever enough to turn up and support them, enjoying a terrific afternoon.**

**Ladies v Gents – Sunday 21 August**

Lovely sunshine with a cooling breeze welcomed 11 men and 10 ladies to the annual grudge match. Alan Derry elected to spend the afternoon cleaning lawnmowers so the match was played as two trips and one foursome. A competitive but pleasurable atmosphere got us to the tea interval with the men winning on 2 rinks and a shot score of 40-17. The ladies fours continued in the driving seat and closed on 17-13. The men won on the two trips rinks by 18-11 and 24-11. Final match result was 2-1 to the men (55 shots to 38). On the last end one of the ladies trips found a five to achieve honesty.

**Congratulations to Anne and Bob Malt who reach their Golden Wedding on Bank Holiday Monday 29 August (and they were married on Bank Holiday Monday too!)**

**New Jacks**

President Barbara has donated to the club a set of 6 new jacks which will initially be restricted to use in league matches - our thanks to her and Keith.

**Potters**

Captain Gordon and Joan have been busy organised next years’ winter break. From 31 March – 3 April 2017 we shall have a block booking at Potters Bowls Centre in Norfolk (as seen on TV every year). This promises to be a considerable step up from the Warners Holidays previously enjoyed, but accordingly more expensive. Accommodation in the hotel is £291.50 pp and in the surrounding bungalows £239 pp – full board, evening entertainment to West End standard and a daytime programme of events, including bowling opportunities on the famous blue rinks. These prices are given as an indication only as Joan may achieve savings with the block booking. **She will require before end of September a deposit of £40 pp in cheques made out to Potters Leisure Ltd.**

I have checked availability of small coaches for those people who don’t fancy the 140 mile drive, but even the cheapest minicoach without facilities would cost approx. £60 pp return, so I don’t think it would be attractive to anyone. Perhaps intending drivers with passenger space might offer this on a cost sharing basis. I am prepared to act as the agency for arranging ‘offers’ with ‘takers’ but don’t leave it too late.

**Dates for your diary**

**Thursday 15 September at 2.00pm – rearranged friendly away at Ruddington.**

We had to cancel the planned match back in May through lack of player availability. However we now have a golden opportunity to extend our outdoor season and I want to take a strong balanced team to Ruddington. Please make yourself available. If necessary we could field up to 5 x 4 because our opponents are really keen to play this friendly.

**Quiz night - Saturday 15 October – 7.00pm – Lowdham Village Hall**

We have been forced to bring forward this event when the LCBC announced that their annual dinner was to take place on our previous date. We are keen to see a much increased turn-out compared with last year and hope you will all keep the above date free of other engagements, to support this fun event. Tickets £6 pp including ploughmans supper can be obtained from Eileen on 9611989. Bring your own drinks!

**Acknowledgement**

It is great to see our new members taking an active part in our friendly games and enjoying our social occasions. Looking back we have to thank John Higgins for his successful coaching course back in May, and he in return wishes mention to be made of the excellent support he received from Ken Leatherland, and Jenny and Stephen Higgins. If we can get 5 or 6 new members of similar calibre every year the club will prosper.

John has also posted in our clubhouse a short list of the fundamental differences between EBA and Federation Bowling and I will try to precis this in the next newsletter.

**Stop Press**

At the time of writing, Lowdham have just won their Trent Valley League Cup semifinal against Farndon, and now go on to meet Radcliffe in the final at Barnstone on Sunday 28 August. Congratulations to Keith and his team.

**Remember – ‘it isn’t the ice that makes people slip….it’s what they mix it with’**

Yours sincerely

Cliff Rycroft