**LOWDHAM BOWLING CLUB**

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**Newsletter**

**July 2016**

Dear Member

So, we arrive at the outdoor season’s halfway mark having been very poorly provided with good weather. However, prominent amongst the bowler’s attributes is the desire to use every bit of dry weather that occurs. Many competition matches have started or finished in rain, but Peter B is satisfied that the competition charts are progressing more or less in line with his plans.

At the same time our external commitments in leagues and knockout cups have been hit by the weather, but also by opponents’ inability to raise sides. Fixtures secretary John H has very few dates for rearranging matches, even towards the end of our playing season.

**Harry Fray Shield – Drawn Triples – Sunday 22 May**

18 players attended on a dull day and were drawn conveniently into 6 teams of 3, which played each other in a round robin league. After 5 rounds the shield winners with 4 wins were Elizabeth B, Keith P and Steve Poyser. With 3 wins the runners up were Barbara P, Richard M and John Higgins**.**

**Godfrey Cup – Drawn 3 Wood Pairs – Sunday 5 June**

On a gorgeous sunny afternoon 21 members came to play. To have 10 pairs Peter again volunteered to stand down but Alan D, having played on 3 consecutive days insisted on Peter taking his place. The pattern of play was 2 mini leagues of 5 pairs, who played each other in a round robin of 4 games of 6 ends, the 2 most successful pairs to emerge were Elizabeth B and Paul Morris and Verona Spencer and Ivan Bodkin. It was approaching 6pm when the final was played and the 2 lady leads settled down quickly providing consistent bases for their skips; after 5 ends the Butler/Morris duo led by 1 shot only to be overtaken by a 2 on the last end.

**Friendly v Notts Honorary Vice Presidents – Sunday 12 June**

Our opponents in this annual prestige match brought 20 capable bowlers and were perhaps surprised that any play was possible after a series of heavy showers. The weather cleared just before our 2.30pm start, only to deteriorate again after 10 ends when we took tea.

In keeping with the Queen’s 90th celebrations (picnic on the Mall) Doreen had prepared an excellent buffet picnic which we all enjoyed.

As we were about to restart after tea the rain came again and the decision was taken to call it a day – and what a day! It is rare for us to get a victory over these experienced bowlers but we did it on this occasion, winning by 5 shots (although we were behind on 3 of the 5 rinks) our best performances were 20 - 2 by the Derry’s, Marlene and Paul M and 12 - 3 by the Butler’s, John Richardson and me. To even up the honours HVP’s won the raffle 4 - 1 and the cream scone eating contest by 93 – 48.

**Mablethorpe – Sunday 26 June**

20 playing members and half a dozen friends braved the journey east in wet and threatening weather – no surprise there then! As we crossed the Lincolnshire Wolds the weather changed for the better and after the usual excellent Sunday lunch we started to play on 5 rinks, and managed to complete 18 ends despite a few spits and spots**.** Although we won on 3 of the 5 rinks we lost rather badly on the other 2 and by 27 shots in total. Our best rink winning 19 – 14 was Eileen and Gordon, Alison Marsh and Tony Franklin.

After tea and biscuits we participated successfully in a mammoth raffle. Having kept count throughout I can tell you that we brought home 27 of the 43 prizes and would you believe it – Cath Butler won a cake!!

**Coffee Evening – Tuesday 28 June**

In recent years we have enjoyed excellent weather for the coffee evening but not this year. June 2016 came in like a bedraggled bedspread and went out like a drowned rat. However 44 hardy souls turned up to enjoy a crowded get-together with coffee, biscuits and uncontrolled natter. The tombola sold out very quickly, the cakes went like hot cakes and there was an eclectic mix on the white elephant stall (I don’t know what eclectic means but everyone else uses it). Social secretary Eileen was delighted to report that in total the proceeds were £244.20 to club funds. Thanks to Eileen and her dedicated helpers and to all who contributed.

I apologise for the wrong date for this event appearing in the last newsletter – the decision to alter the date coincided with our circulation date. Ironically the date was changed to accommodate a ladies home match which was later cancelled by our opponents.

**The Olive Hancock & Ricketts Family Cup Competitions – Sunday 10 July**

It was a lovely afternoon for these competitions but a disappointing turn out of members as there were only 7 ladies and 8 men. However everyone had an enjoyable afternoons’ bowling, sustained with Cath’s cakes of course!

In the ladies final it was such a close game that an extra end had to be played. The winners were Anne Malt and Eileen Webster by one shot against Margot Griffiths and Barbara Perkins.

The men’s final was won by John Higgins and Keith Perkins with Gordon Webster and John Richardson collecting the runners up cup.

Many thanks to Peter and Elizabeth for organising the afternoon, especially as Elizabeth didn’t play, due to the odd number of ladies present.

**Dates for your diary**

The 3 x 3 home match against Toton Lane has been rescheduled for 6 September at 6pm.

We still await the 2nd round draw for the T.V.L. Trophy, having beaten Southwell Red in the first round.

We are no longer involved in the 3 other cup knockouts having lost to West Bridgford in both Steele and Glover Trophies and to Ratcliffe in the LCBC competition.

**New Members**

We welcome a number of new club members some of whom are new to the game of bowls and have benefitted from John Higgins introductory course during May – John Chapman, Jeff Foster, Peter Jenkinson and Bob Simpson. We look forward to involving them in both playing and social sides of our club and urge them to encourage their relatives and friends to try out the game of bowls.

Among the new members mentioned in last newsletter was Steve Poyser - his ‘other job’ as Secretary of the indoor club is a bonus for us. Seeking to complete the list of Lowdham members who had been successful in the last indoor season, I rang Steve and received by return of post the following details:-

**In the knockout competitions Lowdham winners were:-**

Mixed Pairs - John & Jenny Higgins

Over 60’s Mixed Trips - Steve Poyser with Kath & Jeff Smith

**Runner’s up were:-**

Mixed Fours - Mike Stone

Gladys Moss Memorial Tournament - Anne & Bob Malt

**Lowdham members and friends who were part of winning league teams:-**

Peter Stephens, John Higgins, Maz Wall, Ken Leatherland and Steve Poyser.

**Gala Day – 14 August**

I am told by organiser/hostess Jenny Franklin that the theme for this year’s Gala Day will be ‘The Olympics’ so get on your thinking caps and find your red, white and blue, the five rings or anything else that reflects the Olympics, which will be taking place in Rio around the same time.

**Humour**

Is it true that Ronnie Corbett once intended to open a restaurant with topless waitresses but was put off by the overheads?

**Limerick**

Have you heard of the jockey name Robbie

Riding his mount around in the lobby

When they told him indoors

Is no place for a horse

He replied ‘well you see it’s my hobby’

**Anagrams**

Study group remains

Have story told too quickly

Healthily, Ron hasn’t enjoyed one of these recently (4 words)

**Last answers**

Liberal touch - Braille

Onlooker subject to gentle rot - Lorgnette

Aunt’s large guard stays sweet - Granulated sugar

When seeking advice from so-called experts remember that an ex is a has-been and a spurt is a drip under pressure!

Yours sincerely

Cliff Rycroft