**LOWDHAM BOWLING CLUB**

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**Newsletter**

**October 2016**

Dear Member

So, another outdoor season comes to an end. During it we have experienced all types of weather, some up and down results and some operational problems which we seem to have overcome.

Results wise we have been relatively successful, having topped the Saturday league and the Trent Valley league, where we also won the knockout cup. The Mixed Trips league saw Lowdham midway but regrettably we were relegated from the LCBC first division.

Our operating problems were fundamental. The green-keeping and lawn mowing were dependent on two men, and finally on only one. This could not be allowed to continue and negotiations are taking place to enlist outside assistance for the lawn mowing next season. How our club underwrites the additional expense is a subject for immediate consideration. Meanwhile we can only say thank you to the gentlemen who have kept our green playing so well. A good contingent of members turned up in late September to help in the winter preparation of the green, which has now been ‘put to bed’ until April.

**Club Finals – Saturday/Sunday 3/4 September**

A smattering of rain had just reached Lowdham as we arrived on the Saturday morning. The three scheduled finals were played but in some discomfort for the players. Over lunch the rain intensified and play was cancelled, presenting further problems for our organisers Peter and Elizabeth.

The following reports are in the order the matches were finished:-

**K & E Godfrey Cup – 7 up with 4 woods – best of five sets**

E Butler v I Bodkin

Elizabeth started slowly conceding the first five shots of the first set but rallied to square at six all before Ivan produced a couple to go one set ahead. Having found his form, he proceeded to take the next two sets 7-1 to escape to the relative comfort of the clubhouse.

**George Keating Shield – Open 3 woods handicap – 21 up**

J Broadbent v J Connor

John Connor brought a handicap of -6 to this match, and by the time he had wiped this clear, John Broadbent was already on 15. JC then pushed his score up to 11 by which time JB was on 19 and was able to close out the match at 21-11.

**Margaret Faulkner Cup – Mixed Pairs – 2 woods – 21 ends**

Anne & Bob Malt v Jenny Franklin & Austin Kelly

A match which ebbed and flowed, with some lovely bowling from all four. The Malt’s began with the first 10 shots, but Jenny and Austin retaliated with a four on the 5th end. The score progressed to 14-6 and then 18-8 when the FK partnership hit a run of success which brought the contest to an interesting finale. At 18 all Anne and Bob got the one shot on the 21st end which won the cup for them 19-18.

These last 2 matches of the morning ended in persistent rain, which intensified over the lunch break. Although ever optimistic Peter was prepared to wait for a possible improvement, at 3pm it was decided to call-off the afternoon’s programme. With some of the finalists having planned their holidays to follow finals week-end, Peter was faced with some headaches, particularly as two people had got through to five finals each! After more rain in the night, Sunday arrived with greyish skies but with a more optimistic forecast. The green was heavy to begin with but quickly dried out.

**John Harrison Trophy – Open 2 woods – 21 up**

Ivan Bodkin v Austin Kelly

The onlookers were treated to magical bowling – on the 4th end every wood hit either the jack or the holding wood. With both finding excellent deliveries, the score reached 11 all, when Ivan had a golden patch to reach 18-12 and run out the winner at 22-16 after 27 ends.

**A & M Griffiths Cup – Ladies Drawn Pairs – 4 woods – 15 ends**

Elizabeth Butler & Margaret Derry v Eileen Webster & Pat Barker

Elizabeth was on the ball from the start but still contrived to lose the 1st end. Three all became 8-4 after 8 ends, then a 4 on the 10th took Elizabeth/Margaret to 12-5. Their opponents held 3 shots on the 14th end but with her last wood Margaret managed to take the jack and after the next end they celebrated a good win by 14-9.

**Kennor Cup – Gents 2 woods – 21 up**

Ivan Bodkin v Austin Kelly

Having just completed the open 2 woods final, Ivan & Austin were competing again. Play was exciting to watch, but not quite as gripping as in their preceding game. Austin won the 1st end but then had to wait 9 ends before adding to his score. At 12-1 down he started a run which took him to 15-10 after 18 ends. Ivan then rediscovered his touch and reached 21-15 after 25 ends. The winner of this trophy represents our club in the county championships next year.

**Charles Faulkner Shield – Gents 4 woods – 21 up**

Ivan Bodkin v Graham Scrivener

This was Ivan’s 3rd match of the day; already he and Austin had sent down 104 woods each. Nevertheless he started pressing immediately and reached 11-3 after 9 ends. Graham managed to double his own score by 14 ends, but Ivan got to 21 in 18 ends - (a further 72 woods).

**Sylvia France Salver – Open singles – 4 woods – 21 up**

Austin Kelly v Chris Starr

Austin in his 3rd match of the day, found himself 7-1 down after 6 ends, but found a last wood saver on the 7th end, and a purple patch took him into a 10-8 lead after 11. However, a spate of 2s from Chris brought him back to 16-11 after 16, and he reached his target on the 21st end – 21-14 - (84 more woods in the day from Austin).

**Olive Hancock Cup – Ladies 2 wood singles – 21 up**

Anne Malt v Margaret Derry

Anne lost the 1st four ends and despite some accomplished bowling from each lady, she never retrieved the lead, although she came pretty close at 16-18 after 25 ends. When Margaret reached 21-16 it was the first time she had beaten Anne in a singles competition.

At 3.30 pm on a fine sunny afternoon it was now time for Austin and Ivan to make their 4th appearance of the day.

**E & E Seddon Cup – Veterans 2 woods - 21 up**

Ivan Bodkin v Elizabeth Butler

Elizabeth secured a 2 on the second end but that was her only reward until another 2 on the 11th end. By this time the crowd of onlookers were enthusiastically cheering every shot of Elizabeth’s, which greatly pleased Ivan.

Having good-naturedly queried this one sided support, he was pleased to welcome his own measure of applause, and ran out a 21-11 winner after 24 ends.

**Rita Rycroft Cup – Maidens – 3 woods – 21 ends**

Austin Kelly v John Broadbent

This competition is restricted to members who have not previously won a singles title at our club and many onlookers were surprised that two such accomplished players had not been successful sooner. (John had won the Handicap Shield on the previous day). Having projected 188 woods already in the day, Austin was understandably somewhat weary, but managed to stay in touch until a mid-match run of 5 ends saw John proceed to 17-7. On the 14th end, a direct hit on the jack dispatched it to more than 2 metres from any of the woods, for no score to either player. After the 19th end with the score at 18-11 Austin congratulated John because with only 6 woods left he could not catch up.

Austin after 5 finals over the weekend had only runners up trophies to show for his efforts, but he should be congratulated for reaching them and for his Herculean efforts in sending down 245 woods in one day, and 287 over the weekend. Meanwhile Ivan had delivered a mere 224 on the Sunday but 300 in total and had won all 5 of his finals.

There was no opportunity to play the outstanding postponed match so this was rescheduled for the Monday afternoon.

**Walter Gilbey Cup – Open 2 woods – Drawn Pairs – 21 ends**

Verona Spencer & Steve Poyser v Pat Barker & Graham Scrivener

I was involved in the Monday roll-up while this match was being played, so I wasn’t able to watch throughout, but did see some good competitive bowling from all four. At the 14th end point the score was 14 all and on the last end Graham was left with one wood to retrieve a one down situation. He chose to run the jack but unfortunately missed it by no more than two inches, a close match indeed!

For the ladies Elizabeth Butler was in 3 finals, winning one, whilst Anne Malt and Margaret Derry were in 2, each winning one.

**Presentation Evening – Saturday 8 October**

Fifty cup winners, members and friends had bought tickets to witness our President Barbara formally presenting our glittering array of trophies to the various winners. After an excellent supper, to which everyone had contributed, competition secretary Peter and Elizabeth called out the cup winners for a few words of congratulation and encouragement.

An interesting and amusing moment came when Peter’s announcement of the Olive Hancock trophy winners was challenged by some of the audience and even by the winners themselves. I am pleased to report Peter’s record keeping was absolutely correct – as always – so Eileen and Ann received a trophy they had both forgotten about. With five wins over final’s weekend, Ivan was up and down like a yoyo; he had also been successful in one of the Sunday afternoon competitions earlier in the season. To complete the evening we were treated to an illustrated talk on the History of the Fire Service by a man who had a long and distinguished service in the local NFS – Grenville (Shep) Shepherd.

After hall hire and other deductions, a profit of £150 was put to club funds. Thanks to all who organised this annual event.

**Quiz night – Saturday 15 October**

Forty one hardy souls turned up to contest our 8th annual quiz, despite the ridiculous traffic problems created on this and the previous weekend by inadequate control of the situation caused by the complete closure of the Lowdham island. Eight tables competed to the usual programme which, judging by the favourable comments afterwards was well received. The main quiz was won by a team of 6 from Burton Joyce Tennis Club and the extended quiz by another BJ team of ladies who are regular attenders and on this occasion only 3 points from achieving full marks. An excellent ploughman’s supper was provided by Eileen and a few of our lady members. Thanks to them and to Eileen, Gordon and Cliff for their efforts in preparing for and running this event. A raffle with 14 donated prizes made £65 and along with the operating profit £166 was paid into club funds.

**Presentation to club funds**

At the end of the summer season, I was pleased to pass to our Treasurer a cheque for £546 comprising:- Monday roll-ups £76.80

 Green Fees £28.00

 Raffle and refreshments

 at friendly matches £107.20

 Games afternoon £334.00

May I remind members that the games afternoon will continue every Wednesday afternoon 2.00 – 4.00 pm throughout the Autumn/Winter season. Anyone who would like to attend for whist and dominoes would be sure of a warm welcome and a convivial time. Why not try it – it is not confined to club members but does contribute handsomely to club running costs.

All members will be pleased to hear that our Treasurer Michael Barrett is now on the way to what will be a rather long road to recovery from a serious bout of bacterial pneumonia with complications which involved a lengthy and uncomfortable stay in hospital. Now at home resting under Margaret’s eagle eye, he has managed short bursts of concentration on the club accounts ready for the AGM!! Take care Michael and do as she tells you!!

*Michael thanks everyone for their cards, telephone calls and visits which have and are giving him great comfort.*

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Speaking of the AGM, Secretary Michael Stone has asked me to tell you that it will take place in the clubhouse at 11.00 am on Wednesday 23 November. Notices will be posted and email reminders sent nearer to the date. Please make every effort to attend.

One of the items on the Agenda will be this year’s award of the Christine Bailey Memorial Cup. If you haven’t already done so, there is still time to vote – through the box in the clubhouse or direct to Michael Stone.

**Potters – Club visit end of March 2017**

As there appears to be little interest in booking a minibus for this trip I now call on members with spare car space to contact me to arrange car/fuel expenses sharing for those who cannot face the prospect of driving themselves.

**Social events next year**

The village hall has been booked for the ‘Kurling’ afternoon on **28 January** and for the Games evening on **18 March.**

**EBA v Federation**

In the last newsletter, I promised I would underline the chart which John Higgins had put on the clubhouse noticeboard, to highlight the differences in the playing formats of the EBA and Federation rules. Like most of you, I find it incredible and unfortunate that our lovely games is torn apart by the failure of two ruling bodies to agree on a single set of rules, and, as a team captain for the last 5 years, I have been somewhat embarrassed because I had only a limited idea of what to expect if asked to resolve a problem in play.

 I usually hid behind the chalk and 2 metre stick, which I did largely understand. John’s simple instructions will help you as they have helped me.

You should know that Lowdham BC is a federation club, but, from time to time we visit other clubs who are EBA, including our local indoor club. Simply the rules differ in connection with playing positions, ‘touchers’ and boundaries, as follows:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **EBFederation** | **EBA** |
| **Mat position** | **2 metres from ditch on 1st end and thereafter up to 4 metres from ditch** | **Anywhere provided the minimum Jack length is not affected** |
| **Playing position (eg no. 1 or skip)** | **May be changed between ends – tell the opposing skip** | **Cannot be changed.**  |
| **Touchers**  | **No touchers are recognised** | **Any bowls hitting Jack are chalked and remain in play even in the ditch** |
| **Bowls in ditch** | **Out of play** | **Chalked touchers still in play in ditch** |
| **Counting scoring shots** | **Only count if within 2 metres of the Jack** | **All shots count** |
| **Rink boundaries** | **Jack or any woods touching boundary line are dead** | **Bowls on boundary line remain in play** |
| **Jack in ditch** | **Alive and marked on the upright wall of the ditch** | **Alive and marked on wall of ditch** |

**Website address - Shortly to become operational our site address has changed to:-lowdhambowlingclub.co.uk**

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**ENTERTAINMENT – it is rumoured that the publishers have stopped the release of the long awaited book on the history of sellotape. Apparently no-one can find the beginning!**

**LIMERICK**

***An unfortunate girl named Brenda***

***Asked best friend Jane to lend her***

***A small paper clip***

***To hold up her slip***

***And a pin for her broken suspender.***

**ANAGRAMS**

***1 A largely restored showplace***

***2 Gone out when tea’s been made***

***3 To be glad I knew my duty***

**LAST ANSWERS**

***Study group remains seminar***

***Have story told too quickly overhasty***

***Healthily, Ron hasn’t enjoyed roll in the hay***

***We owe much to the garden spade –***

***it gives a man one place where he can put his foot down.***

Yours sincerely

Cliff Rycroft