**LOWDHAM BOWLING CLUB**

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**Newsletter**

**July 2017**

Dear Member

May I open this newsletter with a few words about security?

It is important that our green, our pavilion and our equipment sheds are as secure as we can make them against outside interference. To this end we employ 2 substantial padlocks – one at the entrance gate and one on Alan’s equipment shed. Every member has a key which fits both of these padlocks, and is expected to keep it safe in their own possession. Anyone deciding to leave the club should hand over their key to a committee member. My various involvements in the club mean that I am very often last to leave after an event and therefore very conscious of the need to lock up safely. You can imagine my consternation recently when I could not find the padlock to secure the gate. The reliable replacement of the padlocks **at the time of entry** is all important in ensuring secure closure at the end of the day’s activities. We have previously established a preferred routine, which I will now repeat for all to observe.

1 After opening the entrance gate relock the padlock on to the hasp so that it is safe yet readily available for whoever has to lock up.

2 After opening Alan’s shed, hang that padlock on the nail holding the pavilion key.

3 After unlocking the pavilion door transfer that key to the inside of its lock.

Forgive me for pressing these points but it is infuriating and worrying to find as the last person to leave that you do not know the whereabouts of these all important padlocks. I believe that everyone who is entrusted to open up our playing area must accept responsibility to ensure that the eventual locker-up will not face any difficulty, and this also applies when events overlap.

**Coaching Course – May 2017**

Each Saturday in May John Higgins hosted a free course of bowls training, which attracted 6 new trainees. The success of his coaching is evident in the abilities demonstrated by his pupils, of whom 5 have since taken up membership. A late joiner is Philip Newnham who we now welcome as a member of our club. Over 2 years this coaching scheme has been very successful in attracting new members and it is up to the rest of us to ensure their enthusiasm is encouraged and maintained. *Thank you John!*

**Godfrey Cup – Sunday 4 June – 3 wood Drawn Pairs**

20 players were in attendance, meaning Peter and Elizabeth could, for once, include themselves in the playing action, which was shaped around 10 drawn pairs, initially operating in 2 round robins of 5 teams. One league was won by Ivan and Bob Simpson with 3 wins and a draw out of their 4 games. The other was closer fought with 2 pairs having 3 wins and 1 loss – one being Elizabeth and me, the other Anne Malt and Gordon Webster whose shot tally was much superior to ours and so went on to contest the final over 6 ends of close combat Bob and Ivan prevailed and the cup was presented to them with the clock shown almost 6.30!

**Friendly v Nottingham Honorary Vice-Presidents – Sunday 11 June**

Gusty winds, heavy enough to blow over our new scoreboards were the prevailing weather feature on the day we welcomed our most formidable friendly opponents. Last year’s match, at the time rain stopped play, had seen us holding a 5 shot lead, but this year’s match carried on to a bitter end with us losing on all 4 rinks and by 83 shots to 45. The only parallel with last year was that they again won the raffle 4-1! Thanks to Doreen we all enjoyed first class refreshments.

**Coffee Evening – Tuesday 13 June**

On a beautiful sunny but coolish evening 51 people, including 38 members turned up for a cup of coffee, biscuits and a chance to participate in the tombola which earned us £73. Also available were bric-a-brac, second hand books and lovely cakes. In total £187 was earned for club funds and the entry draw was won deservedly by organiser Eileen Webster, who, along with various helpers on the night deserve our grateful thanks.

**Playing Progress**

At the time of writing LBC is progressing well in cup matches. In the Glover trophy a recent win over Porchester got us to the semi-finals where we face Bestwood Workshops. Meanwhile a win over Burton Joyce allowed us to progress in the LCBC Knock-out cup. Captain Ivan tells me we are also doing well in the LCBC 2nd Division and hope to regain our 1st Division status.

**Olive Hancock Cup & Ricketts Family Cup – Sunday 9 July**

These 2 cup competitions – 2 wood drawn pairs for ladies and gents respectively, are played in tandem, and as I was unable to be present Steve Marsh reports as follows:-

On a warm, some might say rather too hot, Sunday afternoon 20 members turned out to compete in these two competitions, ably supported for much of the time by a large number of friends and family who enjoyed watching some good and competitive bowling. This was an encouraging turnout given that a number of members were unable to attend due to prior commitments; thanks must once again go to Peter and Elizabeth for their excellent organising of the event.

The two competitions were run on a knockout basis, with eight ladies playing directly in a semi-final, and twelve gents having a preliminary quarter-final between four of the pairings before the semi-finals. The draw as ever produced some interesting pairings, with some seemingly strong pairs not progressing as some might have expected.

In the men’s knockout stages the pair of Richard Melbourne and relative newbie Peter Jenkinson played some great bowls in their tightly fought quarter and semi-finals to progress through to the final against the bookies favourites of John Higgins and Ivan Bodkin who had an easier ride through to the final. The final was a close run thing for the first few ends when the score stood at 3 apiece, but at this point a combination of the heat and the relentless pressure exerted by John and Ivan eventually took its toll on Richard and Peter, and John and Ivan ended up comfortable winners with an end or two to spare.

The ladies final pitched Verona Spencer and Cath Butler against Marlene Hobson and Yvonne Morris, both pairs having fairly comfortably progressed through their respective semi-finals. Much was expected of this final but in the event Yvonne and Marlene appeared to have left the best of their bowling behind in their semi-final, though it must be said Verona and Cath produced some very good and consistent woods throughout. After taking a three with some excellent woods on the last end, they ran out comfortable winners with a couple of ends to spare.

Tea and Cath’s cakes were enjoyed by all after the cups were awarded to the very worthy winners and runners up.

Although the day was very enjoyable, a straight knockout competition, combined with an extra round needed for the gents, meant that many of the bowlers were waiting around for a good part of the day rather than actually bowling; that caused some frustrations and might not be much fun in less clement weather. It might be worth Peter and the committee considering whether there would be merit in changing the format for future events to alleviate this waiting time so it remains a much enjoyed and well attended part of our competition programme whatever the weather.

**Some other matters**

*Our thoughts and sympathy are with Richard and Freda Melbourne who have lost their eldest son after a lengthy illness. Sensibly they have decided to continue attending our bowling events, and we must do all we can to help them through these terrible circumstances.*

This issue of the newsletter would normally report on the performances of our members in the last winter indoor season. Unfortunately my information source, Steve Poyser, is unwell, and after a short spell in hospital now awaits an operation. As soon as he is fit enough we shall ensure that our successful indoor players are suitably honoured.

Last month the newsletter printed out for display and reference was removed from the clubhouse within days of being pinned to the noticeboard. We would like it to be returned please. Whoever took it has deprived many members of their chance to update on club matters.

**Items of news interest**

1 A cheque for £320 has been handed to Treasurer Mike Barrett from the Wednesday games afternoon.

2 Many of the second hand books have now been removed from the clubhouse. We can now accept further restocking but please keep in mind that the service is run to aid club funds. It is not to be used as a depot for unwanted house clearance!

3 Mablethorpe – our planned visit in June was cancelled because our hosts could not raise a team. Future fixtures are doubtful.

4 Christine Bailey trophy – this is awarded each year to the person judged to have contributed most to the club, other than in bowling. The choice is made by the members, and a voting box will shortly be placed in the clubhouse to receive your vote. Last year only 27 members bothered to vote, even though the time limit was extended twice, and that is really pitiful. We need to know your choice in time for your President to make the award at our annual presentation evening on the 7 October. Don’t leave it till later – do it now!

5 It has been suggested in committee that we should run a ‘200’ club to raise funds. We would prefer someone outside the committee to organise this long-running feature, which would involve monthly action and some paperwork. Is anyone prepared to volunteer? If so please contact Secretary Michael Stone.

6 President’s Cup Final – Sunday 20 August. For catering purposes your President needs to know how many of you intend to be at the cup final. Following tradition, the President provides a picnic buffet to follow the match, and you are all invited. A list is on the noticeboard for you to enter your name to let me know how many to provide for.

Private caterers are involved so I would expect you to turn up for the meal even if the match is rained off! Otherwise I shall be eating frozen egg sandwiches through till Christmas!

**Dates for your diary**

**6 August Gala Day – 2.00 pm – Theme is ‘Flower Power’ and ‘All Things Bright and Beautiful**

**20 August President’s Cup Final – 2.00 pm – followed by buffet**

**27 August Ladies v Gents - 2.00 pm**

**2/3 September Finals Weekend**

**7 October Presentation evening**

**18 November Quiz night – bring your friends**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**The world’s easiest quiz**

1 How long did the hundred years’ war last?

2 In which country are Panama hats made?

3 From where do we get catgut?

4 In which month do the Russians celebrate the October Revolution?

5 Louis XVIII was the last one but how many previous Kings of France were called Louis?

6 The Canary Isles are named after which creatures?

7 What was King George VI’s first name?

8 Which seabird has the Latin name ‘Puffinus Puffinus’?

9 In what season does ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ take place?

10 How long did the thirty years war last?

**Limerick Time**

You’ll find by the banks of the Nile

 The haunts of the great crocodile.

 He will welcome you in

 With an innocent grin

 Which gives way to a satisfied smile.

Anagrams

 Men drive to hear this composer

 Interval at recent opera (2 foreign part words joined by apostrophe)

 Stable companion on beat protection (2 words)

Last answers

 Caviar – a deadly sin - Avarice

 This leg break - Sleight

 Harlot Festival - Five Star Hotel

Final thought

 If you want to stop getting uptight, try going to bed sober!

 Yours sincerely

Cliff Rycroft