

SHEFFORD BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER

February 2019

WELCOME: The forthcoming season is drawing near and it should be an enjoyable and friendly experience for all. Hope that you have wintered well.

CHAIRMAN'S NIGHT

Chairman's night will be held on 29th March from 7pm. It is hoped that as many of you as possible will attend. If you know of anyone who might be interested in playing bowls please encourage them to come along and meet the members. Don't forget we offer free coaching for beginners as well as those wishing to improve!!

STICKERS

This season we have new bowls stickers, they have been re-designed and will be issued at Chairman's Night, a big thank you to Barry Robinson who has donated them.

OPENING OF THE GREEN

Saturday 20th April, the Green will be opened with a spoon drive starting with a spider at **2.30pm**. Fingers crossed for a warm and dry afternoon and a good start to the season.

GREEN KEEPING

Those of you who have been up the Green will have seen that a lot of hard work has been going on over the winter. A big thank you to all those involved.

At the AGM we had no volunteers to take on the job so John Batcheldor and Jeff Hurst have agreed to take on the role with advice from Mike Williams. Colin is currently still doing the spraying. The area around the green also requires general maintenance work and as they say many hands makes light work.

The green is cut on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and if you have some time to spare to assist you will be welcomed with open arms.

WORK PARTY

Over the winter there has been a lot of work going on in the club house. It needed cracks repairing, a fresh coat of paint and more general tidying up. The work is now well underway. There will be a work party on 23rd March starting at 10am. Please support the team where you can.

Any queries please contact Aaron Buckingham on 01462 619494

OPEN DAY

This year our Open Day will run alongside the STMA fete on Saturday June 1st. We will have the green open for members of the public to have a go, advertise the club and hopefully recruit some new members.

Notices, flyers and adverts will be put around Shefford and the surrounding villages but, generally these only get a limited response. Your help is needed to get the message out and encourage people to come and have a go.

As usual we will serve teas and cakes. Offers of home-made cakes and people to help on the day will be welcome. We also have a stall at the fete and help will be needed to man it.

The STMA fete is a big opportunity for our Club to advertise its presence and encourage new members. Please contact Alison.

COACHING - NEW BOWLERS

We will again be running **FREE** coaching sessions for new bowlers and will sort out dates and times to suit those interested. If you know of anyone who would like to try Bowls or is interested in returning to Bowls please get them to contact Alison

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

The Committee issued a booklet to all members on essential information about bowling at Shefford. Topics included are some of the laws of the sport, etiquette, measuring and the green. Please take time to refresh yourself with the contents.

TEA ROTA

Kay will be doing the tea rota again and it will be available on Chairman's Night. This will perhaps give you opportunities to make some alterations before the season starts. If you are not available on the day allocated to you please either swap with someone or find a substitute and amend the list.

Please remember there is a budget. Kay has updated the list of what you might need quantity wise for sandwiches etc but you do not have to do sandwiches, other options are available to you!! If you need any advice speak to someone who has experience of doing teas. Thank you for your co-operation.

CLUB SHIRTS and JACKETS

Club shirts and jackets need to be ordered through Connor Hart, he has already placed an initial order and is awaiting delivery. Remember you need both white and blue club shirts.

FUND RAISING and SOCIAL EVENTS

Our first Hobby Horse Race evening on Friday 8th February was a great success. Thank you to all those members and friends who attended and made it a most enjoyable night. It was very gratifying to have so many people make positive comments about the evening that I am sure it will be on the calendar again next year.

We raised £529 which will be put towards the refurbishing of the clubhouse.

We would also like to thank the following local companies for sponsoring the races: Advance Financial Management, Society, Headlines, Coast to Coast, Lemon Plaice and the Garage. Thanks also go to Tesc's, Spitfire Travel, Lloyds the Chemist, Shefford Hand Car Wash and club members for donating raffle prizes.

Our next event will be BINGO on Friday 15th March at 7pm in the clubhouse. Fish and chip supper £6, bring your own drinks. Please let me know a.s.a.p. if you will be attending and I will require the money by Monday 11th March please.

Thank you all for supporting the social evenings
Kay

Whist Drives continues to run on the first Friday of the month. The cost of the evening is £3 for friendly banter and a game of cards.

COUNTY LEAGUE

This season we have to defend our title as champions of the 2 rink County League. More teams have entered this year and we are hoping for another successful season.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

The selection committee have asked if members can put their names down well in advance if possible for the weekend fixtures. This makes the task of selection MUCH easier and avoids endless phone calls

PLEASE

Add; your name to the list EVEN if there are already sufficient names down. Let the selectors do their job – balancing the teams and ensuring all members have an equal opportunity to bowl.

Inform; after selection, if you have to withdraw. Let the Captain of the day know as soon as you can.

BOWLS TOUR

Brenda has again worked really hard and organised this year's tour to Torquay, not the hotel we went to before, this time we will be staying at the Derwent Hotel. The tour is from Sunday to Sunday 21st July to 28th July.

WELFARE OFFICER

Janet Thomas is our welfare Officer, Please inform Janet when you are aware that a members is unwell or otherwise might need some support from the club. Her telephone number is 01462 625526

OTHER NEWS

Life Membership was extended to Dennis Stevens at the AGM. Dennis is a past green keeper and long standing member of the club. He is particularly renowned for the allotment at the side of the green. Many member have benefitted from his green fingers. We wish Dennis well and I'm sure we will still see him at the club and STMA. Congratulations Dennis.

Congratulations also go to Shay Mumford on the birth of her grandson Gray Noah Walter who weighed in at a healthy 8lb 5oz.

The patio and paths around the green have been re-laid and we have new trellis too. It has made the outside area look really great.

Smoking – Just a reminder - there will be no smoking on the green which includes E cigarettes.

Any comments or ideas for the next edition please send to Alison on 01462 811548 or alisonr.hammond@btinternet.com