

# SHEFFORD BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2016

**Welcome** to the coming season which we hope will be an enjoyable and friendly experience for all.

## **Extraordinary General Meeting.**

Held on 28<sup>th</sup> March this was well supported with 38 members attending. Bob Izzard (Chairman) explained the purpose of the meeting as outlined in his letter to all members.

The first item was to revisit the membership subscriptions as concerns had been raised by several members who felt that they had not been given enough information at the AGM on which to make an informed decision. There was a discussion on the subscription and fees. As a result a motion was passed that the fees revert back to a subscription and match fee as for last season.

The second item was the loss of committee members since the AGM. Thank you to Shay Mumford, Derek Wilson and Rosemary Allison for agreeing to join the committee. Chris Tufnell has stood down as Mens Captain, Bob reported that John Batcheldor has agreed to take this on. Bob Hughes has also resigned leaving a vacancy for the mid week match organiser. Vic King volunteered to be the organiser with assistance from Colin Kane.

The last item was to finalise the Men's EBL team Captains for the 3 teams in the league which are required for signing on the to the EBL. The captains are:- A Team Barry Robinson, B Team John Batcheldor, C Team Kevin Crofts.

Well done to all those who participated in the meeting and thank you for your help in moving the Club forward into the coming season.

## **CHAIRMAN'S NIGHT**

This year the chairman's night and signing on night is Friday **22nd April, commencing 7pm** in the club house. This is an opportunity to catch up with how your fellow members have wintered, catch up with any news and pay your subscriptions. There will be wine, soft drinks and a light buffet for you to enjoy. If you know of any potential new members please bring them along too. We look forward to seeing you all on the night.

## **CLEANING**

The pavilion and toilets are in need of a spring clean. The main event will be on Wednesday **20<sup>th</sup> April from 10am** all are welcome! If you have time to spare before this date or cannot make this date there will be a list of jobs that need doing on club house notice board. Just mark any off you complete.

## **OPENING OF THE GREEN**

On **Saturday 23rd April**, the Green will be opened with a spoon drive starting with a spider at **2.30pm**. Fingers crossed for a dry afternoon and a good start to the season.

## **WORK PARTY**

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 Colin and John. Congratulations to Colin who has gained his chemical spraying certificate. This was essential as "grandfather rights" for spraying of certain chemicals ceased in November 2015.

CAN YOU SPARE a little TIME on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning to assist in getting the Green ready for the new season. Numerous jobs both on and off the Green - you will be warmly welcomed, tea and coffee provided.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We are running **FREE** coaching sessions for new bowlers starting **Tuesday 17th May 1.30pm to 3.30pm** for 6 weeks and also starting on **Wednesday 18th May from 6pm to 8pm** also for 6 weeks. Alison & Mike Hammond qualified as EBCS Level 2 coaches and will run these courses in conjunction with Central Bedfordshire's Fit 4 Life programme. If you know of anyone who wishes to learn how to bowl please get them to contact Alison or turn up at the first session.

## **OPEN DAY**

Last year we had a very successful **Open Day** which was held in conjunction with the STMA fete. We are repeating it this year and the date for your diary is **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE from 1.30pm**. As well as the bowls green being open for people to try bowling we are having a stall and will need help to man it on the day. Please volunteer, if everyone helped for just 30 minutes on the stall it would take the pressure off the committee.

## **COACHING**

Last year a number of Club members enquired about skills coaching. If you are interested some skills sessions can be arranged. If you are interested please discuss with Alison or Mike – we need to get some idea of the areas you would like to cover. We also ran a number of one to one sessions so if there are any specific areas or issues just ask.

## **CLUB SHIRTS and JACKETS**

Club shirts and jackets now need to be ordered through Alison Hammond. A form has been introduced for placing (and tracking) your order. Please complete and hand or e-mail to Alison with your cheque or cash.

## **TEA ROTA**

This year there will be a list up in the Club House for all weekend home games with members names against each fixture. If you are not available on the day allocated to you please either swap with someone or find a substitute. This was tried last season and was fairly successful but there were a few hiccups!

Please remember there is a budget. You do not have to do sandwiches, other options are available to you!! Thank you for your co-operation.

## **VERANDA**

The veranda is looking rather the worse for wear after the recent strong winds. We are currently looking at ideas and for grants to replace this and provide a more comfortable seating area for watching bowls.

## **ADVERTISING BOARDS**

You may have noticed that there are a number of sponsored advertising boards. We have space for more advertisers so if you know of anyone who might like to sponsor a board please let any committee member know.

## **OTHER NEWS**

Sad news that Moreen Stevens passed away a couple of weeks ago. Moreen will be missed by the club. She was a long standing club member, a lovely bowler and her bowling etiquette superb. Her quiet, friendly help to those new to bowling was an example to us all.

The changing room roof was replaced over the winter. We can now paint the changing rooms and get rid of the water marks.

The club house was broken into in January and although there was nothing taken they did damage the main doors. These are being replaced with UPVC ones. The work should be completed before the season starts.

Ralph Archer recently left the wild and flat-green less wilds of North Wales to make a short visit to Bedfordshire. Ralph provided the main attraction at Coffee in the Club House one Friday morning. Sense of humour still intact despite the ravages of Wild Wales (apology to George Borrow).

Any comments or ideas for the next edition please send to Alison on 01462 811548 or [alisonr.hammond@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonr.hammond@btinternet.com)