

SHEFFORD BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
2018

WELCOME, a Happy New Year to you all and wishing you good health for the coming bowls season.

CHAIRMAN'S NIGHT

Chairman's night and signing on is being held on **Friday 16th March from 7pm** in the club house. There will be wine, soft drinks and a light buffet for you to enjoy. This is an opportunity to catch up with how your fellow members have wintered, exchange some news and pay your subscriptions. If you know of any potential new members please bring them along too. We look forward to seeing you all on the night.

CLEANING

This year we are reverting to a rota again and this will be put up for the beginning of the season.

The **Spring Cleaning** of the pavilion will be on **Thursday 8th March from 10am**. This year the changing rooms are being given a coat of paint which will reduce our task. Also with the social evenings that have taken place over the winter the cobwebs have not had so much time to grow! Please come along and help, all are welcome and tea and coffee will be provided.

MAINTENANCE

The new shed has been put up but to date the re-laying of the patio slabs has not been started. Aaron is still hoping to get this work completed before the season starts.

A work party was held over the weekend 27/28th January, Saturday was attended by about 13 members and a good start was made on tidying up the surroundings of the green as well as some work on the green. On Sunday there were just a few members to continue the good work.

Connor and Brian have re-hung the pennants in the clubhouse so they are all displayed properly – it looks great. Check it out !! Well done to everyone who turned up to help.

Another work party is planned for February 24th and 25th 10am until 1pm painting the changing rooms. Please bring brushes and rollers with you.

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 wishes to try Bowls or is interested in returning to Bowls please get them to contact Alison

It has already been suggested that we run a session for members on reading the head. Any more ideas you have for improving your game would be welcome.

CLUB SHIRTS and JACKETS

Currently there are just a few requests forms in for new Blue Club shirts. An order will be placed by the end of February so that the shirts are delivered in time for the beginning of the season.

Remember you will now need a Blue Club shirt for mid-week triples games. (This decision was notified in the last newsletter)

The request forms for placing (and tracking) your order for club shirts and jackets are on the noticeboard by the kitchen. Please complete and hand or e-mail to Alison **with your cheque or cash**.

If you have any queries on ordering shirts or jackets please contact Alison.

A reminder.... there is a dress code for roll ups, greys below and predominantly white tops. Bowls shoes **MUST** be worn at all times on the green.

EBL

The EBL annual presentation evening was attended by 14 members of Shefford who all enjoyed both the meal, the entertainment and dancing. We will not mention the coffee though ugh!. A few glasses of wine were enjoyed thanks to the Wanderbus driven by no other than our own Jeff – who was also seen driving the spiker – well done Jeff.

The Ladies A team were runners up last season and are promoted to division 1. They collected a plaque which will be displayed in the clubhouse.

Alison Hammond will be the EBL Ladies President this coming season so the club will also host the Ladies EBL Cup final on 2nd September and the Ladies versus Gents EBL game – date to be arranged.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

We have a new selection committee for the weekend games and they need your help to ensure that all members get an equal opportunity to play at weekends and Shefford is able to fulfil all its fixtures. SO.....

Please bring your diary to the Club and put your name down for friendly fixtures as far ahead as you can. This will give the selectors more time to encourage others to bowl if necessary.

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. Please let the Captain know as soon as you can.

Be Happy There is a notice in the Club that it is a privilege to be selected to play for the Club in any position – the selectors will do their best and will welcome constructive feedback. Most of all enjoy your bowls and help others to enjoy theirs.

BOWLS TOUR

Brenda has again organised the tour, our 35th. This year the tour is to North Yorkshire from 21st to 28th July. If you plan to go or are interested in going please let Brenda know as soon as you can.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Kay has run these over the winter. They have been very successful and have been an excellent way for members to keep in touch. Events are held on the 3rd Friday of the month. The next one, in February, is a beetle drive. The cost is £3 and Kay needs numbers. If you are attending please contact Kay. There will not be an event in March as it is Chairman's night. There will be one in April, a quiz night. Contact Kay on 01462 647122.

Whist Drives – these will continue on the 1st Friday of the month at the STMA. The cost is £3 for an evening of friendly banter over a game of cards. There is always competition for the top and of course the bottom prize.

TEA ROTA

This worked well last year but it does rely on individual members to update the rota if for any reason they cannot make their agreed dates or want to make a change for other reasons. Also a big thank you must go to all the non bowling partners who stepped in to help.

As last year an initial list will be put 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 and amend the list. The Rota will then be re-issued for the start of the season. If you are then unable to make your agreed date it is up to you to find a substitute and amend the list.

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.

OPEN DAY

This year our Open Day will again run along - side the STMA fete on 3rd June. In previous years we have been kept very busy with people wanting to have a go and have a free cuppa. It is a good way to publicise the Bowls Club and create some goodwill. As a result we manage to attract new members both directly from the day and by word of mouth.

We will also have a fund raising stall at the Fete. Any volunteers will be welcome to assist to help make this day a success.

OTHER NEWS

Ken Blanch passed away before Christmas our condolences to Brenda and her family.

Les Wyatt was taken into hospital on Christmas Day and is now in Allison House, Sandy.

Congratulations to Len Dolby on the safe arrival in time for Christmas of granddaughter Lily.

We welcome back Bob and Maureen Hughes to the club. Bob has also volunteered to run the mid-week triples games.

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

