

SHEFFORD BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Welcome to the forthcoming season which we hope will be an enjoyable and friendly experience for all and trust that you have wintered well.

CHAIRMAN'S NIGHT

This year the chairman's night and signing on night is being held early as we need to know what our membership is in order to plan for the coming season. **Friday 10th March from 6 to 8** 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 **12th 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 22nd 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.

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 those who carried out this work.

At the AGM no one was prepared to take on the responsibilities of Green Keeper however, a number of members did express interest in helping on the Green. This group of "Volunteers" met at the Green and proposed a way forward for the coming season which has been accepted by the Committee. The next meeting of the group will be on 6th March at 10am. Anyone willing to help on the Green is welcome. The meeting will cover; tasks needed to be

completed before the Green opens, the routine work over the season and training required.

WORK PARTY

A number of projects have been identified to keep the club looking great and to improve the facilities. The first of these is to renovate the veranda seating area in front of the club house. The roof is to be stripped off and the wood re-painted before a new roof is fitted. If **YOU CAN SPARE** a little **TIME** to help please contact Aaron Buckingham.

OPEN DAY

Last year we had a very successful Open Day which was held in conjunction with the STMA fete. This year the STMA fete is not being held until 16th July and although we will still look to attract new bowlers then it is a bit late in the season. So, we will also hold an open day on **Sunday 4th JUNE from 1.30pm**. The bowls green will be open for people to turn up and have a go at bowls.

Notices, flyers and adverts there will be, but, generally these get a limited response so your help will be needed to get the message out and invite people to come and have a go.

COACHING - NEW BOWLERS

We will 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 learn how to bowl or is interested in returning to Bowls please get them to contact Alison

COACHING - IMPROVERS

There are a couple of dates at weekends where there are no friendly games and we are hoping to organise some specific coaching sessions. In any event if you would like some support to develop your bowls skills please contact Alison.

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 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.

NEW COMPETITION

At the AGM there was some discussion about a new singles competition that was open to men and women. This suggestion was discussed at a recent committee meeting and it was decided that this season we would hold an Open 2 Woods Single Competition on one of the weekend dates free from friendly matches. More information to follow.

FUND RAISING

Janet Thomas has volunteered to run a tea and card sale at her house on 15th March from 4pm. Her address is 2 Rectory Road Meppershall. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The Whist Drives continues to run on the first Friday of the month. We were sad to lose one of our regulars, Joy Bland, who had attended the Whist Drive on the 3rd February and died suddenly on the 4th. Our sincere condolences go to her family.

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 Kay Evans know.

COUNTY LEAGUE

This season we have entered a team in the new Men's County League. This consists of 2 rinks and will be played on Wednesday evenings.

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.

We had several clubs reduce numbers of rinks or cancel a bit late in the day last season which caused problems for Shefford bowlers.

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. 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.

OTHER NEWS

Rosie Allison who joined us a couple of seasons ago is moving down to Cornwall. We wish her and her husband well for the future.

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