

# SHEFFORD BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2018

**Welcome** to the forthcoming season. We hope it 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 was held in March and was well attended. It was good to catch up with members who perhaps had not been to the social evenings run over the winter. Two experienced bowlers have joined the club, welcome to Terry Curry and Colin Mynott also welcome back to Bob and Maureen Hughes.

## CLEANING

The ladies spent a morning cleaning the kitchen, club house and toilets; thank you all. This year it was a little easier than usual as the club house was used rather more over the winter and the spiders had not had a chance to make themselves at home! The rota for cleaning during the season is now up in the club house. Please check to see when it is your turn.

## OPENING OF THE GREEN

**Saturday 21st 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 involved.

At the AGM Aaron volunteered to take on the role of greenkeeper but as he works full-time he needs volunteers to work on the green. The area around the green also requires general maintenance work and as they say many hands makes light work.

Mike Evans hurt himself recently whilst mowing the green and will be out of action for some time. He has been a regular mowing the green and we urgently need some assistance to cover his slot.

If you are available to help please contact Aaron. Aaron is proposing to hold a training session on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 10am to show members how to use the mowers. Mowing takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and at least 2 people are needed each day. If you can help even occasionally

please volunteer. If we have to pay a contractor to maintain the Green it will mean a very significant increase in fees.

## WORK PARTY

Over the winter there have been several work parties to improve the club house and its surroundings but it has been the same few people attending. The changing rooms have been decorated and a special thanks to Connors Mum who not only painted the ladies changing room but has made it look really nice with a few nice touches. If YOU CAN SPARE a little TIME the new trellis still needs treating. Any queries please contact Aaron Buckingham on 01462 619494

## OPEN DAY

This year our Open Day will coincide with the STMA fete on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have the green open for members of the public to have a go 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 decided to issue 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 read it and refresh yourself with the contents. Hopefully it will be a useful guide but if you have any questions regarding the booklet please contact Alison.

### **CLUB SHIRTS and JACKETS**

Club shirts and jackets 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.

It was decided by the committee that white shirts must be ones with the Shefford logo. These cost £13 if you do not want your name on it and an extra £3 if you do. These need to be ordered by 21<sup>st</sup> April.

### **TEA ROTA**

The list is up and Kay has made several alterations from Chairman's night when the initial list was put up. 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. You do not have to do sandwiches, other options are available to you!! If you need any advice on quantities etc speak to someone who has experience of teas. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **FUND RAISING and SOCIAL EVENTS**

The final social event for this winter is a Quiz on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. Start 7pm, cost £5 which includes cheese and biscuits. Kay needs to know numbers A.S.A.P. so please contact her if you wish to come. You do not necessarily need a team as you can always join one.

The 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.

### **ADVERTISING BOARDS**

Kay has done a sterling job with the advertising boards and has even managed to get another couple of boards as well as sponsors for our new storage units in the club house

### **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.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE TURN UP AND PLAY**

This Saturday has no game so we are planning a Fun Day. The format will be a very informal spoon drive with a ploughman's lunch and afternoon tea. The morning session will start at 10am and the afternoon at 2pm. You can come for all or part of the day. The aim of the day is fun, turn up and enjoy.

### **BOWLS TOUR**

Brenda has again worked really hard and organised this year's tour to North Yorkshire from Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> July.

### **OTHER NEWS**

**Life Membership** was extended to Bill Lamb who has decided to give up bowling. Bill has contributed much to the club over many years. Congratulations Bill.

You will notice a couple of additional fixtures in the handbook. Alison is EBL Ladies President and has an additional game as well as the Cup final on our green. Your support for these games will be appreciated.

**Smoking** – it has been decided there will be no smoking on the green and this includes E cigarettes.

**Handbook Errors** – the Riverain game is blue top not white as in the book and May 23 is a Ladies county game not men as stated.

Trevor Belsom's son Matt is running in the London Marathon in aid of Cancer Research if you feel able to donate his site is <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/mat tbelsommarathon2018>

Also Janet Thomas is doing a bike ride "women V cancer on 5<sup>th</sup> May and she has a just giving page too look for Janet Thomas 15

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)