

SHEFFORD BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER

November 2015

Our 50th Anniversary year has drawn to a close and what a season it has been. As part of the celebrations the club had games against Bowls England, Bowls Bedfordshire Executive, a Men's County game, a Ladies County game and a Past Presidents game. Phew - and what lovely days they were! On the social front the highlight was surely our wonderful "Strictly" evening.

COUNTY COMPETITIONS

This season Barry and Andrew did really well in the County Pairs competition winning through to a VERY wet finals day which qualified them for the National Finals at Leamington. This is the second year they have qualified for Leamington, congratulations to you both. Your loyal band of supporters are looking forward to next year!

The ladies rinks team, Alison, Brenda Blanch, Brenda Ford and Shay made it through to the County semi-finals losing only on the last end. Well done ladies. In the Benevolent Triples Jan, Shay and Brenda Ford were doing really well and made it to the semi-finals before the game had to be abandoned when Brenda fell and unfortunately broke her wrist. The injury affected Brenda for the rest of the season and she was unable to complete her remaining club competitions.

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Most of the finals were played over the weekend 19th - 20th September. Well done to all those who participated. The winners;

Ladies 4 Wood Singles – Jan Northern

Ladies 2 wood singles – Alison Hammond

The Men's 2 and 4 wood singles - Connor Hart.

Men's Pairs – Connor Hart and Richard Ford

Ladies Pairs – Margaret Foulkes and Shay Mumford.

Mixed Pairs – Sylvia Lawrence and Barry Robinson

Mixed Triples – Dave Fisher, Sandra Spavins and Colin Kane

Men's Triples - Connor Hart, Bob Hughes and Andrew Peacock

Other Results for the season:-

Captains Cup – Colin Kane

Richard Porch Trophy – Dave Noon, Stan Spencer and Brenda Blanch

Red Dragon Trophy – Rosie Allison, Derek Wilson and John Batcheldor.

Bob Johnson Trophy – Les Wyatt, Maureen Hughes and Derek Wilson

Connor won in all the men's competitions this season which was a great achievement.

OPEN DAY AND NEW MEMBERS

The STMA held its annual fete in May. The Club took advantage of this and also held an open day. The weather was not in our favour as it was cold and damp though we did have 25 people come and have a go. Several of these were keen enough to continue and participated in an English Bowls Coaching Society (EBCS) Introduction to Bowls course. These Coaching Sessions were run under Central Bedfordshire's Fit for Life Programme – Many thanks to Central Beds for their encouragement and support. Alison & Mike Hammond, who qualified as EBCS level 1 coaches in March, ran these coaching sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. As a result there are now 12 new bowlers in the club. Thank you to all the members who have extended a warm welcome to our new bowlers.

DISABLED TOILET PROJECT

This has now been completed and looks great, we just have to get a sign up and have a grand opening at the start of next season. Thanks go again to Central Bedfordshire Council for funding this enhancement to our facilities.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting takes place at the club house on 10th November at 7.30.

We would like as many members as possible to attend. Please remember Shefford is YOUR club and this is where YOU have an opportunity to have your say and elect the committee for next season. The matter of fees and how they are paid is one of the items up for discussion. If you do not attend you will have little reason to complain next season about how the committee is running the club.

PRESENTATION EVENING

This was held on 24th October when trophies were presented to winners and runners up of the club competitions. The entertainment was by a great duo called Take Two. They played a variety of music which was much enjoyed by all those who attended. Dave Northern was the worthy winner of the Whisky Bottle competition – thanks to all those who contributed so sportingly.

TEA ROTA

It is proposed to continue the tea rota as we did last season. All playing members are expected to take their turn which with the support of all members should only be just once in the season. If you did not take your turn this year you are expected to be first on the list for next year!

CLUB TOUR

We had a very successful tour to Torquay this year and the weather was good to us. Brenda Ford did another magnificent job in organising the tour and is already planning the next year's tour. The date for the 2016 tour is July 16th to 23rd. If you are interested please let Brenda know. Another sure-fire hit DVD in the "Shefford on Tour" series is being prepared. Much effort goes into preparing the photographs and DVD presentation for the benefit of our tourists. The DVD will definitely not be available through Amazon so please be generous in your donations for the DVD – all proceeds go towards future tours. Interestingly enough the first DVD was produced after the 2008 tour to Torquay - ahh memories!

SOCIAL EVENTS

We had a brilliant "Shefford goes Strictly" night thanks to Bob & Maureen Hughes and their daughters, Nicola, Amanda and Victoria. They taught some (mostly) willing participants how to dance a simple quickstep and salsa. Their patience was amazing and it was surprising just how quickly the basic steps were learnt. The highlight of this evening had to be the "Bowlers Grooving" when several players as well as a couple of co-opted family members did a "Strictly" routine. It was brilliant fun and enjoyed by all who attended.

A Date for Your Diary - November 27th

We are running a whist drive at the club house. Bring your own drinks, except for hot drinks which the club will provide. It is the first time we have tried a Whist Drive, come and have a go it should be fun!!

CLUB SHIRTS and JACKETS

Club shirts and jackets need to be ordered through Barry Robinson. If you give him your requirements they can be available ready for next season

ADVERTISING BOARDS

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

OTHER NEWS

Alison & Mike Hammond have just qualified and are now registered as EBCS Level 2 coaches. If you know of anyone interested in taking up bowls next season please keep encouraging them and put them in touch with Alison or Mike.

Ralph Archer, who has been a member of the club for over 40 years, is moving to North Wales this month to be near his daughter and grandson. Both Ralph and Jacqui are going to be missed. The club and many of us owe much to Ralph particularly as coach and mentor. We wish Ralph and Jacqui all the very, very best for the future and thank Ralph for everything he has done for the club and his pupils.

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



A Happy Band of Shefford Finalists 2015
(photo by Bob Izzard)