

SHEFFORD BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER

September
2017

Welcome to the final edition of 2017. As the season draws to a close and everyone is frantically trying to get competitions played we look forward to the finals weekend. Please support those who have got through and turn up for a cup of coffee and even the possibility of cake.

CLEANING

Unfortunately cleaning of the pavilion and changing rooms has not been carried out as it should have been. A rota was put up some weeks ago but in spite of repeated requests we have had weeks when there were no volunteers. In response to member's suggestions we purchased a new vacuum and lighter chairs to make cleaning a lot easier. There are now only a few weeks left so please volunteer if you can. All volunteers welcome Ladies and Men.

It would help if, after matches, the kitchen and pavilion were always left, as they should have been found, in a clean and tidy state. Thank you to those members who already make an effort to achieve this. We should be able to rely on all members to see that the pavilion is left in a clean and tidy state after use.

GREEN KEEPING

The "green team" have worked hard all season to keep the green bowling well and we have received many compliments on its condition. There is a rota for green settings which seem to be working well after a few hiccups at the beginning of the season. If you have any time to spare the green team will welcome you with a friendly cup of tea and open arms. No previous experience needed just a willingness to assist. On a Monday, Wednesday or Friday

MAINTENANCE

The hedge which surrounds the green takes a lot of upkeep. If you can spare any time to help keep it looking good please contact Aaron Buckingham or Mike Evans

COACHING

The two Open Days were not as well attended as last year though we have still had a number of new bowlers who have attended the EBCS course for beginners and have now all joined the club. **please make them feel welcome and give them lots of encouragement**

CLUB SHIRTS and JACKETS

A form has been introduced for placing (and tracking) your order for club shirts and jackets. The forms are on noticeboard by the kitchen. Please complete and hand or e-mail to Alison **with your cheque or cash**. The shirts take about 6 weeks to come through so think about ordering now ready for next season. Whilst on the subject of uniform there is a dress code for bowling, for roll ups it is grey trousers/skirts and white tops. Bowls shoes should be worn at all times.

TEA ROTA

This has been working well – thank you all.

COMPETITION

The competitions seem to be going well with most players managing to complete their ties in a timely manner but there are still those who have left it until the last minute to arrange their games and then find holidays and other competitions get in the way.

New 2 woods Open competition – this competition was held on 2 evenings and was well supported by the members. The quarter and semi -finals were well supported with most benches full of supporters or were they just waiting for the Whist Drive to start?

On Sunday in glorious sunshine the Richard Porch Trophy was contested by only 21 players this year which was rather disappointing. The winners were Stan Spencer, Ron Mills and Andrew Peacock - congratulations.

COUNTY COMPETITIONS

This year we again had players going to Leamington. Adrian Allen and Connor Hart won the under 25's pairs competition and represented Bedfordshire, the weather was not kind to them but they both had a good game going out to a pair from Cumbria.

COUNTY LEAGUES

The 2 Rink format was a new venture for the Men's County this season and Shefford entered a team for the first time. The men finished as League Champions Well done to all those who played.

FUND RAISING

Janet Thomas will be holding another card sale on the 5th October at the bowls club. Please support this. It is the day of our usual ladies coffee morning but anyone is welcome to attend.

Due to popular demand the Whist Drives continue to run on the first Friday of the month.

The STMA fete was held in July and we ran a darts stall. Thank you to Liz Henry and Chris Connelly who manned the stall for most of the afternoon

Thank you also to Shay Mumford and Brenda Blanch who assisted over on the bowls green making teas and assisting on the green.

Kay did a fantastic job in getting advertising boards in fact she has since gained another 2. You may have also noticed the water containers and mug holders which Kay also found sponsors for, well done a magnificent effort. They have been well used this season.

BARBEQUE

This was a very sociable occasion held in dry conditions – referring to the weather! It was lovely to see the green buzzing with banter. Thank you to Richard and his crew who did a marvellous job with the barbeque.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

This season we have again struggled with people not putting their names down in a timely manner. When we phone around for extras there have often been people available who just had not got around to putting their name down. These fixtures are the lifeblood of the club and these games provide an opportunity for inexperienced players to play in a competitive format – please do not be shy and start writing.

PADLOCK

When you remove the padlock please lock it back up on the fence, if it is left unlocked anyone can see what the number is, which defeats the point of having a secure lock. When you lock the gates please ensure the numbers are facing out.

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.

INDICATE – Please tick the box next to your name to indicate you have seen the sheet and if you are going direct

BE HAPPY -There is a long standing sign up 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.

PRESENTATION EVENING

The date is set FRIDAY 3rd NOVEMBER. Make a note in your diary and even if you are not a competition winner please try to attend. This year the price has been kept to £7.50 which includes a buffet, dessert, and cheese board. Invite friends and family everyone is welcome. The entertainment is "It Takes Two" a duo who play a mixture of music.

AGM

Another date for your diary 14th November. The wallpaper will go up shortly and we need volunteers for the committee. Also if you have any proposals for a change to the Constitution these must be in writing, signed by two members of the club, at least two week before the AGM. Remember this is your club and you have a say in how it is run.

OTHER NEWS

We wish Jenny Robinson well as she is undergoing chemotherapy.

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