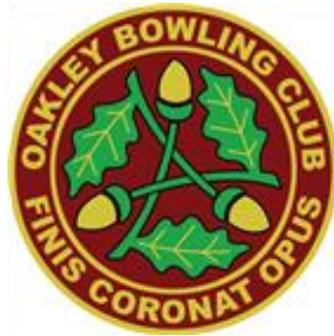


OAKLEY BOWLERS



CHRONICLE



APRIL 2020 ISSUE 1



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME – MARTIN SMITH



Hi to all members

Hope you are all keeping well.

I would like to thank all the Members who played in the Indoor games and to Barry and Jim for doing the cards.

With the impact of the Covid 19 virus Spencer has sent out emails with the dates of when it might be able to play.

The Tour this year is on hold till the 1st July when we need to cancel. Hopefully, it will be ok with the Clubs and the Hotel. I will keep you informed.

I would like to thank Spencer for all his work in keeping us informed on Covid 19.

To all the Members working on the Green, keep safe and wear gloves at all times.

I am now getting back to the decorating before I go mad.

Spencer's Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



At this time of year my piece for the Chronicle looks forward enthusiastically to the coming season. How different it is this year, with movement restricted, businesses closed down and many older members being required to stay in their homes. None of us know when bowls will re-commence but it will. We all look forward to that time. Meanwhile the important thing is that everyone stays safe and that members look out for each other.

During these challenging times the Committee is unable to meet, but the wonders of modern technology mean that it is able to communicate by email. We have yet to venture into video conferencing but who knows by the end of these difficult times we may be using Zoom. Who had heard of Zoom a month ago!?

The Committee reacted quickly to address the problems the Club would face as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions and on the 20th March it issued to all members a Statement which set out how it would endeavour to ensure that the Club would not take too big a financial hit in 2020 and how it hoped to be able to keep the green in an acceptable condition.

The subscription for 2020 is £35. In deciding on this amount, the Committee noted the Bowls England advice that Clubs should continue to collect full subscriptions but, given that members have differing financial situations, concluded it should, for 2020, reduce the subscription from £70 to £35. This revised subscription means that the Club's income in 2020 is expected to be well below expenditure and the reserves will take a hit. The subscription is payable by all playing members, but the Committee recognised that some members might be willing and indeed would pay the originally agreed amount of £70. Those members who have already paid £70 are, if they wish, entitled to seek a refund. Those who have not yet paid will pay the £35 or, if they wish, can contribute £70. For those that pay £70 the extra amount can be regarded as a donation, which, depending on tax status, may mean the Club is entitled to Gift Aid. It was agreed that the Treasurer would be the only person to know which person paid what. Similar arrangements were adopted when we sought loans/gifts towards the building of the new pavilion and to this day the Committee and members are unaware of individual contributions to the £20k raised.

What we should do about maintaining the green in these difficult times has proved problematic. Despite requests no advice was available from Bowls England as to what would be the minimum work necessary to keep a green in an acceptable condition nor could we get advice as to whether green keeping was essential work. The decision was, therefore taken to cease our present intensive programme of work and confine ourselves to a daily swish and brush and a weekly cut. The Committee is enormously grateful to the members who have volunteered to help with this work (For the "swish" volunteers now have to attend once a fortnight) and Ian has issued a rota and guidance for April which should ensure social distancing and safety are maintained. To protect our volunteers, it would be appreciated if other members would refrain from entering the pavilion at this time. Advice from Bowls England, received on the 3rd April, has

confirmed that the Government has agreed that, providing social distancing and safety is observed, green maintenance work is permitted under the current Regulations.

Now for some unrelated Covid-19 news. Since the last Chronicle, the Club has held its Annual Presentation Dinner, with the best attendance for some years. The 2021 Dinner has been booked for Test Valley on 5th April 2021.

As announced at the Pre-Season meeting the Club has, for those playing county competitions, registered maroon as its colour below the waist. The Committee has also agreed that players **may** wear maroon for club competitions and spoon drives. Full details will be in the Fixture Card, but it must be stressed that maroon is optional. **No member is being required to buy new clothing.** Dress rules for friendly matches, leagues and competitions (other than county and club) remain unchanged.

Members should be aware that Bowls England has announced recently that it is introducing a Membership Register. Currently Bowls England is one of very few National Governing Bodies that does not possess information on its membership. It is informed annually by Clubs of the total number of male and female members in each Club. That is the only information they have. Bowls England has no information on the age demographic of its members, their ethnicity nor disabilities and this is a significant problem for them, both in deciding how it should target recruitment campaigns and when trying to sell our sport to organisations like Sport England and sponsors. Clubs have recently been asked to populate the Register with the necessary data. Some of this data the Club already holds and our GDPR permits us to supply this. However, to provide data on age, ethnicity etc we shall need to obtain from members both the information and permission to share it. Your Committee is aware that Bowls Hampshire is currently in discussion with Bowls England about some aspects of the Membership scheme and assuming, as seems likely, that we receive assurance that the Register will be secure and GDPR compliant then the Committee will have to take a decision on how best to proceed. Tony Allcock has just done a podcast that articulates very well the need for the Register. Please check it out at.

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/membership-register/>

Captain's Log

From Barry Lee, Club Captain



Hi to all Oakley bowlers.

Sandra Lee would normally be sending out our first Spring news Chronicle ready for Easter and our Green opening which was planned for Easter Saturday 11th April with the opening Spoon drive on the 18th. As everything is on hold at present, I thought I would run through some of the Winter Indoor Games.

In the Christmas report I said that we had played 4 games having to cut the first game to 5 rinks at Riverside. My rink was a draw 20-20 thanks to Paul Cresswell, Ian Rickman and Rita Meakin. We lost overall 84-128. Our second game at Palmerston we had 6 triples Stan Mond won by just one shot 18-17 well done Stan, Terri Allison and Vera Rhodes. We had a full 6 rinks at Chawton Park in our 3rd game and 2 winning rinks. Well done Bob Goodyear with a 13-point win with Jamie Fewtrell, Lesley Dumelow and Vera Rhodes. But an even better rink was our then vice President Martin Smith winning 25-10 with Barry Lee, Arthur Meakin and Mary Varndell.

Game 4, Dec 1st at Camberley & District, this was Martin's 1st game as President, for the second time, we had 6 rinks but Rita and Arthur Meakin had to drop out so Shirley and Peter Ball kindly stood in, playing their first indoor friendly for Oakley. Chris Williams also had to drop out due to her husband's ill health so Michael Andrews, from Farnborough, kindly stood in. Shirley had a fantastic game winning 35-5 and Spencer with help from Michael won 20-10. Well done to Vera Rhodes, Ian Rickman, Michael Andrews and Spencer Kerley and well done to Lesley Allard, Shirley Ball, Derek Easton and Shirley Goodwin. We still managed to lose 95-147.

Game 5, Jan 5th at West Berks with 6 rinks. Martin Budd had a good day with Diane Yarrell, Peter Stewart and Derek Easton winning by 10 shots. Shirley Ball won by 1 shot but yet again we managed to lose 88-172.

Game 6, Jan 19th at East Dorset with 6 rinks. They said the game should have started at 2pm but we started at 2.30pm playing 18 ends losing on all rinks by 108 shots.

Game 7, Feb 8th at Five Rivers, Salisbury 16 bowlers all lost even after 14 of them had a nice lunch at White Hart Stockbridge. Our scores were 43-116.

Game 8, Feb 16th at Longmeadow another 4 rink game and yes, all rinks lost 52-95.

Game 9, March 8th 6 rinks of Oakley players went to Loddon Vale. We had a really nice day with one rink winning by 8 shots. Well done to Malcolm Grime, Jamie Fewtrell, Paula Taylor and Anji Smith. Overall, we lost 98-134.

Now comes our last game of the indoor season at White Knights Reading. We had to lose 1 rink due to the corona virus and of course we lost 46-141 with Kay Kerley's rink of Val Ryan, Barry Lee and Anji Smith being the best only losing by 5 shots.

A special thank you to all who took part in the Indoor games but this year has been the worst for people taking part only 45 members showed interest in these games. Can anyone help with a reason why?

The Men's Captain, Ric Newson, entered a team in a men's double rink competition called the Morton Cup played at Longmeadow, Whitchurch, they won their group and qualified for the semi-final and were due to play Eastleigh Rail. Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances Long Meadow decided to close. Ric also entered two triples in a league also played at Longmeadow on a Monday and Friday evening. Oakley were top in both leagues but these will not now be completed.

Well I've had a good rabbit and lots of you will say "no change there then."

Stay safe and see you on the green some when.

Men's Captain's Quiz

From Ric Newson



Here is a quiz prepared by Ric to keep our brains working.

Looks quite difficult but its not, just need our thinking caps on.

Have fun.

Ric will send the answers out in a week's time.
For those not on email I will include the answers.

DITLOIDS QUIZ

Here's an example of the format used in the ditloids puzzles below: 12 M I T Y - (Answer, 12 months in the year)

1/. 7 B F 7 B -

2/. 101 D -

3/. 3 B M -

4/. T 10 C -

5/. 366 D I A L Y -

6/. T 39 S -

7/. 6 W O H T E -

8/. A B A T 40 T -

9/. T 7 W O T W -

- 10/. 50 W T L Y L -
- 11/. N 10 D S -
- 12/. 12 S O T Z -
- 13/. 16 O I A P -
- 14/. T 3 W M -
- 15/. 13 I A B D -
- 16/. 26 L I T A -
- 17/. 10 G B H O T W -
- 18/. 4 L O A H -
- 19/. A T W I 80 D -
- 20/. W O A B -
- 21/. 52 C I A D -
- 22/. 2 P I A Q -
- 23/. 20,000 L U T S -
- 24/. 30 P O S -
- 25/. 12 I I A F -
- 26/. 147 I T M B I S -
- 27/. 24 H A D -
- 28/. 64 S O A C B -
- 29/. H B S 16 -
- 30/. 50 S I T U S A

Almoner's Musings

From Lesley Allard



In these difficult times it is easy to feel all doom and gloom but we have a lot to be thankful for. Most of us live in houses with gardens and in a pleasant community where help is at hand if we need and ask for it.

Birds are singing and everything is growing madly. At least we can cut the grass even if we cannot get a haircut!

On a serious note, since the last Chronicle we sadly lost Bob Ebdon, who passed away after a long illness and our condolences were sent to his wife Mollie.

Pat Goodall fell in her bedroom and injured her back and is still suffering discomfort and we hope that she recovers soon.

Hazel Solomon has been in voluntary isolation since returning from a holiday in Spain with a cough and is still 'confined to barracks'

We have all been looking forward to the outdoor season but it rather looks as though it will be a very late start, if at all. However, our thanks to Ian and the green team volunteers who are looking after the green and ensuring that it will be ready for action when the ban is lifted.

Spencer has been very busy juggling both County and Club affairs and any possibility of compensatory grants, as the Club will have no income other than subscriptions this year; no Friendlies, no Social events so no bar takings, raffles etc.

We will still have Jack High, for which I believe that Coral will have to arrange the draws when she is allowed to 'Socially integrate' again.

I quote the cricket commentator Henry Blofeld, in isolation in his house in rural Norfolk (lucky thing):

"Whatever you do, do your utmost to keep on fighting, keep smiling and be ready to laugh. I promise you, better times lie ahead"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A very Happy 16th Birthday to Alice Lovett on 16th April.

Best wishes to you all stay safe!

CONGRATULATIONS on Service to Sport Award



To Spencer and Kay for this Award. I am sure we all wish them many congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of their dedication to Bowls.

I have below taken the report of their success from the Gazette in March and the photo is one sent by the Mayor to Spencer.

Editor

“SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD

Spencer and Kay Kerley’s years of dedication to bowls was honoured as joint winners of the Service to Sport award in March.

The husband and wife live in Oakley and have been members of Oakley Bowls Club since it started in 1978.

Kay has been an influential and inspiring figure throughout her career in bowls.

She is both a committed player and volunteer since she started playing in 1976.

Within Hampshire, she has been a long serving member of the Committee, and has held around six positions including President, Secretary, County Team Manager and Vice-Chair.

As a player, Kay has represented Hampshire for 28 years making her the third highest capped County player. Kay was also an international selector and England President.

Kay always supports players in competitions and will even offer to drive them if necessary.

Whilst at Nationals, Kay offered to be County Manager for the Hampshire teams to help with coaching and shot selection.

At Club level, Kay gets involved with all aspects of the Club and helps with the coaching and mentoring of new bowlers when they join.

Spencer has been involved with Bowls for nearly 50 years and is an outstanding administrator.

At Oakley he has been the Secretary for 37 years as it has emerged as one of the most successful in the County.

Additionally, he is the hugely respected and efficient Secretary of Bowls Hampshire, an organisation recognised by the National Governing Body as its most progressive member.

Despite his heavy commitments, Spencer makes himself available for Club Friendly matches, is the only member to have never missed a Club Tour and can always be seen at social events mixing with both new and older members.

Under the auspices of the Club’s membership mentoring scheme Spencer is always willing to be a mentor for new members. Over the years he has actively encouraged many members, particularly nurturing the juniors.

Spencer was delighted that they had won the award and said “It was a big surprise for us as bowls does not win that many awards. Oakley is the biggest Club in north Hampshire and last year was the Club’s best to date making nine County Finals.

We are hoping to add an artificial rink next to the grass one we have, so even more people can play all year round.”

Match Secretary

From Barbara Goodyear

Hi Everyone

I expect, like Bob and I, you were all looking forward to the coming outdoor season and hoping for good weather. I missed most of last year's season with an acute attack of Labyrinthitis which meant that for 10 weeks I could hardly walk in a straight line never mind bend down to deliver a wood (and not a drop of wine was involved).

All the planning for the coming season had gone well, the 2020 Fixture Card was complete and ready to go to the Printers and then Coronavirus happened!!

I was born just after WW11 and have always thought, when hearing Winston Churchill's speech where he declares "we are now at war with Germany", that it must have filled people with dread for their future. It felt like we had declared war on Coronavirus when Boris made his announcement. My immediate thought was that the worst thing about this enemy is it is invisible but still has the ability to be deadly and life changing.

The effect on our coming season is that, so far, we've had to cancel everything up to the end of June. This means we've already lost 8 Friendlies, 3 Social Events, 2 Club Drawn competitions and our Open Day. Whether any of these can be rescheduled will depend upon when the lock down ends.

So, to everyone, we miss your company but hope you are all coping and most of all keeping safe and well.

Best wishes and hope to see you all soon,

Barbara & Bob Goodyear

Jack High

From Coral Wearn



Oakley Bowling Club

Jack High

Due to the current situation it has not been possible to draw the winners however as soon as we are able to, they will be done.

Something for us all to look forward to.

Stratton Lane Brewery

Many thanks, Barnaby for your delivery of beer for my husband, Chris. He is enjoying your beer very much as I am sure many other Members are as well. A life saver in these lockdown times.

Sandra Lee

Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

Thought the following extract from a newspaper last week might bring a smile to our faces.

“The forgotten victims of this crisis.... burglars.

It’s a nightmare says the president of the National Union of Housebreakers. Now that the entire population is at home 24 hours a day it’s impossible to burgle anyone. They are never out.

He called on the Chancellor to cover 80% of the value of laptops, jewellery and TVs that burglars would normally have stolen and sold on.

The other people affected are pick pockets and bag snatchers says the Chairman of the Association of British Muggers and Bag Snatchers.

How can we pick a pocket from 2 meters away? Some tried using those little hooked rods that you use to hook a duck at the fairground but its hopeless.”

I expect those of us who can go out once a week to do our shopping have experienced lots of occasions that made us smile.

I have heard of a couple who brought along fold up chairs and coffee with them whilst queuing.

The act of queuing ranges from a long snake like line around the car park or joining a line which is set up like an airport where you go up and down till you get to the front and into the supermarket. Though it never seems very busy once you are in and everyone is taking care to be separate.

Have seen some very hardy men turning up in the queue in shorts.

This will be a strange Easter this year as we will not be able to sit round the table with our families for the usual Easter Sunday lunch. However, am sure we all have our ways of keeping in touch.

Keep safe.