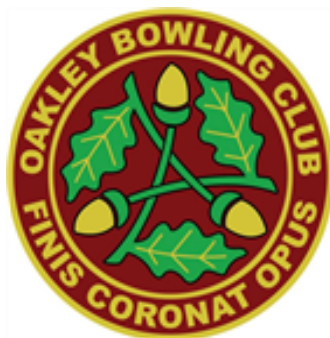


OAKLEY BOWLERS

1978 - 2018



CHRONICLE



APRIL 2018

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT - PETER BOWN



Welcome everyone to this summer edition of the Chronicle. Lets hope for good bowling weather.

As I noted last time, this is the Club's 40th year, and there are three key parts to this celebration year:

New club shirts – I have received the garments with no name on and these are being distributed; as I sit and write this, I anticipate the arrival of the rather delayed garments with names on.

On 30 June, Lesley Allard and friends are arranging a Garden Party with musical accompaniment – please note the change of date and put it in your diary.

On 17th July we will have a game against the Friends of English Bowling.

The Indoor Friendlies have finished (I am sure Barry will report on the successes (or lack of them!)) but I think all that participated enjoyed themselves. Short Mat has also finished, and many thanks go to Sue and Ruth for running the sessions.

The green opened on Saturday 21 April and it was wonderful to see so many of you there. 46 took part in the Spoon Drive and a further 19 came up during the afternoon. The majority wore their new club shirt for the first time and I thought it all looked fantastic.

In order to get to the opening of the green, tribute must be paid to all those that have worked so hard throughout the winter and especially in the run-up to the opening day. Trevor's illness has curtailed his physical involvement, but he has kept his finger on the pulse and made sure that things are done when they need to be. It is always great to see him up there. The rest of the Green Team have put in the extra work to cover for him and a few new members have been recruited. Special thanks must go to Keith Turnbull for all the extra hours and diligent work that he has put in. Again, a big thanks to all and the green looks incredible.

The next event, which will have passed by the time this is read, is the Open Weekend. This is an extremely important event for the Club as it is where we do most of our recruitment. The Recruitment and Retention Committee have done their planning, advertised the event, and now just wait for the results! During the season, members are very welcome to bring friends and family along for a go; our three wonderful coaches will always make themselves available if possible.

My tour over the 2018 August Bank Holiday weekend will be based in the Forest of Dean and the games played on the hotel green as well as in Gloucester, Chepstow and Abergavenny. Many thanks to all of you that are coming but there are still a few places that could be filled. Please let me know if you would like to come.

Now it just remains for me to wish you all great success and enjoyment in your bowling throughout the 2018 season.

Captain's Log

from Barry Lee, Men's Captain

BARRY'S BANTER



Hi to you all, Yes its started again. This is the time when Margaret wonders if I live at home at all.

After 2\3 really nice days we were all thinking will it last to Saturday ? well it almost did just a few spots just to remind us it can be about when we don't want it. I came up to the green on Saturday with Frank Tuffs about 2pm & 7 rinks were set out thanks to the greens team, and it was not long before members started to arrive. By the time it was just after 3pm we had 46 bowlers waiting to go so we had 5 Rinks and 1 Triple all with just 2 woods. Every Skip made sure the jack was not too far up the green and most people said it bowled well for the first time. We played only 4 ends then had a re-draw so to give the players a different rink and position then after 8 ends we had a nice cup of tea with one or (two) biscuits.

It was also great to see so many people (19) coming up with happy smiles to support the others. A total of 65 !! that must be nearly a record.

Well done to the Ladies, Pat Goodall and Sue Dixon who both ended up with a plus 10 shots and Laura Butler with a plus 6 shots and for the Men, Ted Trantum coming 1st with a plus 18 shots, Norman Frost with a plus 15 shots and Bob Ebdon right behind with plus 14 shots. A great start to the season.

I popped up to the Club for a meeting on Monday afternoon and saw that the first Friendly sheet was full with a couple of reserves. So that has been picked and is up the Club ready to be ticked by the players. When I went up the Club Monday evening, Keith very kindly said to the Monday spoon drive bowlers about the Friendlies and when I checked there was another sheet full. Very Many Thanks keep it up as it will make my job a lot easier.

The Report is a bit short this time as I have to help the boss with the packing ! we are off to France early in the morning.

Spencer's Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



Sitting in the sun, beside our pool here in Cyprus it is hard to get my mind around what to include in this article and even harder to accept that, by the time the article appears in the Chronicle, I shall be back in Oakley trying to play bowls. Nonetheless here are my snippets with apologies to those who know all this already, having kept up to date via the website or Facebook.

The Oakley Presentation Dinner and Dance was again voted a great success and the 2019 event will be on Friday 1st February, again at the Test Valley Golf Club. For the 2018 Christmas Lunch the Committee has, however decided to try a new venue and this event will be held at the Basingstoke Golf Club on 16th December.

Congratulations go to the Oakley players who during the winter lifted both the Longmeadow IBC and Loddon Vale IBC (The Cusheon) trophies that are competed for by outdoor clubs.

Congratulations go also to Nicole Rogers who is now the English Indoor Women's Two Wood Champion and who, outdoors, has been selected to play in the Junior International Trial at Royal Leamington Spa on 26/27th May. Heather Statham has been nominated as a reserve for this trial and we hope she too gets the opportunity to take part and demonstrate her skills.

Well done Ruth Bown, Nicole and Heather who have been invited to trial for the Bowls Hampshire Johns Trophy team and to Ashley Nethercliffe and Ric Newson selected for a trial for the Men's equivalent, the Middleton Cup. For Heather and Ric this will be their first appearance at these trials.

This year we have some new League Team Captains. Terry Heath succeeds Ric Newson as the Buzzards Captain, Colin Clarke takes on the Kites from Dave Harrison and John Yarrall succeeds Peter Bown as a Stan Hardman Captain. We wish all our hard-working Captains a successful and enjoyable season.

The Social Committee have been hard at work over the winter and following a very successful trip to the Royal Hospital Chelsea there was, I understand, a very enjoyable Games Evening at Malshanger.

Members are reminded that each year Bowls Hampshire run a Mini Tour in November to the Dorset Golf and Bowls Resort. Those members who attend from Oakley always enjoy themselves and if anyone would like details please contact Kay. You do not need to be a County player to participate. It is a fun week enjoyed by players of many standards.

The Club's recently introduced Google groups email circulation list reaches 125 members but if anyone is on email thinks they may have been missing out on emails please let me know. If you change your email address, please let me know and also remember to update your alert with the website so you receive notifications of items being posted to the website.

Finally, can I reassure those who volunteered last year to assist with the bar that you have not been forgotten. The Bar is important both socially and to our finances and so I will be in touch shortly to arrange an evening when we can demonstrate what is involved.

LESLEY'S LOG-IN

From Lesley Allard, Almoner and Vice President



Since the last Chronicle two of our members have sadly passed away. Those of us who attended the Memorial Service of Mavis Titheradge (Mave the Rave) learned of the long and varied life led by Mavis and her dedication to the Methodist Church and family. It was good to share memories of Mavis with her family at the buffet luncheon held at Malsanger.

We also learned, belatedly of the death of Olive Carrier. Unfortunately a message was left on Spencer's answering machine whilst he was away on holiday and the funeral took place before we knew of it.

Olive will be remembered as being a lovely lady and a popular member of the Club, as well as being a very good player and skip. Our sincere sympathy is sent to her sons and their families.

It was good to have Ruth Stewart with us at the 'Games Evening'. Despite her illness Ruth is always bright and cheerful and it was a delight for us all to catch up with her again.

Vic Ayres is recovering from Legionnaires Disease, contracted when he was on holiday in India. Best wishes from all of us Vic!

Our favourite Green Team Leader, Trevor, is struggling manfully on, and it was good to see him at the Clean up day and the Opening Spoon Drive. (You can come again Trevor if you pull out my Jack High number for £50 again!).

We are all looking forward to the Outdoor Season and hoping for good weather. Please support Peter and put down your name for some of the Friendly games. These are friendly and open to all, whatever your experience.

I have also included in this Chronicle issue, my invitation to join my Club Tour to Norfolk in 2019. This will hopefully reach those who are not on e-mail, and I look forward to having as many members, old and new joining me on this Tour.

However, Peter's Tour to the Forest of Dean comes first, in August this year. If you have not already decided to have a long weekend away at August Bank Holiday, why not join him for a pleasant weekend of bowls with all transport and hotel accommodation provided.

Transport to both tours will be provided by Mervyn's coaches and the proprietor, Mervyn Annetts, has been unwell but is now happily on the mend. Best wishes from us all at Oakley BC Mervyn!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Spencer and Kay who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary soon, and to Nancy Goosey who, we are reliably informed, will be celebrating her 90th birthday in June.

LESLEY ALLARD'S TOUR LETTER

April 2018

Dear Member

BOWLING CLUB TOUR 2019

I will be taking my 2019 club tour to my home county of Norfolk, from Friday 23th to Tuesday the 27th August 2019 and we will be travelling with Mervyn's Coaches.

We will be staying in the historic city of Norwich at the George Hotel, which is a three-star Best Western hotel situated just off Newmarket Road (A11), within walking distance of the city centre. There is also a bus stop within 50 yards of the hotel.

I hope to keep the cost of the tour to under £400 per person; this will be for **dinner, bed and breakfast, complementary tea and coffee in your room, coach travel and green fees and a buffet lunch on the way up, at Wymondham Dell BC.** We will have sole use of the hotel which has 14 single bed rooms. The rest are twin or doubles. All rooms, some of which are on the ground floor, have been refurbished this year and the large well stocked bar will be refurbished before our visit.

I know the tour is a long way off and it's difficult to say what you will be doing in 16 months' time, but I would like to know as soon as possible if you might like to join me

Could you please complete the form below and return to me with a deposit of £20 per person

Best wishes
Lesley Allard

Name:
Delete as appropriate: Please reserve me / us single / twin / double rooms
I / We enclose a deposit of £20 per person.

LADIES SECRETARY

From Janie Vickers



There is very little to report at this time of year.

The dates for BH and NHWBA games are all arranged and all friendlies associated with them. Some of our lady bowlers have been selected for these games.

Ruth and Heather have been chosen for John's Trial. Wishing them both all the best for this.

Congratulations to Nicole for all her achievements this year.

All notices to date are displayed on Club notice boards.

I wish all ladies a good season with lots of enjoyable bowling.

Catering Update

From Sandra Lee

Many thanks to Margaret for supplying me with details of suppliers, hostess trolleys etc and other very helpful information needed to assist the new Catering Team to take over from her and her excellent helpers.

The Team consists of Christine, Diane, Hazel and myself and we look forward to a successful year.

Thank you also to those members who have been very helpful and supportive.

There is a list of Friendlies on the kitchen door and we would be grateful if members would check this list and confirm if necessary that they are available to assist with the catering after the games.

We also have a list covering Hosting or Touring games and members are invited to add their names to assist with these. If you can help with setting tables, clearing away afterwards or if you would like to help with the food preparations we would welcome your assistance. If you can only spare an hour or two that would be marvellous and would let you see what is involved.

A Simples Life?

From Trevor Wearn

Avid followers of Aleksandr Orlov in the ‘Compare the meercat.com’ campaign will remember the book he wrote (allegedly!) called ‘A Simples Life’. Well, life for me was pretty simples, and pretty good even, when one morning last October I was doing a bit of gardening in the villa in Spain and the good lady we rent our apartment from said ‘Trevor, have you seen a Doctor about that mole on your back?’ and a voice (guess who?) echoed down from the other end of the villa ‘I’ve been telling him that for months and he won’t go!’ This two-pronged attack made me think I ought to do something about it and I went online (marvellous thing this interweb) and made an appointment with my Doctor for as soon as we arrived back in the UK. A quick inspection, a quick referral and a few quick slices with a sharp knife removed a malignant melanoma, followed by a deeper cut as insurance, and with nothing spread to the lymph nodes all was declared cancer free and healthy.

At this same time, though, I began to suspect that life was not as simple as a meercat when I received a very painful visit from my old friends, the Haemorrhoids, and also an almost as painful hip when I put weight on it. Fast referrals from my Doctor on both, first to the Colorectal Department for a Colonoscopy, then to the Orthopaedic Department for the hip. How dead lucky am I, I thought, when the colonoscopy revealed a fist-sized polyp in my large colon, which would necessitate the removal of a fair bit of innards, but was benign and non-sinister, to have had two possible cancer scares one after the other and got away with both!

Meanwhile, my Orthopaedic Consultant, a lovely man, Mr Jamie Griffiths, who is also treating Coral for her hip problems, decided that I should have an emergency MRI scan and sent me to the new private Candover Clinic within the hospital grounds. Very nice and posh thought I as I hobbled out quickly past the credit card machine placed prominently on the receptionist desk!

Then, only three days later, not feeling too good and having a lay down, I heard the phone ring and Coral coming up the stairs. ‘It’s an Oncologist from the hospital’, she said. Thoroughly puzzled I took the phone and heard the disembodied voice say ‘Mr Wearn, I’m sorry to have to tell this over the phone but we’ve analyzed your MRI scan and you have advanced cancer in your spine and hip, can you please come to Basingstoke Hospital immediately, we may have to send you straight to Southampton for treatment’. I find it very difficult to describe my feelings after that hammerblow - numbness, devastation, complete disbelief and I admit, time to shed a few tears. However, after a rush to the Hospital, the duty oncologist decided that the emergency could be downgraded, but, there I was on the cancer trail. With the knowledge that the cancer in the spine was secondary, the hunt began for the primary and subsequent CT scans showed it to be a twice kidney sized tumour on my left kidney, which unbelievably had possibly been growing there for years! Anyway, following a frustration filled few weeks, full of uncertainties, muddled by a very nasty chest infection, a couple of stays in hospital and a biopsy, we arrived at Guildford Cancer Centre for an appointment with a Dr Michael hoping for the best, but a little fearful of the worst. And here I am with advanced renal cell cancer on a treatment called Pazopanib, a type of treatment called a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI), which blocks the proteins (kinases) from sending signals to the cancer cells to grow and causing them to die – it says here in the pamphlet – so that the tumour will shrink or at least stop growing.

Anyway, why am I boring you with all this doom and gloom you may ask, well, all I want to do is to impress on you; How many times do you hear, 'You never know what's round the corner, make the most of life!' Now, what more proof do you want than me, certainly never had a clue what was round my corner, so please, take note, live life to the full, make sure you do everything you'd like to do without a worry or hesitation, book that luxury cruise now, splash out on that 75" HD LED television you've always fancied, the wish list goes on!

Concluding my little tale, Coral and I would like to thank you for all the many messages we've received, emails, letters, cards and even some prayers offered and although it may have been some time since I went to church, I thank you, I'll take anything which could help. Unlike Southampton FC, I'm not going down yet!

Hospice Cup 2018 **(The Monday Spoon Drives)**

As usual these will take place at 2pm every Monday (including Bank Holidays),
commencing

Monday 23rd April 2018

**Please arrive in good time to change and check-in ready for a prompt start
at 2pm.**

Everybody welcome, especially new/recent members – this is a good opportunity to meet other members and gain experience of bowling competitively but in a friendly social context.

No need to book – just turn up as often as you wish.

£2.00 participation fee, which includes tea & biscuits and a donation to St Michael's Hospice.

For further information, contact Keith Turnbull

News from the North.



I am writing this missive on a beautiful sunny day, at a point in the season when we have been playing since 18th March. The weather which we have played in has been, shall we say, varied!! Indeed we had three games cancelled, which had to be re-scheduled. As a consequence, I played six times in a week just last week. Pretty exhausting I can tell you! This season, I am playing in 4 teams, 2 Ladies and 2 Mixed. Our Friday night games don't start until 7.30p.m. so I am getting much more practice under floodlights. There is only one team in our league which does not have floodlights, and when we play there we start an hour earlier. We have gone up and down in various leagues, and we are playing at some "new to me" greens. To date they have not been too challenging, although I might tell a different story by the end of the season!

My friend is a member of both Stalmine and Preesall Clubs, and once a month I am going with her to a Saturday "Scramble" or Round Robin at Preesall. This is really good fun, fuelled by lots of tea and bacon barm cakes! These scrambles are a really good social occasion, but they also help skills, by playing in a friendly manner on a different green.

As a club at Stalmine, we are at present having to raise funds, as we have been told that our services of electric, water and sewers will have to be re-directed, as a consequence of proposed development on the football pitches next door. This has come as a bit of a blow as you can imagine, and in my role as secretary of Stalmine, I am now seeking grants etc. so that we can hopefully get the jobs done sooner rather than later – we have approximately two years to do all the work before re-development starts!

Dave has re-joined one of his old clubs in the Burscough area, and has also joined another of the Burscough Clubs as a social member, so that he can enter competitions there. He's playing once or twice a week, but is not very impressed by the state that some of the greens are in! We have been spoilt over the years by the marvellous green at Malshanger, and Stalmine green which is a picture of health, tended to by Blackpool Town's groundsman!

Well, I think that's all my news for now. I hope that when your season gets underway, all teams have much success. Looking forward to seeing many of you on Peter's Tour, if not before.

Love and best wishes,

Jan & Bundle XXX

1978 – Chris Lee

We now all know that the most important event of 1978 was the formation of Oakley Bowling Club, but what else happened in 1978?

Well locally The Gazette was celebrating its centenary, so it clearly has a head start on the Chronicle. In the wider world The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy was first broadcast on Radio 4, though I listened to it on BBC World Service as I was working in Rome at that time. It was also the year Freddie Laker was knighted for his SkyTrain.

It was a good year for strikes with many notable ones, including Ford (closing 23 sites across the UK), The Times newspaper (which was closed for over a year) and Bakers (causing bread rationing in many areas).

There were many British films released in 1978 including:

Death on the Nile with Peter Ustinov, Jane Birkin, Mia Farrow, Bette Davis

The Thirty Nine Steps with Robert Powell, Karen Dotrice

Wild Geese with Richard Burton, Roger Moore

Watership Down with John Hurt, Richard Briers, Zero Mostel

Force Ten to Navarone with Robert Shaw, Harrison Ford, Richard Kiel

1978 was also the year we said goodbye to the actor in the last of those films, Robert Shaw, and several other people we may remember:

Sandy Denny, lead singer in Fairport Convention

Selwyn Lloyd, politician

Keith Moon, drummer with The Who

Harold Abrahams athlete, Olympic Champion at 100 metres in 1924, and later depicted in the film Chariots of Fire

There were also some famous people born in 1978, though we didn't know that at the time, including:

Rachel Stevens, singer with S Club 7

Frank Lampard, Chelsea and England footballer

Jodie Kidd, model and racing car driver

Katie Price, also known as Jordan

Finally, in Bowls at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Gold medal in the men's singles was won by pipe smoking David Bryant.

Tuffs Teasers

from Frank Tuffs

FIND THE BIRD IN EACH SENTENCE:



1. The newcomer settled in quite quickly
2. On his last Orkney trip he collapsed and died
3. The musicians tuned their instruments
4. The magican waves his wand over the box
5. He turned to depart ridgedly avoiding their stares
6. The dog entered the wood cocking his ears as he found the scent
7. Hugh and Alice both rushed to the door
8. The inspector had the offal condemned
9. She put on her only black dress
10. Eric ran easily over the whole distance
11. She had made his heart throb in seconds

Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

I wish everyone an enjoyable and successful bowling year.

I look forward to receiving members contributions to the Chronicle during this 40th anniversary year.

QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

"Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it"

(James Baldwin, Novelist (1924-1987))

"Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful"

(William Morris, English Designer (1834-1896))

Tuffs Teasers - Possible Answers

1. Hen
2. Stork
3. Emu
4. Dove
5. Partridge
6. Woodcock
7. Thrush
8. Falcon
9. Heron
10. Crane
11. Robin