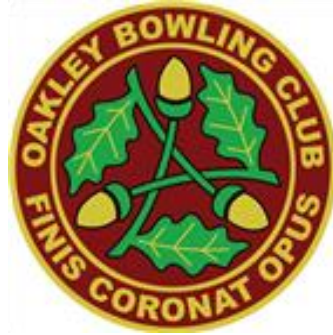


OAKLEY BOWLERS



CHRONICLE



SEPTEMBER 2019

ISSUE 3



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PRESIDENT'S SALUTATIONS - LESLEY ALLARD



It is hard to believe that the Outdoor season is over and, as I write, the weather is bright and sunny, ideal for an afternoon's bowling!

My Presidential year is almost over and it has been a pleasure and privilege to be your 'leader' for this extended year.

We had a very enjoyable tour to Norwich: the weather and hotel were splendid and the Norfolk Clubs were welcoming and friendly. Needless to say, the only game we won was on the day that I wasn't playing!



(Pictures Courtesy of Peter Ball)

My grateful thanks to Barry and Margaret, without whose support I could not have managed. I do hope that you will support Barry by playing in some of the Winter Friendly games, these help to keep the Club spirit going over the winter months. Barry works very hard to organise these games and sometimes the support over the Summer months was very disappointing. I know that other Clubs have similar problems and we will have a look at the number of games we commit to play next summer.

We had a great visit by the Royal Household Bowling Club and we hope to get a reciprocal game if not next year, their Centenary Year, then certainly in 2021.

Everyone had great praise for the green, which has been super to play on this year. The Club owes a great deal to Ian and his Green Team for all the hard work that they put into making this the best green in the area. Without a green we would have no Club and the team deserve our praise and thanks.

This Club is renowned for its hospitality, as shown by the fact that the Bowls England President, from Alton Social, asked to have her Representative game at Oakley. Sandra Lee and her faithful team work very hard to make this happen and deserve a huge Thank You. Helpers are always welcome behind the scenes and up front. We now have a trained Chef, Melvin D'Souza as a member and he was responsible for cooking our delicious supper after the President v Vice President game. Well done Melvin.

We have had disappointing news regarding our application to BDBC for a grant for our proposed all-weather green, but suspect that the lack of movement on Manydown was at least part of the reason.

The Club has had a very successful season in competitions, both local and further afield. Congratulations to our Junior Ladies and Gentleman, who, as well as Ric Newson, represented the Club and the County at the National Championships at Leamington Spa. Nicole Rogers will be leaving Oakley BC as she has decided to play in Devon next season. We wish her every success in her future career.

Don't forget that this is **YOUR CLUB RUN BY VOLUNTEERS**. If you can help in any way by volunteering for the Committee, or helping on the green or with catering as we need new blood. Some of us, including myself, have been around many years and are not the long term future of the Club, **YOU ARE**.

With my Almoner's hat on: Betty Hill has been poorly in hospital for several week and will not be going home. She has taken up residence in Cherry Blossom Manor Care Home in Bramley. We are all thinking of you Betty!

John Ramshaw had a mini stroke last week and cannot drive for a month. Get well soon John.

Enjoy the Indoor Season, either Long or Short Mat and don't forget the Oakley Friendly Games!

P.S. Janie has organised a Christmas Lunch at Test Valley Golf Club on Sunday 8 December. SAVE THE DATE. FURTHER DETAILS FROM JANIE LATER.

Best wishes to you all

VICE - PRESIDENT - MARTIN SMITH



Update on my Tour

Oakley Bowling Club Tour 2020

The President's Annual Club Tour will be to Paignton, Devon, from Friday 28th August to Tuesday 1st September 2020. Travelling by Mervyn's Coaches and stopping at the Queens Hotel in the centre of Paignton.



There are still spaces available, if would like to join me on the tour contact me on:-

Email: martin.smith@mls-services.co.uk

Tel: 01256 327658 or Mob: 07778478714

The hotel accommodation includes bed, breakfast and evening meal and a heated indoor swimming pool is available for residents' use, and entertainment is provided each evening.



These are three of the greens we will be playing matches at during the Tour



Spencer's Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



Sadly, another outdoor season is over. It was one in which we achieved our best-ever results in County Championships with Oakley players lifting 4 titles and finishing runner up in 5 more and with Nicole Rogers and Heather Statham going on at Leamington to reach the semi-final of the Junior Pairs and Nicole the quarter final of the Champion of Champions. We also had successes in North Hants Women's, Basingstoke and District and Whitchurch League competitions. Nicole, of course, reached Leamington in an amazing 7 events and she has, as a result, been invited to participate in the England Senior Trial for which we wish her good luck. We are just sorry that, should she be successful in the trial, the announced team may well show her as a Devon rather than a Hampshire player. It would have been good to have a full International in our midst. Congratulations go also to Alice Lovett who has been invited to take part in a trial for the Bowls England Junior Academy, a well-deserved recognition.

It was a mixed season in leagues. The Oakley Kingfishers, led by Captain Kevin, won Division 4 of the Whitchurch League and the Buzzards finished runners up to Basingstoke Town in Division 1, so missing out on a hat trick of titles. The men's "A" team in the Basingstoke and District Rinks League lost only 2 games in a ridiculously long season (one of these defeats to our "B" team) but again lost out to the Town. Fortunately, the outcome did not depend on shots difference, for with teams being allowed to play different numbers of ends in the early and late part of the season the decision as to which team had won would have been difficult and possibly controversial. Hopefully the District will have learnt lessons from this year's problems and there will be a more structured programme for 2020!

If it was an excellent season in Championships and a mixed one in leagues, the description for the friendlies can only be "Improvement Needed". Captain Barry struggled for support all season and I lost count of the number of times he asked me to send out emails pleading for players. Games were cancelled, matches were reduced to a fewer number of rinks and as I am sure Barry will report not many matches were won.

In the last Chronicle, I explained the work that is done each season to run the Bar in Malshanger and indicated that bar prices would have to rise in 2020. I am now in the process of finalising the Bar Accounts for 2019 and it looks as if our Gross Profit as a percentage of Sales has held up well but Sales themselves are down by about £1100 and profit by some £650. Part of this reduction inevitably arises because of fewer friendlies which may also impact on the profits from Raffles.

The Annual General Meeting will take place at Malshanger on Monday 18th November and there is in the pavilion a list on which members can put nominations for Officer and Committee posts. Normally, by this time, that list has been well populated with names and by the time I send out the AGM Agenda there are names against virtually all posts. This year is different. The list contains no names for the majority of Officer posts so please start thinking about who you would like to undertake these roles. As a Club we rely heavily upon our volunteers, without whom there would be no green to play on, no catering, no bar and no one to arrange matches and competitions and look after the funds.

Finally, may I pay tribute to all those members who, throughout the season, have done such a good job in maintaining our bowling green. A huge amount of effort is needed to keep a green in good condition. We are enormously fortunate to have so many members willing to give up their time to ensure we continue to have one of the best surfaces in Hampshire.

Ladies Secretary Salutations

from Janie Vickers



It has been a busy season for our ladies this year.

Firstly, congratulations to those reaching Leamington-----a wonderful achievement. Also, congratulations to those selected for the various England trials.

We have had a successful season, taking part in the various team competitions, County games, NH games and local Whitchurch games. We have also had several members playing in BH friendlies and NH friendlies.

Closer to home Summerdown and Ivydown finished 2nd and 3rd resp. to Old Basing In the Tuesday Ladies League.

The final annual friendly game versus Hook was enjoyed by all those taking part.

The tour was in the beautiful city of Norwich and weather throughout was glorious. Many thanks to Lesley for a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Finally -----a date for your diaries----The annual Christmas lunch will be at Test Valley Golf Club on Sunday 8th December 1.00pm for 1.30pm. The cost is £22.50pp. More details and menu to follow.

Wishing all the indoor bowlers an enjoyable season.

Competition Secretary

From Kay Kerley

What a wonderful year our Oakley members have had in competitions.

Our players have done the Club proud at all levels. I know from experience it is hard work getting to County Finals let alone getting to National Finals. It would, however, have been good to see more members supporting the players whether it be Area or District Finals, County Finals in Southampton or National Finals at Royal Leamington Spa. We were once renowned for the support we gave our players. I appreciate there is life outside of bowls but even the weekend of the Club Finals was poorly supported. Admittedly these were rather disjointed this year, because of the clash with County Finals but those who did attend saw some excellent bowling.

I would like to thank everyone for getting their games played and Spencer for all his reports on the website - this takes up a tremendous amount of time.

Finally, I would like to wish Nicole 'Good Luck' in playing her competitions in Devon next season she has been a great ambassador for Oakley Bowling Club.

Hospice Cup

From Keith Turnbull

Dear All

Now that the Spoon Drive season is complete, I am pleased to announce that the 2019 Winner of the Hospice Cup, by a substantial margin, is **Brian Beswick**.

Runner up is Steve Lowin.

The scoring system applies a weighting factor to the aggregate shot difference over the season -?? designed to favour players who attend regularly and submit all their scorecards (even the poorer ones!).

Final Top 4 Scores were as follows:

NAME	FINAL ADJUSTED SCORE	UNADJUSTED SHOT DIFFERENCE	NO. OF SCORECARDS SUBMITTED (Total possible was 19)
BRIAN BESWICK	67	85	15
STEVE LOWIN	26	61	8
ANJI SMITH	24	33	14
KEITH BRINGES	21	34	12

I am also pleased to report that a significant sum was raised by the Spoon Drives for St Michael's Hospice again this year.

Congratulations again to Brian.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

From Colin Statham

Firstly, a massive thank you to the 28 supporters who have signed up so far since I activated the Oakley Bowling Club account at the end of February. Together we have raised in excess of £355 for the Club, just by doing our normal on line shopping. For those who joined by using one of the links sent out by Spencer or who join now with the links below Easyfundraising will give an additional £5 to the Club once that supporter has raised £5. In addition, because the Club is gift aid registered, and having been verified by easyfundraising, a certificate allowing us to claim 20% gift aid on that amount we receive.

The money raised so far has been put together with the grant monies from the Parish Council and one Stop Shop and we've bought a GTECH lawn mower for doing the green surrounds and a new leaf blower/collector. The next target is a new petrol mower for doing the embankments and surrounds by the car park. This needs around another £350. Fundraising for free like this means we do not have to dig into reserves to pay for renewal of our maintenance equipment but we need your help. If you do online shopping please sign up and support your Club.

It is a straight forward click through website to your favourite on-line stores. You pay no more than the normal store price and sometimes special offers exclusive to Easyfundraising. You can even make it simpler, that once registered, select the auto reminder. This means even if you don't go through Easyfundraising a pop-up reminder will come up if you go onto any retailer that is in the scheme and all you do is click you accept the donation! It is that simple.

There are over 3300 retailers signed up from Amazon who pay 0.5% of the non-Vat element of any purchases, to Sainsburys, Asda, Tesco, holiday companies. Airport car parking and hotels pay up to 4% and there are regular promotions of double donation amount.

The video on the link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oakbowlingclub/> explains exactly how it works and should answer any questions and the link to sign up is <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/1W8161/DVCZSP/> . If you buy ANYTHING online why not give it a go and help raise funds for the club just from your normal on line shopping. Looking after the pennies means the pounds will look after themselves so even if what you buy only gives a few pence it will mount up if everyone does the same. Happy shopping!

Any questions or concerns email me at colin.statham1@ntlworld.com.

From the Green

From Ian Rickman

I can't believe how fast time flies by another Season has finished and we have allegedly put the green to bed.

Dream on green team! Yes, there's another Autumn and Winter schedule ahead of Sarel Rolling, Chisel and Solid Tining, plus the switching/brushing. But! Just think it's cheaper doing this than going to the gym. Also spare a thought for Keith Turnbull who is involved with these teams plus, does the spraying programme and also covers the days when someone is sick or can't make it.

My heartfelt Thanks goes out to you all because without you we wouldn't have the green in such good condition as it's been this year and yes, I know we've only just finished a successful renovation week which went off this year without any major problems another round of Thank You's to all concerned. None more so, than the ladies who provided bacon sarnies for us on the first two days of this gruelling operation of scarifying twice, hollow coring, solid tinning.

Sarel rolling, overseeding, top dressing, drag brushing, drag mating, spazzle boarding, ditch mat and bowling mat cleaning, rink marker cleaning, even hedge cutting and the green got fed with a special autumn feed but not by the ladies. This was finished off with a fungicide spray. Spraying also takes place throughout the winter in many forms. So, do we think we can put the myth to bed that the green gets put to bed once the bowling season ends?

For those of you wondering why do they close the green so early when it's looking good and bowling well, It's a case of if we left it any later the good quality expensive seed we use wouldn't have time to germinate before the colder weather sets in so this is why we have a good green when many others around us and further afield don't. It's all about timing and having your finger on the pulse.

Here endeth the green keeping lesson for this year. Hopefully we will get the right weather this coming winter and next spring so the green can do its own talking once again.

Thank you Team.

Not Bowling in Norwich

From Chris Lee

Another bowling tour and another opportunity for me to investigate some more railways, and revisit an area I used to work in. Following the excitement of changing coaches on the roundabout above the M3, we had an uneventful journey to Wymondham, with a best forgotten stop at South Mimms services.

Leaving the majority of the tourists at the bowling club, I walked with Janie and Kevin the short distance towards the town centre, and then left them to get to the railway station, just 5 more minutes away.

Wymondham station is a beautifully restored station with plenty of memorabilia to look at including in the buffet which has some seating taken from old railway carriages. This was until recently called "Brief Encounter" which is strange because we were a long way from Carnforth. The station also has a line which joins to the Mid Norfolk Railway which I would be visiting the following day. Eventually a late running local train arrived and took me the short distance to Norwich, a station which has an inadequate gateline for the people using it. I then spent some time wandering through Tombland which predates railways. A number 8 bus then dropped me just across the main road from the hotel, where I waited with Rick and Sue for the coach to arrive. With the hot weather we had over the holiday weekend, we did benefit from the air-conditioning which the hotel offered.

On the Saturday morning another number 8 bus, from the same stop I had arrived at the previous day, took me on an express bus ride to Dereham, where a short walk across the level crossing took me to the Mid Norfolk Railway station. I collected my prepaid ticket, which offered the benefit of 2 free beer tokens for the Dereham beer festival being held on the station forecourt. This was a special event weekend with both the beer festival and a visit from the Nigel Gresley designed A4 Pacific, "Union of South Africa". The opportunity to see such an engine up close was not an opportunity to miss. It must have been difficult to keep this engine below the 25mph speed limit when you remember that its sister "Mallard" holds the world steam speed record of more than 100mph faster than that!

I was able to travel the whole length of the line south to Wymondham Abbey (not far from where I had been the previous day), and also north along the new extension almost to North Elmham. It will in time be possible to travel to the preserved station "County School".

After several hours I now thought it was time to make use of my beer tokens and listen to the band playing on the platform, before returning on the number 8 express bus to the hotel.

Sandra had Sunday off from playing bowls, so we took a bus to Sheringham on the north coast of Norfolk. The journey started badly and the day soon went down hill. The number of people and the traffic on the road meant we were very late and we missed the train on the North Norfolk Railway. We decided to look around and then catch the next train. Ten minutes after the train had been due to leave, we were told that there was no driver - we subsequently heard there had been a row and the driver had gone home. A new driver was on his way, but because of the traffic they didn't know how long this would be. So we decided to give the train journey a miss. I have travelled on it before and it is quite a short trip to Holt, certainly not worth spending hours trying to do.

After abandoning the NNR, the day improved. Sandra spotted a small cafe/restaurant up a pedestrian alley away from the traffic and we had an excellent lunch of fish & chips at a table outside. We then decided not to join the traffic on the road and took the train from Sheringham to Norwich, and the timing worked out perfectly with the train arriving as we walked along the platform. It arrived in Norwich on time, and we walked across to the bus stop to find the very useful number 8 bus just approaching the stop to take us back to the hotel.

Monday I travelled to Wroxham, an area I new well from when working in the area, and spent some time revisting it. I did however visit the Bure Valley Railway which is a narrow gauge railway and of little historical interest, other than that the line, if ever extended would join with the Mid Norfolk Line not far from County School.

Tuesday the tour left Norwich, and avoiding the massive traffic jams on the M25 and surrounding roads, we also succeeded in missing South Mimms services, a bonus in my view. Soon we were at Chess Vale bowling club which I recall I played at during a previous tour in the rain. Today however was sunny and I set off on a 20 minute walk into Chesham, a place I knew because Sandra has family there, but strangely it had been a very long time since I had been to the railway station. That visit had been around 45 years ago when I went on a London Underground rail tour which visited all the different lines and was on a 1938 stock train, as these were the only trains capable of running on all the lines. These comfortable trains now only run on the Isle of Wight and I last travelled on them when the tour went to Sandown. These trains are now worn out and will shortly be replaced.

The station is grade 2 listed because it is a lovely example of a Metropolitan railway station and still has its water tower and signal box, together with a decorative sunken garden. As I had used my Oyster card to get on the platform, I decided to take the opportunity to travel on the newish S class trains now running. I found there was a striking similarity to the class 700 Thameslink trains, probably because they are so open with the ability to easily walk between carriages. I travelled to Rickmansworth where there is also a water tower (better in my view than at Chesham) though not such a pretty station.

Returning to Chesham I then set off to find the bowls players, but not before stopping off at the newly refurbished Griffin pub a few minutes away from Chess Vale.

A very enjoyable tour and I am already planning for next year's tour to Paignton. There is so much to see and do in that area. There is the railway to Kingswear, with a short ferry across to Dartmouth with a Champagne bar in the old station building (don't tell Sandra); the only station in Britain to have never had a railway line. Boats travel along the Dart to Totnes, itself an interesting town, and it is possible to travel on a round trip with a bus between Totnes and Paignton, a trip I made when the tour was to Torquay.

Catering

From Sandra Lee

Thank you to Christine, Diane and Hazel for their hard work and support this past Season, without whom it would not have been possible for the Friendly Teas and Hosted meals to be available.

Thank you also to those members who made sandwiches and cake for us for the Teas, everyone enjoys these and we receive many compliments on the quality of our food. I do hope that the Catering Team can continue to receive your support next Season.

We would welcome members willing to make sandwiches or cake so do get in touch with me if you would like to help, we can never have too many helpers!

Thank you also to Virginia, Jean, Ted, Keith, Gavin and Angie for their support and hard work with our Hosted or Touring visits. These are long days and extremely busy for everyone and would not be possible without their assistance.

If there are any Members who would like to come and help you would be very welcome as this would allow the Catering Team the opportunity to play more bowls.

Last but not least I give a big thank you to those members who come along and help put tables and chairs out for me when we have the Hosted games. This is much appreciated.

Tuffs Teasers

From Frank Tuffs

What do these "...OLOGY" words mean?

Match the words to the meanings at the bottom of the page.

1. AEROLOGY
2. ANTHOLOGY
3. COSMOLOGY
4. CYTOLOGY
5. ENTOMOLOGY
6. ETYMOLOGY
7. HISTOLOGY
8. HOROLOGY
9. ICHTHYOLOGY
10. IDEOLOGY
11. METHODOLOGY
12. MISOLOGY
13. MYCOLOGY
14. ORNITHOLOGY
15. PALEONTOLOGY
16. PETROLOGY
17. TAUTOLOGY
18. TOXICOLOGY
19. ZYMOLOGY
20. APOLOGY

- | | |
|---|---|
| A) The study of history of words | B) Beliefs of an individual or class |
| C) The study of rocks | D) The science of fossils |
| E) The study of fungi | F) A Collection of writings |
| G) The chemistry of fermentation | H) The science concerned with poisons |
| I) The science of clock making | J) The study of the atmosphere |
| K) The study of insect life | L) The study of plant and animal cells |
| M) The study of birds | N) Science of the world or universe |
| O) Methods and principles used | P) Hatred of reasoning |
| Q) The study of the history of fishes | R) The study of animal and vegetable tissues |
| S) Expression of regret – that there is no space for the other 262 words ending in "ology" | |
| T) Repetition of the same meaning in different words | |

Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES:

“Remember it’s just a bad day, not a bad life”

“Don’t let yesterday take up too much of today”

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream”

“Be yourself, everyone else is taken”

Tuffs Teasers - Possible Answers

1. J
2. F
3. N
4. L
5. K
6. A
7. R
8. I
9. Q
10. B
11. O
12. P
13. E
14. M
15. D
16. C
17. T
18. H
19. G
20. S