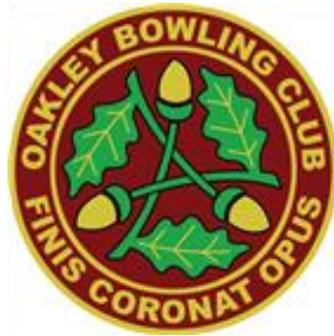


OAKLEY BOWLERS



CHRONICLE



APRIL 2019 ISSUE 1

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PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS - LESLEY ALLARD



How long ago it seems since the Presentation dinner and dance, although is only about six weeks since the event, which had been postponed from February, took place at Test Valley Golf Club. As well as the Hampshire County Men's and Ladies' Presidents, we also had the pleasure of the company of the new Bowls England President, Hazel Marke. Our new star Master of Ceremonies was Malcolm Grime and Jamie Colman, following a very witty speech, presented the prizes to the 2018 Bowls Competition winners.

The 2019 Outdoor season has started with wonderful weather, and the Opening Spoon Drive on Easter Saturday saw 36 members turn up to play as well as others who came to enjoy our lovely surroundings in the sunshine. The Ladies' and Gentlemen's winners were Janie Vickers and Jonathan Scott.

Congratulations and many thanks to the Green Team and the volunteer gardeners who have worked hard to ensure that both the green and its surrounding area are in tip top condition. I hope that the weather for the Open Weekend will enable visitors and prospective new members to take advantage of all we provide.

Since the last Chronicle, the Club has lost one of its staunchest supporters in Mollie Smith, Margaret Lee's mother. Mollie and her husband Les supported every social event since before I became a member 26 years ago and her apple pies were legendary. Our thoughts go out to Margaret and Barry, who are now semi-resident at Pardown, looking after Les.

Several members have been suffering with bronchitis and pneumonia and have been hospitalised. We hope that they are now on the road to recovery. Duncan Wilkins is not well enough to undertake the captaincy of his Monday League team this year and our thoughts and best wishes go with him as he has another session of chemotherapy.

Congratulations to Betty Hill who will be 90 on 26 April. Betty has not been well this winter but we hope that she has a lovely celebration with her friends and family.

Happy bowling everyone!

Wedding Pictures

From Peter and Shirley Ball

Following their wedding on 9th March Peter sent these pictures to the Editor and as you will see they were thinking of bowls on the day !!



Captain's Log

from Barry Lee, Men's Captain



Hi to Everyone, Sandra has asked me to write a short report for the first News Letter so here I am on Easter Monday indoors instead of being outside in the sun. What fantastic weather.

I will start with the indoor Friendly games, our New Treasurer, Sean had arranged as usual.

Starting in October 2018 through to March 2019, 42 Members took part this year, a little less than last year. The Final result was just a little more than last year, we won just 1 game. This was the Friendly against Loddon Vale IBC in March. We won by 15 shots !! and winning on 3 rinks out of the 6. Very well done by Bob Goodyear's team, President Lesley, Diane Yarrall, Steve Devonish and Bob. He won by 24 shots. Val Ryan's rink won by 6 shots and Stan Mond's rink by 1 shot. The last time we won was in 2014 when we won by 4 shots.

One game had to be cancelled this year, Five Rivers (Salisbury) due to the snow we had at the weekend 3rd Feb. We also made history for the club indoor games by getting the Highest Losing score, 56 -202, -146 shots. This was against West Berks, Newbury in January. May do better next year, many thanks for the support over the Winter.

Now on to the real game of Outdoors.

We opened the Green last week on Sat 13th April with nice weather, and in the evening, we had our first Social evening at Malshanger with the Indoor Games. I think about 63 members attended, it was a great night with a Fish, Chicken, or Sausage and Chips Supper. Many thanks must go to Ric for organising the evening and Martin for doing the Bar.

Our next Social evening is on Saturday 1st June which is a Quiz night, with a Ploughman's Supper another great night starting at 7pm. Ric has also booked another Car Boot Sale for Sunday 9th June so if you have any items that you think might be useful for helping make a few bob please contact myself or Ric.

I have put up 5 sheets of Friendly games on the board please put your names down if you can play. Please help support these Games, this is what keeps the Club going. **Our first Friendly is Away to Hawley.**

Easter Saturday was the Opening Spoon Drive. A fantastic afternoon and 45 members attended and 35 of them played, we stopped for a cup of tea and a couple of biscuits, then had another few more ends. And that was it, everyone said the green bowled well. Janie Vickers had the Highest Lady score of +14 and Jonathan Scott had the Highest Male score of +12. Another good day.

Spencer's Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



Although I have been away in South Africa for nearly 5 weeks that does not mean I have nothing to report. Much has been happening.

The first good news is that the Club has been re-accredited by Sport England as a Clubmark organisation and as far as I can see we remain the only Bowls Hampshire club to have that status. Our new certificate is on display in the pavilion and Energise Me, the County Sports Partnership, with whom we worked on the re-accreditation, issued a press release that saw our success feature on the Bowls England website, in the Basingstoke Observer and on the social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter.

On the playing front, congratulations go to several members. Nicole Rogers has lifted the World Junior Indoor Singles title, played indoors for England at full international level and has been selected for the England Junior Women's outdoor international trial at the end of May. Also selected, but as a reserve for the Junior Trial is Ashley Nethercliffe, who recently lifted the Hampshire Junior Indoor title for the 5th time, whilst Alice Lovett, who indoors reached the Last 16 of the National under 18s has been selected for the England under 18 Mixed Trial at the end of the month.

The Club's Presentation Dinner scheduled for February had to be postponed because of the snow but the re-arranged event was the usual success and the Committee has agreed that the 2020 event will again be held at Test Valley on 7th February 2020. Please make a note in your diary.

Work continues to see whether it is feasible to build an additional but artificial green at Malshanger and I am grateful to the members of the Strategy and Development Sub Committee who have progressed matters in my absence. Mr Jamie Colman has agreed to provide us with extra land and to let us have a new 25-year lease to cover our existing and the new facilities and having received from Basingstoke and Deane the green light for our initial submission for Local Infrastructure Funding (LIF) and following meetings with our Borough Councillors and the Senior Grants Officer we are now proceeding to full application. This involves us in preparing and demonstrating that we have in place properly thought out Development and Project Plans. Visits have been made to the Planners to ascertain their requirements and we now know, for instance that we shall be expected to have a tree survey! With a project cost likely to total about £180k and any LIF funding likely to be limited to £100k, funding will be our biggest challenge. We have had one setback in that Sport England rejected our submission for £50k (they are over-subscribed) but they have provided us with links to other funds for this type of grant and we are now applying to schemes linked to the National Lottery, Tudor Trust and Robert Graves Sports Foundation. Whether we shall be successful remains to be seen but if anyone knows of an organisation or individual that has a spare £50k they can give away or of an organisation with a grant scheme to which we can apply, please let us know. Much work remains to be done before any recommendation can be made to members as to whether to proceed with the project. No

significant sums will be spent on the project unless there is a clear direction from the membership that it wishes to proceed.

Fund raising for a private club, like ours, is always important and this year we have two major sponsors in Eight Wealth and Seb Challen, a sports physiotherapist based at Aspects of Fitness. Our major income streams are subscriptions, bar, catering, raffles and jack high but everything we raise helps and we are particularly grateful to Colin Statham who, over the past 6 months, has obtained £150 funding from the Parish Council for a new petrol hedge trimmer, £1,000 from the County Council towards the hedging project and from the One Stop Carriers for Causes scheme £500 for a new Gtech rechargeable mower to make the cutting of the grass surrounds easier. Colin has also submitted applications for funding to around 10 different organisations, including the likes of Asda, Tesco, Persimmon Homes. All these schemes require us to meet differing criteria and have different timescales and involve a good deal of work and we are fortunate Colin has been willing to undertake all this work on our behalf.

Colin has, of course also introduced us to the Easyfundraising scheme which he describes elsewhere in this Chronicle. I can only endorse his request to members to sign up. If in two months we can raise £180 with only 20 members signed up just think how much we might raise in a year if just 50% of members took part.

Bowls Hampshire has decided that in 2020 it will celebrate 100 years since the HCBA (the first County Bowling Association) was formed and the first ten years of Bowls Hampshire. The Celebrations will comprise a game against the 12 founder clubs, a game against Bowls England and a special celebration dinner to be held at the Hilton at the Ageas Bowl. Planning for this is continuing and more details will be issued at a later date.

Finally, members may wish to know that, contrary to some rumours, Kay and I are not planning to move to Cornwall. I did at the March Executive Meeting of Bowls Hampshire inform it that, if re-elected as County Secretary at the 2019 AGM, the year 2020 would be my last as County Secretary. This decision was not prompted by a plan to move elsewhere. It was a recognition that, in my mind, my enthusiasm, energy and efficiency is on the wane and that it is time to hand over the reins.

Ladies Secretary Salutations

from Janie Vickers



With the season getting under way this month I wish everyone an enjoyable Summer.

The dates for all the competitions have been finalised and are displayed in the clubhouse.

I attended the NH Spring Council Meeting and AGM on 15th March and all main details were circulated to lady members via google group.

The list for the NH friendlies has several names on already so I will be pleased to forward these to Jennie Harvey, the NH Comp Sec.

Congratulations to Alice in her England Indoor Mixed under 18 trial and also to Nicole for her forthcoming trial for the England Women's Outdoor under 25 team. Lots of good luck to both girls.

It is great news that we have achieved Club Mark Accreditation.

Finally, good luck to all and happy bowling this season.

From the Green

From Ian Rickman

Welcome to my second from the green article, Firstly I would like to say a big Thank You to my Greens Team for all their support and hard work throughout the Autumn and Winter period I think and I hope everyone agrees that the fruits of your labour are evident now the green is very much back in play and looking good.

I would like to also thank those members who came forward to help out during the pre-season week opening I apologize for not being with you, but that was the only week my son who happens to be in the army could come to stay with my grandson. Well you were left in the very capable hands of Keith, thank you Keith for taking charge and doing a grand job in my absence.

There is one story I must tell about one of the Green Team who had a small accident during the run up to pre-season opening. It was during one of our light rolling sessions this gentleman tried to bring a new meaning to blood, sweat and tears when working on your behalf on the green, he actually slipped when turning the roller round and head butted the roller handle. It was his blood and sweat and our tears of laughter, no not really. I am pleased to say there was no serious damage done to the operator or to the roller handle either. I am not going to name the operator because I don't want him milking the sympathy you would all give him, thank you to nurse Bob for attending to the wounds I was going to add a photo to this article of the incident but I couldn't find it plus I didn't want to cause any embarrassment to those concerned.

I must say it must feel like a busmen's holiday to the Green Team no sooner have they finished cutting, tinning, spraying and all the other jobs required of them then the new season is here and it starts all over again.

Finally, I trust all their hard work gives you all many hours of pleasure and success during this season.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

From Colin Statham

Firstly, a massive thank you to the 20 supporters who have signed up so far since I activated the Oakley Bowling Club account at the end of February. Together we have raised £180 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, 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, we will receive every quarter, as they pay us, a certificate allowing us to claim 20% gift aid on that amount we receive.

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 mean you pay less! 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. I've been using it for 7 years raising funds also for a small football club I'm a shareholder of.

There are over 3300 retailers signed up. These include from Amazon who pay 0.5% of the non-VAT element of any purchases, Sainsburys, Asda, Tesco, holiday companies. Airport car parking and hotels paying up to 4% and even DIY chain Wickes paying currently 2%.

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.

Catering

From Sandra Lee

I and my Team look forward to a successful year and will be contacting our sandwich and cake makers next month when our Friendlies commence.

There is a list on the kitchen door listing our games and I would be grateful if members would tick their name to confirm they can assist on that date. If you are unable to do so please try and swop with another member on the list and if unsuccessful please contact me.

Do come and see me if you have any special requests for food, or complaints and I will be happy to discuss this with you.

In Memory of Mum Skydive to raise money for St. Michael's Hospice

from Lisa Rickman

As many of you may be aware from my Dad: Ian Rickman, on Saturday, 18th May 2019, I will be skydiving to raise money for St. Michael's Hospice.

I would like to thank those of you who have already kindly donated and also tell the story behind why St. Michael's Hospice means so much to my family and I.

On the 23rd of December 2013, we lost Jacqueline Mary Rickman to Cancer. I cannot describe the feeling when you are notified that your Mum has terminal cancer and that there is nothing to be done. Mum desperately wanted to spend her remaining time in the comfort of her own home and for a while, we stepped up as a family to fulfil this final request.

However, as her mental and physical state quickly deteriorated and the sleepless nights increased, we struggled to cope.

It was then that St Michael's Hospice stepped in. These amazing people remain the unsung heroes of stories like ours. They assisted us in caring for Mum at home, throughout the day and night; giving us the respite time we desperately needed. Even after Mum had passed on, their support continued with: Grievance Counsellors; complementary therapies such as Reflexology and Bach Flower Remedies; making one of the hardest moments in our lives that little bit less dark.

Five years on I can honestly say the pain of losing Mum has never left us, but neither has the gratitude to St Michael's Hospice. Mum was my best friend: my inspiration and my driving force. It is for this reason that I will be taking to the skies, in her memory.

As a Club that already supports St Michael's Hospice, I would be extremely grateful for any donations, which will contribute towards this extraordinary charity maintaining its fantastic work. Should you be inclined donations can be made either with Ian via a cash sponsorship form or via my fundraising page at www.gofundme.com/in-memory-of-mum-sky-dive

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to tell you my reason for this sponsored skydive.

Tuffs Teasers

From Frank Tuffs

What are the collective terms for the following?

1. Ships
2. Maps
3. Straw
4. Bread
5. Hay
6. Hens
7. Hawks
8. Badgers
9. Eggs
10. Cardinals

Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

“A little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money”
(John Ruskin).

“One person can make a difference and everyone should try” (John F Kennedy).

“Why am I getting older and wider instead of older and wiser” (Anon).

Tuffs Teasers - Possible Answers

1. Armada
2. Atlas
3. Bale
4. Batch
5. Bottle
6. Brood
7. Cast
8. Cete
9. Clutch
10. Conclave