

# 2-Wide 2-Heavy

# The Newsletter of Olveston & District Bowling Club

**April 2021** 

www.bowlsolveston.co.uk

# The Chairman's Message

Our new season began on time as scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> April. Not with the normal high attendance opening event but with more of a whimper with 30 members braving the elements for their booked roll-ups throughout the day. But at least we opened albeit in much different circumstances than we would have wished. There are quite a number of other clubs in the area that have not yet opened their doors to 2021 with some not intending to start play until mid-June.

Since we opened the weather has been especially kind to us with quite a bit of sun and warmer temperatures, not the howling gales and freezing air that we would normally experience once the bowling season starts.

A good proportion of the membership were able to 'attend' our virtual Spring Meeting and will already be aware that we go into the 2021 season in a reasonably strong financial position. Kevin's article later in this Newsletter will give you some more detail on this. In addition, we enter 2021 with a full membership, a situation that many other clubs would be very envious of. Angela will detail more information on the membership in her report.

The Green is already running very well for this time of the season and we must offer our thanks to John Arrowsmith and his team for all the work they have done over the winter.

Apart from the Green the remainder of our grounds and buildings are in excellent condition and presentation thanks to the dedicated work of Bob Phillips and his loyal team of maintenance helpers. I have received quite a number of compliments from parishioners who use the sports ground on the way we have been able to 'show off' our premises and facility. The new fence and gates are a particularly practical and good-looking addition to our surroundings.

Although the season is up and running there are still a number of severe restrictions in place as to what we are allowed to. These will continue in their present format until, at least 16<sup>th</sup> May, when we hope there will be some relaxation from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. The Management Committee will consider all the implications of such relaxations and I will send out full details of the changes we can make.

Our main hope is that the Government Roadmap runs to plan and we can be fully released from Covid-19 restrictions in the main from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. That may be cause for some type of celebration. We will look at that if it all happens to schedule.

In the meantime, there will continue to be changes to our playing schedule whereby games are re-scheduled, postponed or even cancelled so please keep an eye on your e-mails for information on these events.

My sincere hope is that after the hiatus of the last 12 months we can all settle into an increasingly relaxed and competitive season of bowls. To this end I wish all our competitive teams the best of luck in all their competitions. We have quite a reputation to maintain and some very hard work will be required to sustain and hopefully improve our excellent competitive record.

I would remind all members that the Bowls England Balcomb Trophy Regional Finals which culminate in a national Quarter-Final will take place on our Green on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 starting at 10.00am. We will issue more detail on this major event nearer the time but just to give you the chance to put it in your diaries now.

Lastly let's all hope that we can have a really enjoyable and satisfying season at our cherished Club, participating in the game we all love.

Robert Harris
Chairman ODBC.

#### **Our President's Message**

A Very Warm Welcome Everyone to the 2021 Bowling Season.

April 12th has passed and while we are still subject to some restrictions and it may not be the glorious 12th many of us hoped for but THE GREEN IS OPEN AND WE ARE BACK PLAYING BOWLS.

It's great to see members back on the Green enjoying each other's company and getting back in the swing of things in preparation for matches and competitions yet to come.

We all owe a hearty vote of thanks to all those who have steered us through this difficult period and brought us to a position where we can enjoy ourselves in a safe and attractive Club environment. This includes all the Officers of the Club, The Green and Maintenance Teams and organisers of every description; too many to mention here.

It is no exaggeration to say that I have never seen the Club in better condition. The Green is a credit to John Arrowsmith and The Green Team, the buildings and environment of the Club are a credit to the Maintenance Team and to all those members who responded to Bob Philips request for help in preparing the premises for our opening. Our membership is full and we are financially sound.

On a more sombre note, a small group of us were recently privileged to represent the Club at the funeral of Ken Worsley, while others lined the road outside the Church to show their respect. Ken was an old friend, a past President and stalwart of our Club for many years and distinguished in the Bowling community throughout Bristol and the County of Gloucestershire. Our condolences and thoughts are with Ray and Audray and their family at this sad time. Ken will be sorely missed.

To one and all, I wish you a happy and successful season; come on, get out there and enjoy.

I'll drink to that!

Trevor

**President ODBC** 



#### **Treasurer's Update**

As we look forward to a new season with the prospect of more playing time available for all, we can reflect on some of the changes that have been adopted at the club as a consequence of Bowls England guidance for Covid compliance.

We have needed to eliminate wherever possible the handling of cash, meaning that, at least for this year, there will no longer be any match fees collected at home fixtures and raffles will all but disappear. Internal Competition entry monies will be just rolled over from last year and no adjustments will be made.

The bar will be taking payments by card wherever possible.

To reduce the number of touchpoints and to facilitate social distancing, in addition to the cost of sanitizing equipment, there has been the expense of hiring gazebos and the cost for the introduction of an online rink booking system. A limited revised catering provision will also be introduced.

There has been no income from social/fundraising events over the winter period, apart from the popular Lotto Bonus Ball. Additional means of raising funds need now to be considered.

Our sponsors have certainly suffered during the pandemic, and although we continue to have their full support and interest, there is understandably going to be a significant reduction in their financial contribution, which will adversely affect our income for some time to come.

One of the mowers needs some major repairs, the defibrillator has been ordered which, together with the new entrance gate and fencing installation, all incur major outlays.

Through careful management of our outgoings and the continued loyal support of our membership I am pleased to report that the club remains in a healthy financial position.

#### **Kevin Dann**





#### **Green Update**

#### **John Arrowsmith**

**Green Manager** 

The green team has continued to work throughout the winter months to ensure that the green is ready to be played on at the start of the season. We tend to work on the green twice a week during this period, which may seem a lot, but there is always something needing to be done. Because our winters are relatively mild the grass never stops growing and needs to be cut at least once a month, we also tine once a month. In addition, we gradually apply top dressing in certain areas in order to reduce low points on the green. Fungal diseases are normally a big problem during this period but this winter was virtually fungal free. Our main problem was moss which was repeatedly treated but kept reoccurring. As a result, by the middle of March we had a lot of dead moss scattered all over the green. We attempted to remove the moss by scarifying, which did help, but in the end, we had to resort to scratching it out by hand using rakes. Because of the dry cold start to the season the grass is struggling to thrive in the mossy areas but at least the green is running at a reasonable pace.

The cutting height at the moment is being maintained at 6mm and will be kept at this height as long as we have the very low night temperatures. Once things warm up the cut will be lowered to 5mm for the rest of the season.

All the work on the green is carried out by a dedicated team of club volunteers and they all need a big thank you from you, they are: - Mac Wilkins, Geoff Jones, Harry Greenslade, Ken Tudor, Bob Stefanovich and Steve Gregory.



#### **Membership Update**

I am pleased to report that despite a year away from bowls we only lost 2 members who decided to not return this season. Tony Iles decided to hang up his woods whilst Colin Luton's eyesight has now made it difficult for him to bowl. We also had 3 members drop from Full to Associate membership (Brian Sissling, Roger Bignall and Richard Leslie). As such we were able to recruit 5 new members to fill those vacant places. It was also nice to see the return of Les Summerfield to Full membership. As such we would like to welcome the following who either joined late last year or this season:

Tracy Jones
Dave Barrass
Stephen Thomas
Annie Griffin
Richard Laycock
Lynne and Stephen McMillan
Jan Lee and Jeff Cooper

Also welcome to new to our new Associates Kathryn Greenman, Jill Sewley and Nicky Clarke

The bowlers among them have already played in some games and the rest will soon after the Beginners Course. The majority will also be playing in the Club Triples so we look forward to seeing them soon.

Our membership now stands at 150 - 103 Men and 47 Ladies. With 19 Associates.

Angela Greenslade Membership Secretary

#### **Fixtures Update**

As Fixture Secretary, I can say that this year has been interesting! This is the first full programme that I've put together, as last year's was abandoned before we got down to the stage of finalising fixtures etc. Fixtures that were arranged, for some, back last year, have been now cancelled due to club's not wanting to start playing friendlies yet and others re-arranging fixtures for other reasons. This has left free slots which I may or may not have been able to fill. Hopefully, the gaps should reduce as the season progresses.

New this year has been the increased use of the website. We have used it to put up the availability sheets for friendlies and the non-availability sheets for league matches. I hope that those of you who have used these have found them simple to use. If you have not used them yet, please give them a go or feel free to ask for assistance if you need it. We don't want to restrict people from signing up for fixtures but, at the same time, we are trying to follow the guidance to reduce the number of touchpoints which helps to protect us all.

With fewer games, at least to begin with, and fewer players in those games, there will be less opportunities to play. However, I hope that you all manage to play in a good number of games over the season.

Steven Wharram

Fixtures Secretary

#### **Thursday Night is Bristol League Night**

Hello to you all once again and here we are, after an undefeated 2020, looking forward once again to some competitive bowls in 2021. The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

For the benefit of our new members/players, by expressing your interest in playing in the league teams on a Thursday evening you are assumed to be available every week unless you state otherwise. Due to current restrictions the method for doing that is via the 'playing' tab on the Club's website (bowlsolveston.co.uk). Please use this facility as we want to avoid making an incorrect selection as much as possible due to the domino effect that this can have on all teams. We play as one squad with the first team selected first, followed by the second, third and fourth with reserves.

Selections are generally emailed to all squad members on the Sunday before the match. If someone does withdraw after selection, then vacant positions are filled through promotion from teams below in a pyramid system, which clearly can be disruptive.

Our stated aims are to win the Bristol and District League Division One, the North East Bristol League Division One and to achieve further success and promotion for our teams in lower divisions. We achieve this through joint effort, togetherness and a common goal.

May I remind you that in 2019 we won both Leagues, and the B&D Division 4 title, along with the B&D Lloyd Trophy. There are no limits to what we can accomplish, except the limits we place on our own ambitions.

Due to the strange circumstances that this year is to be played under, both Leagues announced that there will not be any promotion or relegation this season. Many other Clubs are struggling for members and already BAC and Yate B have withdrawn from B&D completely whilst GB Britton have cancelled all games up to 17<sup>th</sup> May (step 3) and Knowle won't play until at least 21<sup>st</sup> June (step 4).

A further complication comes from the BE/Government restriction of only twenty-four players on a green at any one time. As a result of this we have been postponing and rearranging one of our home matches for every week up to 21<sup>st</sup> June – a big task. Many other Clubs with more than one team have been doing the same, thus the schedule is not as you might expect it to be with Tuesdays and Wednesdays used, and we may well not have four teams playing on a Thursday for quite some time.

Taking all the uncertainty into consideration I hope we can all enjoy the bowls that we get to play this year and achieve further success for our Club. Do not forget; we never lose, we either win or learn.

Ian Gauld

### **Bristol & District League – Division 3 Update**

Bristol & District League - Division 3

I think it may be useful to new members to outline a few points and I apologise to those who already are aware of the situation

We have run a 4th Team in the Bristol & District Thursday Evening League for the past eight seasons. For the first few seasons, with Geoff Chappell as Manager, the club consolidated our position in Division 4 and we were able to give members a taste for competitive bowls against other clubs. Many of these members now play in the senior teams on a Thursday. This will be my fourth season as Manager, in which time we have achieved promotion into Division 3 (2017), unfortunately we were relegated the next (2018) and then won promotion again in the last full season of 2019.

As with the other teams in B&D and NE Leagues we did not play during 2020 and so we still hold the Division 4 Winner's cup for a second season running!

Please ensure that you put your name down on the relevant Club web page in the event that you are unavailable for a particular week.

I am sure that Ian Gauld, as in previous seasons, will email out the team selections and put the team lists on the board outside of the changing rooms. To make life easier for me may I request that members selected for the 4th team email (galpinfamily@hotmail.com) or phone my landline (01454 430459) rather than just tick their name off on the board.

I intend to telephone members each week as well to ensure we all know the health protocols of each club that we visit. No doubt there will be a few problems with availability of changing space and facilities!

So, hope to see you on 13th May if not before

Rob Galpin

Team D League Fixtures for the first half of the season		
Thursday 30th April season	Away to Yate B	Cancelled by them - Their B Team is not playing at all this
Thursday 6th May second half of the sec	Home to Knowle ason	Postponed by them - Hopefully to be rearranged in the
Thursday 13th May	Away to Avonmouth	Currently still Scheduled to play
Thursday 20th May	Home to Henleaze B	Currently still Scheduled to play
Tuesday 25th May	Home to Begbrook Gree	en B Rescheduled from 10th June
Thursday 27th May	Away to St Anne's Park	Currently still Scheduled to play
Tuesday 1st June	Home to Severn Vale	Rescheduled from Thursday 3rd June
Thursday 17th June	Away to Victoria Park	Currently still Scheduled to play
Thursday 24th June	Home to BAC	Cancelled - BAC not participating this season

#### **Ladies League 1 Update**

New post this season for me and great to see a good number of ladies to make up the squad of players which will cover all 3 leagues. Welcome especially to new members to the league.

Although there have been a number of changes, bowls continues thankfully with our first match on May 5th at home against Bristol Ladies.

Good wishes for a successful season.

Annie Muldoon

## **Ladies League 2 Update**

It is great so many ladies have signed up to play league bowls.

Regrettably Begbrook Ladies have withdrawn from the League. This means our matches on 7<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June have therefore been cancelled. Our first match of the season will be on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at home against City & Port of Bristol. Selection will be made the week before.

It is important the non-availability list is accurate so please remember to keep it up to date.

Most important of all, enjoy your bowls!

Linda Chappell

# Gloucester County League (GCL) - Sunday Mornings

It actually feels that very shortly we will be plating competitive Bowls again! Following recent announcements of the start of the GCL for the 2021 season, 26 men have signed up to play in this most enjoyable but competitive league. The A Squad will play in Division 2 and the B Squad will play in Division 5 after we entered a second team in 2019. Each match is 2 rinks of 4 with play starting at 10.00am – often preceded by bacon rolls – certainly will be at Olveston!

Squads and fixtures have been announced and we look forward to a successful season.

Graham Ellis & Robert Harris

# South Cotswold League Update

The South Cotswold League is going ahead this season. We managed to get promotion to Division 2 when we last played so I expect the competition to be at a higher level this season. There will be 7 teams in the Division so we will be playing 12 matches spread throughout the season starting on May 11th Away at Fairford!

Each game will be of 18 ends and start at 6:30pm. I had hoped that the start time would be 6:15pm, as proposed for 2020 but the League have reverted to the old start time! So, if you are looking to gain a little league experience and visit some of the more rural and picturesque greens in the County, I'm looking forward to seeing your names on the Availability sheets in the very near future.

#### **Norman Taylor**

South Cotswold League Manager

# **County & National Championships and Competitions (Men & Ladies)**

Looking out into the wider bowls world and the County and National Club Competitions that many of us love participating in, I wanted to appraise you of some changes.

Due to restrictions at the National Finals, Bowls England have reduced all team playing formats in either bowls to be used, ends to be played or both as follows;

- Pairs three bowls, 18 ends
- Triples two bowls 18 ends
- Fours two bowls, 15 ends

As well as the individual competitions/championships this will also be the case for these disciplines in National Top Club, Club Two Fours and the Tony Allcock Two Rink.

Whilst on the subject of the Club National Competitions, our teams have been drawn as follows;

- Men's Top Club, home against GB Britton, play by 27<sup>th</sup> June
- Women's Top Club, home against Henleaze, play by 20<sup>th</sup> June
- Men's Two Fours, away to Bristol St. Andrews, play by 4<sup>th</sup> July
- Tony Allcock (Over-60 mixed Two Fours), draw not made yet

If you have any questions about these matches please ask – if I don't know the answer (unlikely), I will find out.

All **men** who entered the **GBA competitions** should be aware that there have been extensive date and format changes – if not, again please speak to me.

For those who do not enter these competitions, please understand that the entrants often do not have any choice on the day the match must be played and therefore are not at fault for requiring a rink which may be inconvenient to other users.

Ian Gauld

#### **Club Competition Update**

#### Triple's

Triple's competition has been organised and the team Captains have the relevant information. Due to Covid regulations the rinks are restricted and therefore some matches need to played on a Tuesday.

We are hoping to play the matches according to the fixture schedule, however there still may be changes due to rearranged league fixtures. So far, all Friday games should go ahead as scheduled.

#### **Club Competitions**

All of the draws have been made and the lists are in the changing rooms as usual.

Thank you to Jan Leach and Ian and Tricia Barton for helping with the draws.

Currently, with limited rinks available please note the play by dates and get as many games in as early as possible to avoid further pressure on rinks.

Thank you for supporting the club competitions and good bowling to you all, especially to the new members.

Annie and Reg Muldoon

# **Monday Night is Club Night**

As you will all be aware, Club Night has re-started but with a reduced capacity and COVID restrictions. Every week so far it has more than 24 people looking to put their names down and Robert is managing the selection until we can return to picking the discs out! Hopefully, if things go to plan, we can have all 6 rinks available from the 21st June.

Sponsor's evenings are being arranged with the top rink winning bottles of wine – dates to be confirmed. We are also hoping to arrange some "fish & chip supper" evenings later in the season as well. Emails will be sent out in advance to give people the chance to join in.

Ian & Tricia Barton

#### **Welfare Officer Update**

How wonderful we can be back on the green enjoying good sport and great company.

All of you will have had an email or a letter from me this year except our new members who I will contact very soon.

As welfare officer I am always here I the background to help, listen or assist. I will try to come to club nights to get to know you all. Please ring, email or message me if I can help in any way or if you know someone who needs support. I would also appreciate knowing of significant events so I can send cards and messages of support / condolence to families. We are a great club who are there for each other.

Have a fantastic season.

Gail

Gail@gaillowe.com

07949920851

## **Social Committee Update**

Dear Olveston Members - At the moment we have not met as a committee since March last year but will be moving forward shortly to look at our ideas for the coming season events.

We would love to see some members join us as it is good to refresh and look at new ideas. If interested please contact me on 07976 547104.

Sue Wilkins

#### **Summer Lotto Bonus Ball**

Thank you to everyone for paying either by bank transfer, posting their cheque to us or dropping cash through our door before the new game started on the 10 April. In the current climate, this is a tremendous achievement!

Winners so far:

Week 1, 10 April, No 30 – Robert Galpin

Week 2, 17 April, No 4 – Mike Humphries

Week 3, 24 April, No 1 – Dylan Griffiths

List of players and numbers will be displayed on the noticeboard. We currently have a waiting list of 4 people but if you would like to be added to this, please contact Ian & Tricia.

#### **Bar Managers Message**

With the uncertainty over the start of season because of Covid-19 restrictions and the supply situation we were unable to have the bar open for the first few days but managed to get everything in place to open bar service on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

We are currently restricted to table service only outside of the Clubhouse which does place some limits on our service capacity although this has not been a major problem so far as only a maximum 24 participants are allowed on the premises at any one time. I am currently managing this with a skeleton band of helpers but more would be welcome if you are prepared to wait on table.

The main change in this situation that is possible is that from 17<sup>th</sup> May we may be able to accommodate customers inside the Clubhouse. In addition, the maximum number of members/players/guests allowed to be on site may be increased from 24 to 30. The principle of table service only will not change at this time and so, from a bar perspective, this will just increase our service area and number of possible customers.

Hopefully from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June we can return to more normal operations with people being served at the bar.

The continually changing playing schedule has also not helped in putting together a realistic bar rota but this situation should improve in the near future.

There are a small number of changes to our range which you will notice from the bar tariffs that have been placed on outdoor tables and will be displayed once the Clubhouse is open again.

I should like to offer my thanks to those of you who have volunteered to become part of the bar staff rota. We could not successfully operate without you and any other members who consider that they may be able to help should initially contact me for a chat.

Our bar has been a very successful operation over the last few years and is a major revenue earner and it is my sincere hope that we can return to that state in the very near future.

As always, if you have any comments, ideas or suggestions about our service please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hoping to see you over the bar as soon as we can

Robert Harris

**Bar Manager** 

### **Coaching News**

Bowls Coaching is back following all the restrictions, which means that we have been able to get our Club "Beginners Course" up and running. We presently have 11 new bowlers attending the course which started on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April. All six Club Coaches are helping run the course, so thank you to Alan & Jean Lambourne, Trevor Graham, John Paton and David Wiggall for their support.

Pictured: Action from day one of the Beginners Course



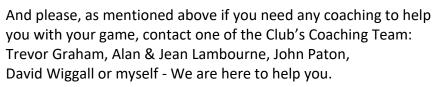


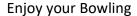
Unfortunately, with the Covid restrictions that were in place at the time, we felt unable to run the usual "Back 2 Basics" session. However, if anyone feels that they need some coaching support, to work on an area you wish to improve, please contact one of the coaching team who will be more than happy to give you some individual tuition, or maybe if you prefer, team up with some others and arrange a group session.

I am still involved with County Coaching and have already helped deliver a session at Gloucester Spa Bowls Club on the all-weather surface, for the County Ladies John's Squad and it was great to see several ladies at that session from Olveston. I also have dates in my diary to assist David Rolls the County Lead Coach, with the newly formed Gloucestershire Youth Academy and the Amy Rose (Ladies U25) squad, so a busy time ahead on the County Coaching front.

Pictures from the recent Johns Squad Coaching Session and no I'm not trying to coach the "Johan Cruyff Turn" in the second photo, although it may look more like a football move.







#### **Ken Tudor**

Club Coaching Co-Ordinator "Coach Bowls" Level 2 Qualified









### **Umpire's Corner**

# Jamie Campbell Club Umpire

At last, a new season is upon us and I am looking forward to getting back on the green either playing or Umpiring. Last year started well for me as I passed my 'upgrade' to National Grade in January and then got an invite to officiate at the Indoor National Finals at Nottingham the following April, which unfortunately were cancelled due to the restrictions.

With the indoor season cancelled and outdoor looking unlikely to start, I decided to turn to social media and started a Facebook Group called 'A Question of Bowls'.

Initially it was a private group with membership by invitation only but it soon took off after I invited Allan Thornhill, a World Bowls International Umpire, to help administrate the group and host a couple of live Q & A's. It even got a mention in the June edition of the 'Bowls International' magazine!

Well, a full year since its inception, the group now boasts a membership of over 2000 from 18 countries, including some of the world's top players and International Umpires, so if you have any questions about the game or those indecipherable laws during the coming season, I know where to find the answer!

If you have any questions you like to see answered here, please contact me either directly at: tracy2jamie@virginmedia.com or through Nigel Cloke, the Club Secretary at: odbcsecretary@gmail.com





# **New Member Snaps**

Thank you to the new members who have sent some snaps in. On the left are Jan and Jeff Cooper although you may recognise Jeff more from the second photo. We then have Steve Gore and on the right Anne Griffin. Welcome to all our new members and we look forward to seeing you at the Club.









#### In Memoriam

Sadly, we have lost 2 members in the last couple of months each very active at the Club in their time.

On 16<sup>th</sup> April Dawn McNally passed away at home in Berkeley having had Alzheimer's. Dawn was a member between 1994 and 2016. In the letter from the family, Susan, her daughter, highlighted Dawn's love of Bowls.

Her funeral was on Friday 30th April at St Mary's in Berkeley and attended by Liz and Graham Ellis.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March we lost Ken Worsley who had been a member since 1984 until his death as an Honorary Life Member. As was noted in his eulogy at his funeral on 22<sup>nd</sup> April Ken had held many positions at the Club and in the County including Club Chairman between 2001-03 and Club President between 2006-09. Outside of our Club he was also President of Thornbury Indoor Bowls Club and President of the Gloucestershire Vice-Presidents Bowling Association.

As noted by Trevor Graham in his President's section above the funeral was attended not only by Ray and Audrey Worsley but also Trevor himself along with Jim Ritchie, Fred Mayor, Graham Ellis, Derek Severs and Tom Ellis. A number of members were also present outside the church.



#### **New Friendly Captains**

We have quite a few new Friendly Captains this season as well as new Ladies and Men's Captains. We shall be catching up with Janice Leach and David Hughes in the next edition to see how they are coping with their new roles in a slightly different start to a season. Below though are both Angela and Harry Greenslade who have been enjoying organising the Sunday Friendlies (who are sharing the role with Annie and Reg Muldoon and Derek Severs) and Bob Emery as the Mid-Week Friendly Captain. To all of the above WELL DONE. We know it has been different and difficult start to the season but it will get easier!





#### The Last End.....

If ever you are playing with Harold Knapp or nearby when he has his bowls with him check out the emblem and ask him why he has it on his bowls. Not to spoil the surprise it is related to the following picture:



