

Verwood Bowling Club

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2013

Welcome to you all.

Another year gone with Christmas now just around the corner, how time flies by.

Obituary:

Sadly I have again to report the recent loss of 2 members.

Harry Gooch joined with his wife Iris in 1990 and passed away in March; and **Jean Whittaker**; another long serving member joined the club in 1975 with her husband Cliff and passed away peacefully in May.

A warm welcome to the new members who joined this year which fortunately includes 13 playing members and helped to redress the balance following the reduction 17 playing members on renewals in February.

Captains Mike Gerrard and Gill Thomas's day was great fun with the Round Robin format covering all six rinks with an assortment of targets. Once again it was ladies versus men although the men had to help the ladies out with a few subs. Top rinks went to Cyril Rowland, Norman Baxter and Ray Haywood for the men and for the ladies, Brenda Hall and Geoff Finn who was playing for them.

Our President Brian has had a very good year and his President's day match was well supported with the club colours as its theme with men wearing yellow against the ladies in blue. The men ran out close winners and Jan Stern and our President won the prizes for most touchers. Top rinks went to Angela Daymond, Vanessa Curtis, Alice Bulley and Liz Lock for the ladies and Jim Scutt, Peter Simpson and Fred Turner for the men.

Brian ended the season as President with a generous invitation to us all to a soiree in the clubhouse. The evening was much appreciated and enjoyed by those who attended.

The monthly Wednesday evening Club Nights continue to be well supported although a trial of having a Club night on the other free Wednesdays was not successful.

Sunday morning play during the summer was well attended and continues to be popular during the winter as short mat bowls with the usual Wednesday afternoons.

Our ladies out-performed the men this year in the leagues and are making impressive progress through the divisions in the New Forest leagues from Div. D in 2011, (their first year), to Div. C in 2012 and Div. B this year, once again finishing top. They also did very well in the B&D and Edna Paisley leagues coming around the middle in them all.

Congratulations to you ladies, a very fine result.

Unfortunately the men could not emulate the ladies success with the first team being relegated in the New Forest Div.2, having been promoted to this division this year. The results of the Dorset leagues were better with team Verwood 5th in Div 2 and Verwood 'A' 4th in Div.3. However we must thank the men, some of who turned out at short notice, for making it possible to provide full teams for all our league matches.

Our competitions were completed on time with some of our more recent members showing the way. There will be more new names on the trophies this year.

We were blessed with fine weather on Finals Day to every ones relief. The ladies again excelled with the catering, providing refreshments all day, ably supported by Mike Gerrard and Nick Lock on the barbeque.

Once again Jan Stern prevailed in the Ladies Singles Championship, this year against Liz Lock; and won a close

match against her usual adversary Pat Dowling in the Ladies 2 Wood Singles.

In the absence of Barry Gately the men's single competitions were more open. John Rodwell proved too strong for Peter Coleman who put up a valiant fight in the Men's Singles Championship and Jim Scutt won a close encounter against Bill Stevens in the 2 Woods Singles.

Congratulations to all those who entered these competitions

Jan Stern continued her winning streak by winning the New Forest Champion of Champions Competition.

A brilliant achievement.

Congratulations and well done Jan.

My thanks to all who supported the Friendly matches which were all well attended, particularly against the touring team Bournville Bowls Club, which was on the day our ladies had two away league games.

As a matter of interest, in all, 55 members played in these matches which is very commendable

True to form our Social Committee ladies arranged some great events during the year which raised much needed funds for the club. The Beetle Drive and Dominoes Nights and St. Georges Night event were great fun and well attended. This year a Skittles Night was held at the Horton Village Hall which was a great success. We all enjoyed the Easter Bonnet Social in March with the prize for best bonnet going to Brenda Hall.

The whist drives and short mat bowls have just started and are still very popular; thanks to Betty Emery and Doug Kirby for organising these which are a very useful and important source of revenue for the club.

The Tombola stand at the **Rustic Fayre** in August was not quite its usual success having made £351. This could be attributed to the fewer visitors which were noticeably down on previous years. Many thanks to all those who donated prizes; to those who organised the event; and to those who gave up their time manning the stand.

Our thanks to Mike Allington for the sterling job he did on the green this year which again was considered one of the best in the area.

Well done, and thanks Mike.

Thanks also to the twins Gill & Jan for producing such a wonderful display of colour in the flower beds which were quite eye catching and are still in bloom.

Geoff Symonds has produced a superb web site for us and for those that haven't logged on to it yet, please do. This is a tool that we can all use for communicating and information. Most of the information that is on of our notice boards is on the site. When I can set up a data base of the member's email addresses hopefully I will be able to send AGM notices etc. direct to those on line, saving time and cost.

You will all no doubt be pleased to learn that the transfer of ownership of the piece of land that has been under negotiation for over twenty years has finally been completed and it is now the club's property.

My sincere thanks again to all those members who have contributed to the wellbeing of the club by what-ever means. We cannot forget that this is a private club which is self sufficient and self maintained and by necessity has to rely on its members to carry out this work and without your dedication, time and effort the club would not exist.

THANK YOU.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM

Geoff Finn