

Verwood Bowling Club

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

Hello to you all.

Once again the bowling season will soon be here let's hope the weather is better than the last few months.

Obituary

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

Lionel Laver passed away on 18th November last after a long battle against illness.

John Palmer passed away just before last Christmas.

Welcome to the new faces on our committees, John Rodwell returns as Captain and Mike Poulter as Vice Captain; and for the ladies, Pat Dowling Captain, Jane Roberts Vice-Captain and Ladies Committee Members Vanessa Curtis and Sue Pearce.

Membership renewals this year results in a reduction of playing members to the core of the experienced bowlers with Men down from 53 to 47. However, fortunately 34 have put their names down for league play compared with 29 last year. The Ladies are down from 33 to 26 with 17 entered for leagues. Callum Tyler did not renew his membership, possibly because as he is 17 he is now classed as an adult. Associate/Social membership increased from 52 to 57 from a mixture of new members and transfers from playing members.

Club Nights this year will revert to just once a month as having them virtually every Wednesday was not popular. However this does leave many Wednesday evenings free for some other form of bowls, either organised or just roll-ups if desired.

Instructors and helpers will again be need for the Open Days starting on Saturday 26th April which is also part of the National Bring a Friend week, so the usual list for volunteers will be posted on the notice board. I will need help with follow-up instruction depending on the number of new members so please bear this in mind.

The Farmers Market is under new management now and is more of a business with six a page contract and a charge of £42 for hire of the pitch. We had planned to have a stall on Saturdays 22nd March and 26th April which is now on hold pending a Management Committee decision. If we go ahead a list for volunteers will be on the notice board for these days. Please help for an hour or so as it is hard going doing a 4 hour stint!

The Green Opens on Saturday 12th April and the ladies' Edna Paisley League starts on 23rd April and the Men's Dorset leagues start on Monday 28th April.

The men will be pleased to note from the fixture list that their games only extend until 1st Sept.

The men's availability chart will be on the notice board and the newer members are encouraged to participate if possible, to gain valuable match play experience.

This year we have one Touring Team fixture, the Ramsbury & Aldbourne Bowls Club from Wiltshire, which is visiting on Saturday 31st May. We still have our traditional friendly matches with the local clubs and the Timber Trundlers. These games are all good fun and quite relaxed affairs and good experience for those new to the game. The competition entries are roughly the same as last year and it is pleasing to note again that quite a few of the newer members have entered.

The Novices Singles Competition for the new trophy donated by Vice President Brian Hall may prove to be very interesting.

As usual we will also have a pitch at the **RUSTIC FAYRE** in August for our Tombola, and will need donations of items suitable for prizes, so search out those un-wanted bits & pieces as this event is a good money-maker for the club. A list for volunteers will be on the notice board in due course.

Thanks to all the ladies and those involved in the social activities during the winter, their efforts are much appreciated. Thanks must go also to Betty Emery for her great work running the Whist afternoons, and to Doug and Norman for organising the Short Mat bowling sessions on Wednesdays and Sundays. All these activities bring in valuable income to the club.

The ladies will notice the new cupboard in their changing room (its difficult not to!). This should help for storage. Robert Wood and Mike Allington deserve our thanks for that and other new additions.

The Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation will again be at the Crane Valley Golf Club but will be a week later on Saturday 22nd November. Hopefully the price will not be much different from last year.

Congratulations and thanks to Mike Allington for his work on the green which is looking in good shape despite the awful weather over the past few months, and thanks also to the Tuesday work party on their maintenance of the building and surrounds.

Once again, and I can't say it too much, my thanks to all those members who have contributed to the wellbeing of the club by whatever means; cleaning, maintaining the green and surrounds, making tea for guests and visitors, making cakes etc. etc. for without your dedication, time and effort, the club would not function.

Our website - www.verwoodbowlingclub.co.uk goes from strength to strength thanks to Geoff Symonds. The user name "Verwood" and Member's password "vbc2013" are on the first page of the 2014 Handbook. This is a very useful facility which gives a great deal of day to day information with very easy access via the inter net, so if you haven't tried it, have a go! Geoff has done an excellent job on constructing this site which I am sure is the envy of other clubs.

No contact from the Co-op Funeral Care sponsors has been received by the club and the Management Committee has therefore decided to let this matter lapse.

Enclosed are the Notices of the Special Meeting and Spring Meeting to be held on Wednesday 19th March. All members are entitled to attend these meetings but Associate/Social Members are not able to vote on any proposals.

The lady members have been given the go-ahead to buy new shirts of a standard style, embroidered with just the Club's badge and/or name, as embodied in the proposed change to the dress code rule at the SGM to be held before the Spring Meeting.

The Transfer of the land at the bottom of the green has finally been completed with our receipt of the copies of the Land Registry Registration Entries.

Well, that's all for now, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Meeting.

Geoff Finn.