

Verwood Bowling Club

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015

Hello and my best wishes to you all.

It's not long before another season starts, let's hope the weather is as kind as last year.

Fortunately we did not lose any of our members either past or present during the winter, which is a blessing

Membership renewals this year results in a further reduction to the number of playing members. The ladies are down from 24 at the end of 2014 to 22 and the men down from 47 to 46. However the core of experienced bowlers remains relatively intact.

Associate/Social membership is also down from 57 to 48.

Instructors and helpers will again be needed for the Open Days starting on Saturday 25th 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. Help will be needed with follow-up instruction depending on the number of new members, so please bear this in mind.

Following the change in the management of the Farmer's Markets your committee decided not to hire a stall in future. It appears that quite a few other stallholders made the same decision there seem to be fewer attending now.

The Green Opens on Saturday 11th April with the usual Opening Day game. The league matches start with ladies' Edna Paisley League on Wed. 22nd April and the Men's Dorset leagues start on Monday 27th April.

The men will be pleased to note from the fixture list that their games only extend until Thursday 3rd September.

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

This year we do not have any Touring team fixtures. One possible reason for the reluctance of some clubs to visit us is our restriction of consumption of alcohol on our premises. This is a condition of our lease so we have to abide by it.

However, we still have our traditional friendly matches with the local clubs and the Timber Trundlers. Because of the problem last year when some friendlies were on Wednesdays which clashed with league fixtures; apart from the first and last friendly matches, all are on either Saturday or Sunday. If this is not successful it could mean the demise of these games.

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.

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. Let us hope the weather will not be as atrocious as last year!

The Social events were a great success again during the winter evenings. I especially enjoy the Beetle Drive and

Dominoes evenings, although it does take some time for some players to get the hang of the games! But it is all good fun – and cheap!

So thanks to the Social Committee and particularly Eileen and Robert Wood who put so much time and effort in making these socials a success, and to all the other 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 for organising the Short Mat bowling sessions on Wednesdays and Sundays.

All these activities bring in valuable income to the club.

The Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation will again be at the Crane Valley Golf Club on Saturday 21st November. Hopefully the price will still be around the £20 mark

Congratulations and thanks to Mike Allington for his work on the green which is looking in good shape, and thanks also to the Tuesday work party on their maintenance of the building and surrounds which is carried out during some unpleasant weather during the winter.

You will not be able to miss the tangible results of the work carried out during the winter as evidenced by the "New Look" fences etc. by the entrance gate which replace the sad looking hedges. You will also note the re-laid path leading to the club house

Once again, and I can't say it too often, 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 2015 Handbook so you should not have difficulty accessing the site. This is a very useful facility which gives a great deal of day to day information with very easy access via the internet, 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.

Enclosed is your 2015 Handbook or Non-league Calendar and Membership Card and Notice of the Spring Meeting to be held on Wednesday 25th March. All members are entitled to attend these meetings but Associate/Social Members are not able to vote on any proposals.

You will note the Handbook has an additional feature page which lists all the domestic events for quick reference. There will also be available separate lists of the league fixtures which can be inserted inside the back cover which you may find useful.

The lady members have now got their new shirts embroidered with just the Club's badge and/or name if desired. We also have separate badges for attaching to other garments which are good quality and only cost £2.60 each. Alice Bulley will be available at the Spring Meeting for those wanting extra badges.

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

Geoff Finn.