

# Verwood Bowling Club

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

Hello and my best wishes to you all.

It seems to have been a long winter but it's not long before the season starts.

Regretfully Joyce Hicks and Dennis Morfee passed away in the last month so our condolences go out to their families for their sad loss.

Unfortunately due to strictures of time and distribution this Newsletter pre-dates the final date of membership renewals so I am unable to give precise details of membership but I do know of 4 men who will not be re-joining, and one couple will be having a year off and will join as Social members.

The question of publishing the minutes of the Management Committee was discussed at the AGM and at the last Committee meeting it was decided by a majority vote that a synopsis of the decisions made would be compiled and published on the club's website and notice board. No doubt those members who visit the site will have read the January 'Members Communication'. The next will be after the Committee meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Instructors and helpers will again be need for the Open Days starting on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 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. Unfortunately, as pointed out at the AGM, despite my asking for help every year very few people come forward. In the past I have worked hard to ensure that new members are not 'left in the lurch' but I can no longer do it without more help.

Unfortunately, because of delays in the B&DBA Combination league dates and some of the men's New Forest fixtures I have been unable to finalise the 2016 Handbook. It will be available as soon as all the fixtures are received. It will be in the same format as last year with the extra pages showing all the domestic fixtures. The Club Nights and Spoons Competitions have been replaced by Open Play/Roll-Ups. The separate lists of all league games will also be available for insertion in the handbook.

The Green Opens on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April with the usual Opening Day game. The league matches start with ladies' Edna Paisley League on Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> April and the Men's Dorset leagues start on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April, both being Rest Days. The men will be pleased to learn that their games only extend until Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September which is the postponed match from Bank Holiday Monday.

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.

Once again we so not have any Touring Team fixtures but we still have our traditional friendly matches with the local clubs, with the exception of West Moors which has withdrawn. All these matches are on Saturdays or Sundays except Timber Trundlers on Friday. New members would enjoy playing in the Friendlies which are quite relaxed and good experience.

The Tombola stand at the RUSTIC FAYRE in August is a much needed source of income, regularly netting over £400. The volunteers who have been organising and manning the stand for many years have stated that they will not be available this year, so volunteers are needed to continue the good work.

If no members come forward then the loss of this income will have an adverse affect on future subscriptions. Hopefully this will not happen so we will need donations of items suitable for prizes.

The Social events were a very successful again during the winter evenings and well attended; albeit by the same

members! So for those who haven't tried; come a long and have an enjoyable evening..

The Dominoes evening with a Fish & Chip supper was a resounding success with 40 players. (It was a bit noisy at times though!).

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 19<sup>th</sup> November. We will try to get the price around the £20 mark again which is good value. Last year there were only 50 guests and another 10 would be welcome.

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.

The number of Tuesday volunteers has fallen to around 7 from 12 or more in the past. This drop, coupled with the bad weather means that unless more help is given it is likely that the green and surrounds will not be ready for the beginning of the season. Bearing in mind the fact that Mike will not be carrying on as Green Keeper after this season, it is vitally important that we prepare for 2017 otherwise, come the day, the club will be in trouble.

We have many able-bodied men in the club and it should not be up to a few to shoulder the burden of keeping the club going.

This impinges on the other vacancies that have arisen which were revealed at the AGM and have been advertised on the website and club notice board; namely, the posts of Club Secretary and Match Secretary which I will be relinquishing at the 2016 AGM. For anyone interested I am available at any time to discuss these positions to prepare for the take-over. I must stress that without a Secretary the club cannot function, so it is imperative that someone comes forward.

It would also be very difficult to operate if there is no-one to compile a fixture list so a Match Secretary is also vital.

My thanks again 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](http://www.verwoodbowlingclub.co.uk) continues to improve with a comprehensive array of information for the members, thanks to the sterling efforts of Geoff Symonds.

Thanks to the efforts of Brian Hall, the club has finally received the defibrillator that many of you contributed to. Thanks for those which totalled over £600 and all our thanks to the J.P. Morgan organisation which very generously donated the short-fall of £700. The de-fib. will be placed in a cabinet on the wall inside the club house.

The acquisition comes with a free demonstration which will be arranged possibly for mid-April. It is in the interests of all members that as many as possible attend this demonstration

Enclosed is your 2015 Calendar and Membership Card and Notice of the Special General Meeting and Spring Meeting to be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. All members are entitled to attend these meetings but Associate/Social Members are not able to vote on any proposals.

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