

Verwood Bowling Club

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2014

Welcome to you all.

Another year's gone by in a flash and I think it was a good year for the club, a few hiccups along the way, but that's life!

Obituary:

Sadly I have again to report the recent loss of 2 members. **Gerald Froud** joined in 1993 and passed away in April; and **Albert Barnes**; another long serving member joined the club in 1992 and was a member until 2007 and passed away in April.

A warm welcome to the new members who joined this year, not so many as some years but all good quality.

Captains **John Rodwell** and **Pat Dowling's** day was a great success with perfect weather and all 6 rinks in use. Once again it was ladies versus men although the men had to help the ladies out with a few subs. The men had a good win over the ladies.

Our President **Gill** has had a very good year and her President's fun day match was again well supported with a Yellow and Blue theme for dress above the waist. It was a mixed team round robin format with three rinks normal play and the other three 'variety' play. Top rink honours went to **Brian Hall**, **Gill Thomas** and **Pat Dowling**, with the Red team winning by a good margin over Blue. The match was followed by a Bowler's Tea and raffle which rounded off a very enjoyable afternoon.

Attendance at the monthly Wednesday evening Club Nights and Spoons dropped off for some reason at the end of the season.

Sunday morning play during the summer was popular and will continue during the winter with the Wednesday afternoons as short mat bowls in the clubhouse.

This year the league results favoured the men over the ladies who had reach their pinnacle in 2013 by reaching Div. 'A' in the New Forest league. Unfortunately, the ladies dropped down to Div. 'B', which is quite a common occurrence known only too well by our men who in the past have experienced this phenomenon. Not so this year as we must congratulate **John Rodwell** and **Mike Poulter** and their teams on their excellent results - promotion to Div. 2 and Div. 4 in the New Forrest and joint second in Dorset Div. 2. This was a very good achievement under difficult circumstances.

The competitions were completed on time with some of our newer members gaining honours. We were blessed with perfect weather on the Finals Days both of which were very well attended; very gratifying to both the organiser **Robert Wood** and the contestants.

My compliments to all those who entered the competitions for we would not have a Finals day if you did not.

Our thanks to the ladies who did a superb job in supplying refreshments all day, ably supported by **Gill Thomas** on the barbeque.

Once again **Jan Stern** prevailed in the Ladies Singles Championship, this year against **Gill Farrance**; and won a close match against her usual adversary **Pat Dowling** in a repeat of last years Ladies 2 Woods Singles.

Gill Farrance had her work cut out being in 4 Finals and had her best result in the Open Singles on Sunday against **Bernard Fox** when she fought back from 11 - 0 down to win 21 - 19.

Absolutely brilliant!

Our condolences to **Bernard** who had some consolation in winning the Men's Two Wood Singles trophy.

Peter Coleman repeated last year's performance by putting

up a valiant fight again in the Men's Singles Championship, only to lose this year to **Peter Simpson**. Well done **Peter S.** and condolences **Peter C.** Your time will come!

Congratulations to **Pat Dowling** and **Jan Stern** on winning the NFWBA Diamond Pairs Competition.

Well done, another fine win for the Club.

My thanks to all who supported the Friendly matches particularly against the touring team **Ramsbury & Aldbourne Bowls Club** and our annual fixture with the **Timber Trundlers**.

Rather disappointingly five Friendlies were cancelled due to lack of support by our members. Admittedly two were by mutual consent with our opponents who were also unable to provide a team, and the Sixpenny Handley game was on Fathers Day. Interestingly, the other four were all on Wednesdays and away matches. It may be possible to avoid playing on Wednesdays but we can't expect to play all our matches at home .

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; certainly borne out by my experience of some of our away games.

Thanks also to the Tuesday work party on their maintenance of the building and surrounds and to the green brushing team for their work that, to a large extent, goes un-noticed.

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

Geoff Symonds continues to produce a superb web site for us which contains most of the details of forthcoming social events and other useful information, which is very helpful during the closed season.

The Tombola stand at the **Dustic Fayre** in August was unfortunately a washout - quite literally, with rain all day and very few visitors. Our thanks to the hardy few who withstood the elements all day and despite everything took £91.

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.

The calendar of social events arranged by our Social Committee starts with the Social and dance with an American Supper in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 1st November, the Christmas Dinner on Friday 12th December and a Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 20th December. These will be followed in the New Year with a Beetle Drive, Dominoes and 'Cockney' evenings and St. Georges Day Social.

Dates to be announced.

The Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation on 22nd November has been well subscribed with the practical limit of 66 guests virtually achieved. This should be another good evening.

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.

Once again my thanks 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