

Verwood Bowling Club

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

Hello once again.

Here we are again! Another season of mixed fortunes has passed so quickly it's frightening.

Welcome to the new members this year I hope you enjoyed the bowling and other activities.

2015 was a landmark in our club's history with Robert Wood's being President of the New Forest Bowling Association, an honour that associated clubs have once in 15 years. Consequently during the past season we hosted three NFBA events when we were able to demonstrate our expertise in Public Relations. (Looking after visitors).

The first was Robert's President's day match on 15th July when Verwood men were pitted against Robert's team, then the NFBA Competitions Finals day on 5th September and League Finals on 12th September. All these went without any hitches, with Mike Allington producing a green that was a pleasure to play on and received many plaudits from the competitors. Our ladies did a wonderful job in providing refreshments and lunches all day for the competitors and the many guests. Thank you ladies a truly brilliant effort.

Our President Brian has had a busy time drumming up support for his chosen charity which is for the club to acquire a defibrillator. This acquisition has taken longer than expected as there are many factors to consider in choosing the right model with adequate training and support.

Brian's President's Day match was a colourful event with the theme being white with yellow or blue tops. Everyone enjoyed themselves with the men just edging past the ladies with Geoff Finn, Alan Hawkins and Peter Simpson top rink for men and Rita Atkin, Christine Mills and Gill Thomas for the ladies. John Rodwell had the highest number of touchers. The afternoon was rounded off with a tasty snack provided by Brian.

John and Jane's annual Captain's day match was well supported and played on a pleasant afternoon starting with a 'Spider' won by Jan Wareham. After eighteen ends the men had a close win over the ladies with Jan Wareham, Vanessa Curtis and Steve Cheeseman (making up a ladies shortage) getting the ladies top rink and Brian Herbert, John Mills and Brian Hall the men's. The afternoon was concluded with a spread organised by Betty Emery.

Ladies Captain Jane's Match had fifteen Verwood players and twelve by invitation from Braeside, Fordingbridge, Ringwood and West Moors. The visiting teams were mixed with our home teams which worked well. A 'Spider' preceded the game and was won by Christine Mills. The game was played in the Round Robin format of 3 sets of 5 ends with Audrey Merrington (Ringwood) and Anne Jennings and Gill Thomas getting top rink. The afternoon ended with a cream tea which was a great success.

Jane was pleased to receive £92 donations collected on the day for her charity McMillan Caring Locally.

Once again the attendance at the monthly Wednesday evening Club Nights and Spoons was poor to the extent that organised play may be replaced by roll-ups which don't require any organising. I can not understand this drop in interest.

This year the league results for the men were good and bad, good because we managed to retain our place in the New Forest Div. 2; and bad because we dropped back from Div.4 to Div. 5. However to soften this blow Team Verwood 'A' were a very close second in Bowls Dorset Div 3, narrowly

missing promotion. Our ladies had a very good season gaining promotion in the New Forest Div. B and D. Well done ladies!

We were again blessed with good weather on the Finals Days both of which were very well attended; very gratifying to both the organiser Robert Wood and the contestants.

The competitions were completed on time with some of our newer members gaining honours. In particular, it seems we have another 'Barry Gatley' in our midst in the form of Barry Chick who emulated Barry G. in winning the Men's 2 Wood Singles, the Open Singles and the Men's Championship Singles. Very well done Barry.

In the Ladies Championship Singles final Gill Farrance had a tough opponent in Sue Pearce and after a very close game finally prevailed.

Our thanks to the ladies who did a superb job in providing refreshments all day and a ploughman's lunch was available instead of a barbeque.

I am pleased to say the Friendly matches were well supported this year with a total of 48 players and only the Pelhams match having to be cancelled as Pelhams were unable to provide a team. My thanks to you all.

Our thanks to Mike Allington for once again excelling himself in producing one of the best greens in the county, certainly in my estimation, anyway.

Our thanks must go to the Tuesday work party on their maintenance of the building and surrounds which will continue during the winter; and to the green brushing team for their work that, to a large extent, goes un-noticed.

Gill and Jan have once again produced a wonderful display of flowers which has been much admired by both our members and visitors, and have again been backed by Jim Scutt with his fine hanging basket display. Thank you all.

Geoff Symonds continues to produce a superb web site for us which is still the envy of other clubs. Thanks Geoff.

The Tombola stand at the **Rustic Fayre** in August was blessed with fine weather and made a very useful £340, (equivalent to £5 for each playing member).

This event takes a great deal of time and effort to organise in preparing the raffle tickets and prizes and setting up the stall in the morning and clearing away at the end and manning the stall during the day. So we must thank Alice Bulley, Gill Farrance, Pat & Mike Allington, Peter Coleman and Doug Kirby to name a few of the volunteers who contribute their time.

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 7th November, followed by the Christmas Coffee morning, and Bring & Buy stall on Saturday 5th December and the Christmas Turkey Dinner on Saturday 12th December.

The list for the Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation on 21st November is on the Club Notice Board and has only 42 names at present. The menu is on our website and bookings can be made by email or by phone to me.

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 an important source of revenue for the club.

Once again my thanks to all those members who have contributed to the well being of the club by what-ever means.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM

Geoff Finn