

Verwood Bowling Club

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016

Hello again.

Once again the season has passed all too quickly, and here we are preparing for the winter.

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

Sadly I have to report the loss of the following 3 long serving members:

Doug Kirby joined in 2000 and passed away in May after a long fight against his illness.

Denise Garnsworthy joined in 1998 and passed away in August, and **John Rodwell** who joined in 1991 and was one of our longest serving members and passed away in his sleep recently on Monday 19th September. His funeral will take place on Friday 7th October at 12.00pm at Bournemouth Crematorium, Strouden Avenue.

Our thanks to Past President Brian who has continued to take responsibility for the defibrillator which needs regular inspection and monitoring.

Pat's President's Day match was a great success with 41 players and 12 guests. This was played in a Round Robin format with the team of Ann Coleman and Tricia Mack sharing, supported by Norman Pearce and Peter Coleman, being top rink with an overall aggregate of 27 shots. Well done.

Peter and Jane's annual Captain's day match was unfortunately not played this year but a Men against Ladies game was held during the last week of the season with the men winning a close game 64 to 59.

Ladies Captain Jane's Match was again by invitation and had fifteen Verwood players and fifteen by invitation from Braeside, Cranborne, Downton, Ringwood and West Moors, Regretfully the team from Braeside did not turn up so Geoff Finn and Tricia stood in. The visiting teams were mixed with our home teams which worked well.. The game was played in the Round Robin format of 3 sets of 5 ends with Mary Edge, Cranborne), Helen Webber (Ringwood) and our Betty Emery getting highest shots. The game was rounded off with a cream tea which was a great success.

This year the league results for the men were again good and bad, good because we managed to retain our place in the New Forest Div. 2 which at one time was looking decidedly tenuous. and bad because we supported the other teams in Div. 5. However, to be fair, half way through this division only four teams remained which became (in Dave Hall's words) farcical. The proposal for next year is to have just two rinks instead of four in each team, which could work.

However Team Verwood 'A' were snapping on the heels of the top team Bowls Dorset Div 3 until the last few games and ended up a commendable fourth.

Our ladies had a very good season having achieved promotion in the New Forest last year to Div. A and C retained their positions and were third in the Edna Paisley league.

Well played ladies!

We were again blessed with good weather on the first Finals Day but rain caught Pat and Sue out during their Ladies Championship final on Sunday with Sue ending up the winner.

Pat once again won the Ladies Two Wood trophy (arguably the most taxing and skilful of games), against Vanessa, another new name in the competitions.

Barry Chick did not have it all his own way but still managed to claim the Men's Two Wood trophy; and Men's Championship trophy, by prevailing over John Maskell who did very well as a new bowler.

Well played to you both!

Len Rackham is another new name and Len seems to have a *penchant* for pairs competitions as he won the Men's Pairs with Mike Gerrard and the Mixed Pairs with Pat. The competitions were completed on time and it was more convenient having some competitions on Sunday as it must have helped in planning the matches

Our thanks to the ladies who did a superb job in providing refreshments all day and, a ploughman's lunch during the break.

The only cloud over this event was the disappointing number of supporters to what is generally treated as a high-light of the playing season when some of the best players are demonstrating their skills.

The reduction in the men's playing members by 14 had an impact on the friendlies with only 37 taking part. Fortunately all matches except one were played, but at times it was very tight with no reserves.

My thanks to all those who supported these games.

Our thanks to Mike Allington for once again producing one of the best greens in the county. Mike is giving up the job of Green Keeper once the winter preparations are complete so the club has had to engage the services of Steve Hill, a professional of 30 years experience. This will be a flexible arrangement as he will do whatever work needs to be done that we don't do ourselves. If we do nothing to the green then the cost is likely to be in the region of £7500 pa. However approximately £5500 of this is purely on mowing the green as he costs £40 per hour per visit. We have all the equipment necessary but we need at least 8 men to provide four teams of two to cut the green on a rota basis. So it's over to you! (At present we have 3 teams so are getting close).

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.

This team is now quite depleted numbering at most 8 volunteers. These are not sufficient to cope with the work necessary to maintain the green surrounds and premises. For example, we have identified a number of green support boards that are rotting and need replacing. As pointed out at the member's meeting on 31st August, work does not have to be confined to Tuesday mornings but many jobs can be done at the convenience of the person willing to do them.

Gill has once again produced a wonderful display of flowers and has again been backed up by Jim Scutt with his fine hanging basket display. Thank you both.

Thanks to Geoff Symonds for continuing to produce a superb web site.

Unfortunately because no volunteers came forward to organise and man the Tombola stand at the **Dustic Fayre** in August it was discontinued; thus losing much needed income of around £400, equivalent to £5 on each playing member's subscription.

The first Social event is the Social and Dance with an American Supper in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 29th October, followed by the Christmas Dinner on Saturday 10th December.

The list and menu for the Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation on 19th November is on the Club notice board and our website. This has only 30 names at present which is very disappointing and unless more members attend it could result in cancellation or re-negotiation of the terms, both of which I would like to avoid.

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 Chris Gould for organising these which are an important source of revenue for the club.

This will be my last Newsletter as I am relinquishing the posts of Club and Match Secretary. Regretfully no-one has come forward to take over either job so at the Members Meeting of 31st August a sub-committee of seven members was formed to consider the possibility of spreading the work. This could work but it will still require someone to be elected Club Secretary, for unless this happens the club cannot be affiliated to the County Associations or Bowls England so there will be no league matches.

I sincerely hope someone offers to fill these posts.

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

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM

Geoff Finn