

Verwood Bowling Club

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013

Welcome to you all.

The 2013 season is almost upon us and it is likely to be quite a challenging one.

Obituary:

Sadly I have to report the recent loss of 3 members. Isabel Batten who joined the club in 2011 as a Social member.

Edna Wyatt who joined in 1995 as a playing member until 2006.

and Ron Froud who was a playing member from 1993 until 2006.

A warm welcome to Peter Coleman who has taken over as Club Treasurer from Barry Gatley who will be moving to Suffolk for family commitments.

Welcome also to Mike Gerrard who follows John Rodwell as Club Captain.

During the coming year we will again have to make determined efforts to attract new members.

Last year we were very fortunate to gain 20 new playing members plus 4 transferring from Social membership. Nevertheless, with the loss of 15 through various reasons, we still had a healthy increase of 9.

Unfortunately on renewal, membership has now been depleted by 13 men and 4 ladies reducing the club's playing members to 46 men and 27 ladies.

Apart from the financial aspect this reduction could have an impact on our ability to fulfil our league commitments, particularly the men who have only 29 entered for league play to cover 24 needed for the two teams.

The Club Nights last year were very successful and it has been decided to have every Wednesday night a club night, other than those days when other activities take place either in the afternoon or evening.

The trial of Sunday morning play became a regular event for a few but to encouraged more to participate, organised play such as Spoons is contemplated.

Instructors and helpers will again be need for the Open Days starting on Saturday 27th 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. I will need help with follow-up instruction depending on the number of new members so please bear this in mind.

Our recruitment drive this year will begin with the Farmers Market on Ferrets Green in the village on Saturday 23rd March. A list for volunteers will be on the notice board for this day and also for the next two on 27th April and 25th May. Please help for an hour or so as it is hard going doing a 4 hour stint! We have found that more new members join from contact at the Farmers Markets than through any other form of advertising so please help.

The Green Opens on Saturday 13th April and the Dorset league matches start a week earlier this year with the men's starting on Monday 22nd and the women's Dorset Edna Paisley league on Tuesday 23rd April, unfortunately before the indoor bowling season has ended! The men will be pleased to note from the fixture list that their games only extend until 2nd Sept. although I see no reason why 2 'Rest Days' are built into the schedule.

You will see overleaf that the Spring Meeting will be on Wednesday 20th March. The men's availability chart will be on the notice board and the newer members are encouraged to participate if possible, to gain valuable match play experience.

The Ladies' Spring Meeting will be held in the Clubhouse at 2.30 on Tuesday 19th March.

This year we have one Touring Team fixture, the Bourneville Bowls Club, which is visiting on Tuesday 3rd September. We still have our traditional friendly matches with the local clubs and the Timber Trundlers but have not invited the Dorset Patrons this year. These games are all good fun and quite relaxed affairs and were very well supported last year with most being over subscribed.

The competition entries are slightly up on last year and it is pleasing to note 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 still 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 in the green usage book.

Thanks to all the ladies and those involved in the social activities during the year, for the hard work they put in to making them so worthwhile, their efforts are much appreciated.

Thanks also to Robert Wood for re-furbishing the kitchen by installing a new double oven and hob with a few modifications to the work tops. I am sure the ladies who use the kitchen will appreciate the result of his hard work.

Following the success of the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation at the Crane Valley Golf Club we will be at the same venue this year. The price will not be much different than last year which was very good value.

Congratulations and thanks to Mike Allington for his work on the green which is looking in good shape and is free of disease. Thanks also to the Tuesday work party on their maintenance of the building and surrounds and the structural repairs to the face of the green bank which are still on-going.

My sincere 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.

Thanks to Geoff Symonds we now have our own dedicated website - www.verwoodbowlingclub.co.uk. This has a member's only section under construction with the aim of displaying useful club information such as league & competition result that are regularly updated and also details of future activities. Geoff has done an excellent job on constructing this site which I am sure will be the envy of other clubs.

You will be pleased to learn that the Transfer of the land at the bottom of the green has finally been completed. We are just awaiting the copies of the Land Registry Registration Entries.

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

Geoff Finn.

p.t.o.