



December 2013 Newsletter

Letter from the Chairman:

This newsletter will be shorter than usual as everyone is probably up to their ears preparing for Christmas.

The Bowls Development Steering Group will be holding their first meeting in January following which it is hoped that a number of new initiatives will flow. Already we are seeing the benefits of the focus on bowls development with eleven teams entered for the new Junior/Adult Australian Pairs club competition where it is anticipated the juniors will learn much from playing alongside adults.

The decision has been taken by the Board that juniors playing in representative games for the club will no longer be required to pay any rink fees. Previously they paid half the adult rink fee. This will remove some of the financial burden of representing the club which mainly falls on the shoulders of their parents or grand parents.

Members will soon be able to put their names down for the Bowls Skills Day being held on Sunday 2nd February. This will be strictly limited to 24 members and prizes will be awarded to the man and woman who score most points in the various skills exercises. The club will be running the event this year using both club coaches and an ex international bowler.

At the top end of bowling members have the opportunity to enter the Planet Bowls event being held at the club on the evening of Saturday 15th and all day on Sunday 16th March. Sixty four top bowlers from across the UK will be competing for a top prize of £1000 playing a sets format of bowls. We will need eight markers for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning first session as well as three umpires throughout the event. Please let us know if you are able to help with any of these roles.

The number of members applying to enter the club competitions is slightly up on last year. The Top Club competition has been fully subscribed without the need for any nomads teams to make up the numbers. To be fair to all competitors the play by dates will be rigidly enforced this season so please ensure that you arrange and play your matches by the dates stated.

The club tour is fully subscribed with 54 people travelling to Torquay for the weekend of 10th to 12th January. Thanks to Cedric for his excellent organising skills. The juniors visit to Jersey is scheduled for 14th to 18th February. Fund raising has been progressing at a great pace and congratulations are due to all concerned in raising the massive sum of £3,800 to date.

We will shortly be encouraging members who are not currently playing in a league team but would like to next season to fill in the league book and discuss with us forming new teams or joining existing ones. The more notice we have the better able we will be to ensure as many members as possible that want to are able to play in league teams next season. Please speak to the umbrella coordinators or Angela in the New Year.

Members who attended the club's Christmas Lunch on Friday 13th December enjoyed excellent food with full waitress service. Jason Sparkes provided the musical entertainment and Den Gazzard took on the Gareth Malone role in organising the carol singing. Well done to all concerned.



Looking at the EIBA National Competition Early Rounds it is interesting to note that BIBC members are playing a prominent role as the competitions reach their final regional stage. We wish all competitors well, in particular Reece White with his challenge in the U25 Singles.

Significant time and effort has been undertaken to ensure that the club's heating system works as efficiently as possible. There will always be limitations with the current system which is now becoming outdated and will incur significant replacement costs as it nears the end of its useful life. Costs for installing an alternative system that will provide both winter heating and summer cooling have come down significantly in the last few years. The board of directors are now seriously investigating this alternative system and in the new year will be visiting a club in York where this has recently been installed. We will be seeking funding support and the Sport England Inspired Facilities Grant currently seems the most appropriate. In parallel we are considering the benefits of installing LED lighting and the timing of the bowls carpet replacement. The earliest that we would be able to install the new heating/cooling system would be during a slightly extended summer shutdown in 2015 and will keep members aware of progress as matters develop.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish all club members a very happy Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year.

League Manager Report Eddie Haines

A ladies league team on Monday, for reasons beyond their control, has been disbanded. It has been agreed to remove all points and scores against this team and the schedules will be revamped for January onwards.

Thank you to all team secretaries for updating their team registration forms, the computer records will now be updated.

Weekend Friendly Matches Cedric Gunson

Disappointingly we lost our first match of this season when we travelled down to Donyatt. Otherwise we continued our winning ways with excellent games against Canford, Olveston and Avonmouth.

It's wonderful that these local outdoor clubs can field 6 rinks with lots of players inexperienced in indoor bowling.

We entertain the Somerset Patrons to a 9 rink match on Saturday Jan 4th and then we have a Ladies v Gents game on Sunday January 5th, where we need plenty more Gents to come forward and play.

Torquay Tour.

Team selections etc will be circulated over the Christmas period. We have a final party of 54 travelling.

Fixture Secretary Bill Hatherall

Unfortunately BIBC will no longer be arranging fixtures with Mid Glos. The good news is that Greenbank have taken over one of the vacant dates.

There have been 2 rink bookings for 2015 to date, a match for the Norfolk Tourists in March and a Somerset County versus Berkshire also in March 2015.

Competition Secretary Tony Down

The drawn playing sheets are now displayed on the competition notice board which is next to the lounge drinks machine.

If you have entered a club competition please look at these sheets. If you are involved in a preliminary match it has to be played by January 19th 2014.

Please note that both of the named player(s) will be responsible for contacting the opponent(s) to arrange a date and time, not as before (the one(s) on the top of the draw)

It is unfortunate that there is a shortage of time to play the preliminary rounds because of the Christmas shut down but it is important to play by the 'play by' dates to avoid congestion in the later rounds.

This year the progression of games will be monitored by a member of the Bowls & Social committee and the rules for games not played by the due dates will be dealt with as per club rules covering unplayed games.

Notwithstanding I wish you all well in your respective competitions and look forward to watching you play on Finals Weekend.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Coaching & Juniors report John Langford

The Juniors did well in the School of Excellence day at Taunton Deane and 13 out of the 17 Juniors who entered have gone through to the next round on January 18th 2014 when 32 Juniors from across Somerset will be playing at BIBC. We wish them well.

It is pleasing to report that there is a steady stream of potential new members for coaching and we look forward to them becoming full members in the near future.

New Years Eve Party

We are pleased to say that the numbers for this New Year's Eve celebration are growing each day. Please speak to Angela or Steve if you would like to join in the festivity.

Marketing

In the near future there will be posters available at Reception for advertising BIBC in surgeries, libraries, post offices and other public places in your local community. Please help by distributing these posters as the future of the sport of bowls is dependent on recruiting new members.

The Board and Officers of BIBC wish one and all a very merry Christmas
and good wishes for the coming New Year

