



March 2014 Newsletter

Letter from the Chairman:

What a week for the members of our club who entered the Somerset and National Competitions.

- Congratulations are due to Mike Humphries and Nigel Green for reaching the EIBA National over 60's final stages held at Northampton IBC. They were narrowly beaten by a team that reached the finals.
- Ros Constant and Sue Osborne played extremely well to reach the EIBA Ladies over 60 Pairs National Semi finals in which they led for most of the match until a fluke shot saw them lose to the eventual winners of the event.
- Ros then competed in the Ladies over 60 finals where she played magnificently to reach the finals before losing to last years winner, a full England international player.

At a more local level in the Somerset County competitions played on 29th April

- Reece White lost by the narrowest of margins playing in the Somerset under 25 final
- Nigel Green, Pete Micciche, Barry Barry and Paul Bryant reached the mens fours final losing to a team from Watchet
- Barry Barry, Eric Seavill and Paul Bryant won the Mens Triples Final.

Congratulations to all of them for reaching the finals and being great ambassadors for BIBC.

Normally this time of the season is when the club activities begin to reduce and minds wander to the coming summer bowls season. This year there is still an enormous amount of activity going on both within the club and behind the scenes to prepare for the club's future.

One event, just recently booked, is our first ever British Wheelchair Bowling Association event over the weekend of 31st May/1st June. Six rinks will be in play morning and afternoon on both days. We hope that members will come along to support the event as well as help with marking and pushing the wheelchairs after each end. This new event will hopefully demonstrate the strength of members support for wheelchair bowlers who equally enjoy the sport of bowls.

One of the most interesting activities during the month was the visit by members of the junior bowls development team to meet clubs in South Wales who have been implementing a very successful junior recruiting and development policy. We initially thought we were going to meet a couple of people at Rhondda IBC but eight turned up to provide us with comprehensive information on the successful junior schools coaching scheme they have followed. We are still absorbing the information and will provide members with updates as the club's policy unfolds.

The coaching unification meeting to determine a BIBC novice coaching approach, combining the best of the SCIBA and BDA coach training, was well attended. A working party comprising two Somerset trained coaches and two BDA trained coaches was set up to review the different coaching approaches and develop the unified approach to be followed at our club. Interestingly the difference between the two coaching approaches are minimal and the working group has quickly reached the stage where all the

principles have been agreed. Feedback will be given to a full coaches, mentors and helpers meeting on Saturday 12th April before the documentation is finalised.

This working party has also discussed the importance of post novice coaching which has led to the decision to introduce “improver” coaching modules to help every bowler develop their bowling ability. This will include skills such as drawing to displaced jacks, variable mat positions, using a variety of weighted woods, reading the head etc. More details will be advised in due course once the various modules have been developed in time for the next winter season.

The second meeting of the Bowls Development Steering Group agreed that we should introduce a number of new initiatives at the club including a new singles league, an adult/junior australian pairs league, a junior schools programme and supported the principle of introducing the proposed improver coaching modules. Finding rink space will become increasingly challenging to fit in these initiatives together with the junior schools programme - what a turnaround from the situation a few years ago when we were concerned that the rinks were not being sufficiently utilised.

The club Gala Day on 9th March saw 16 mixed teams playing against each other for the three prizes. Thanks to Cedric Gunson for his excellent organisation and congratulations to all who participated and particularly the winning team of Maureen Gosling, Cedric Gunson, Roger Hill and Shirley Parker.

The first ever Planet Bowls event held at the club on Sunday 16th March was very successful with the club showing how well it can host such a major event. The pre planning was very important and some flexibility was needed during the day to deal with unforeseen events that were all dealt with extremely efficiently. Congratulations to our club members who bowled, many of whom won their first round matches.

Particular congratulations are due to Paul Bryant who reached the semi final stage. Many thanks to everyone who helped before and on the day to make the event so successful.

The “Volunteer Thank You Evening” on Saturday 22nd March was extremely well attended with entertainment provided by Clevedon Brass who provided their distinct style of easy listening music. This event is one of the most important in the clubs calendar providing the opportunity to thank the volunteers who give so much time to support the club and without whose help the warm friendly club atmosphere would not exist.

Thanks to the entrants into this years club competitions. The play by dates have been met which means that the backlog from previous years and the major problems of last minute scheduling of the finals matches has been eliminated this year. We look forward to members support over the Finals Weekend 12th/13th April when 18 finals will be played.

For those with catch up league matches still to be played may I request that these are played within the next couple of weeks. Thanks to those teams that have already been working hard to play their catch up matches.

Leagues We are pleased that some new teams have entered the summer leagues.

If individual members or teams want to play in the 2014/15 winter leagues please contact Angela who will help to form teams and record new team entries.

There are proposals for two new leagues next season. Full details will be shown on a notice board in the lounge where people are invited to record their interest in playing.

The success of the adult/junior australian pairs club competition has led to the formation of an adult/junior australian pairs league for next season. This will be played in the 16.10 to 18.15 period alongside the adult league that operates on four rinks at that time. We have 10 competent juniors willing

to play and are seeking 10 adults to play together with a couple of pool player reserves. Team selection will be pairing the weakest junior with the strongest adult to create as even a league as possible. This will significantly help the juniors to develop their bowling ability and it is hoped that some adults will step forward to help the formation of this league.

The adult/junior Australian pairs league is part of bowls development as will be the formation of a new style of singles league for the 2014/15 season. We hope to secure at least 18 entries for this league that can either be played on a set time each week, or for those unable to make that time there will be flexibility to rearrange their matches at other times before a set date. The league will have fixed jacks on the tee position with variable mat positions. The jack will be replaced on the tee if it is moved during play. No markers will be used. Visits to the head will be allowed after the third end has been played. The league will operate using a box and ladder system whereby each bowler in a box will, within a defined period, play every other bowler in that box. At the end of the set period the top two bowlers will move up to the box above and the lowest two bowlers will drop down to the box below. In this way over a period of time bowlers will find themselves playing against a variety of players but generally of a similar standard. The league winner will be the person at the top of the top box at the end of the season.

For example if there are six bowlers in each box they will play the others in their box over a five week period. At the end of the five weeks all matches must have been played and the top two in the box will move into the box above and the bottom two will move down a box. The process then repeats for the next five weeks etc.

We do hope that bowlers will join this league which is the ideal way to improve bowling ability.

Competition Secretary Tony Down

Thank you all for completing your games so promptly as it has enabled me to more or less complete the playing order for Finals Weekend without having to burn the midnight oil two or less days before the finals as I have had to do in previous years.

Thanks not only go to you, the players, but also thanks in a big way to Angela Green and Terry Barnes who have been outstanding in their efforts to ensure games were played on (or as near as possible to the dates set.) Hopefully their input will not need to be as great next year.

I will endeavour to put the sheets on the competition board as early as I can so that all finalists will be able to note their playing day and time for their games on Finals Weekend.

There will also be a copy on the website but if you would like a copy e-mailed to you my e-mail address is toni.down@virgin.net and I will happily send you a copy.

I need eight markers for Singles matches over Finals Weekend and for an Umpire to be available on either one or both days so if you are prepared to help please advise Angela Green, Club Coordinator.

I wish all finalists the best of luck in their matches and look forward to seeing all finalists at the awards presentation evening at 19:00 Friday 25th April.

Indoor Friendly Matches Cedric Gunson

2013/2014 REPORT

Thanks must go out to all those who took part in these most enjoyable friendly fixtures during this winter season. We had several new members participating.

We won 19 of the 30 fixtures fulfilled, with 1 drawn match – the last match of the season. It was pleasing to note that we had 3 9 rink matches.

The Ladies v Gents match ended in a triumph for the Ladies.

Regrettably 4 Home fixtures against Clubs located a distance away from Bristol were cancelled due to the lack of away Club Members willing to travel to Bristol.

The Torquay tour in January was an unqualified success with 8 matches played, of which we won 6. A repeat tour has been arranged for next season – Friday 9th / Sunday 11th 2015.

Gala Day on March 9th was played with 16 teams participating. Saturday February 14th 2015 is earmarked for next season.

All results are published on our website.

Ladies Captain Verna Alford

The results of the friendly matches against Minehead were a draw at home and a loss away.

The Somerset Ladies Presidents Cup competition saw a win for BIBC in the round against Purnell by 2 shots. The final of the competition was against Clarrie Dunbar the result being a win on this occasion for BIBC by 4 shots. Well done ladies.



Ros Constant and Sue Osborne
Semi Finalists in EIBA Ladies o60s pairs

Dates for your diary

12th & 13th April Finals Weekend

Friday 25th April Presentation Evening

31st May & 1st June British Wheelchair Bowls Association Event

For more club information, competitions, league and match results visit BIBC website:

<http://www.bristolindoorbowls.org.uk/>

For national competition information visit: <http://www.eiba.co.uk/>

For photographs visit :<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bristolindoorbowls/>