



August 2014 Newsletter

Letter from the Chairman:

This year provided two different experiences to our normal AGM's.

Firstly the Bowls Development Alliance have recognised the club's excellent level of volunteer support and bowls recruitment activity. Jamie Chestney, a BDA Development Officer, who was skip of the English Mens Fours silver medal winning team at the recent Commonwealth Games, attended the first part of the meeting. He made a very warm speech explaining the BDA's appreciation of the commitment made by our club to encourage more people into the sport of bowls. The BDA recognise the enormous commitment by the large number of volunteers who freely give their time to create such a successful club. A photograph of the award is shown in this newsletter.

Secondly using the projector, all present were able to view the BBC iplayer replay of the end of the bowls match showing Paul Brown playing the decisive winning shot to secure the bronze medal for England in the B6,B7,B8 bowls event at the Commonwealth Games. Paul presented a fascinating recollection of his memories of the Commonwealth Games. He explained that nothing could have prepared him for the enormous volume of applause when he entered the stadium as part of the England Team for the opening ceremony. He found himself rubbing shoulders in the commonwealth games village with famous athletes from across the world, and explained the emotions associated with playing in the bowls events.

It was Mike Humphries turn to follow Paul's excellent speech which may explain why the AGM's section on finance was relatively quick with no questions from the floor. This was probably due to the extremely comprehensive Highlights Memorandum which showed the financial history and plans very clearly.

In my introduction I reminded members that the board with only five directors is stretched to cover the workload and additional directors are needed particularly in the areas of marketing, bowls and business development. The role of Head of Mens Selectors also needs to be filled early in the new season. The sections on property development, bowls development and marketing utilised the visual aid support of the projector. The detailed contents of those presentations are shown later in this newsletter. The AGM item that raised most comments from the floor was encouraging compliance with the laws of bowls, where three areas most commonly transgressed were discussed at some length. The penalty for failure to comply with the laws of bowls in county or national competitions can result in the bowlers wood being removed from the head by the umpire. If we do not set a good example to our developing bowlers they could develop bad habits and find themselves exposed to the umpire's wrath.

Coaching opportunities will also increase next season with a planned series of intermediate level coaching modules with a prize for the person who scores highest overall in the various bowling challenges that will accompany each session. These modules will start later in the season using the currently vacant Friday 14.10 - 16.15 session time. The club also anticipates arranging coaching visits by top professional bowlers.

A BDA level 2 coaching course, which will also include a bridging course for existing EBCS or SBCS level 2 coaches, has been offered to all club coaches or those at local outdoor clubs. The numbers interested in attending is increasing and hopefully we will have enough interest to be able to run this course at the club coming season. The BDA level 2 course is equivalent to the EBCS level 3 which will enable those who qualify to be competent to coach to a high level which fits in with the club's aspiration to enable club members to achieve the highest standard of bowling that they are capable of, and wish to achieve. The new season starts on Monday 15th September and Eddie Haines advises that the league rotas should be issued week commencing 18th August. We hope that not too many subsequent changes are needed to the rotas and any are caused by additional late entries and not last minute withdrawals. If league team

secretaries experience problems finding enough players please contact Angela who will work with you to try to find players to keep as many league teams as possible running.

May I make a request for more entries for the new singles leagues. This is the opportunity to really improve your bowling ability and the ladder box system will enable you to play against people of equivalent ability so providing good games for all.

Encouraging new members to join the club is something that is vital for the club's future. Members are encouraged to use the leaflets produced by Wendy to promote the club at local shops, surgeries etc. An Open Day on Sunday 14th September and Bring a Friend Open Day on Sunday October 19th are being advertised in local papers. We hope that members will encourage family, friends and bowlers at their outdoor clubs to come along and enjoy the bowling experience at our club.

I hope that those members who are bowling outdoors enjoy a successful conclusion to the outdoor season and that those bowling indoors are now fine tuned for the new season.

I look forward to seeing you at the club in September.

Lewis D Toman



Lewis receiving a BDA Volunteer Award from Jamie Chestney, BDA Development Officer



Paul Brown, a BIBC member, talking of his amazing experience skipping the triples B6/B7/ B8 para bronze medal team at the Commonwealth Games

Property - Ian Anderson

Ian explained the major property proposals for the club which, subject to a successful Sport England Grant application and continuation of the current level of volunteer support, will see the bowls area walls lined and new LED lighting installed during the 2015 summer shutdown and a significantly improved heating and cooling system installed in an extended 2018 summer shutdown. This would be followed by the bowls carpet and underlay replacement and a new external store in 2019.

The club normally recovers VAT on all purchases but, due to the club's VAT position, during the years these major works are undertaken no VAT will be recoverable. This adds £86,000 to the amount of money needed to pay for these major capital works.

Bowls Development - Lewis Toman

Lewis explained the bowls development progress made during the previous year which included the establishment of the junior (Nigel Green), under 25 (Eric Seavill) and senior (Terry Branes) bowls development groups each with a leader (shown in brackets) and an experienced support team met as part of the bowls development Steering Group to agree future policy. Initiatives planned for the next indoor season include:

- Significant increase in the number of juniors.
- More competent juniors playing in adults leagues.
- Additional junior and under 25 entries into county and national competitions.
- New adult/junior Australian pairs league.
- New singles league(s) using a box ladder league format with promotion up and down when each set of box matches have been played.
- New coaching modules for intermediate bowlers.
- Coaching visits by international bowlers.
- A BDA level 2 and bridging course to provide coaching qualification equivalent to EBCS level 3.
- Efforts to set up a county ladies or mixed league.
- Reinforcement of the laws of bowls and bowls etiquette.

It is hoped these initiatives will provide additional opportunities for those bowlers wishing to improve their bowling ability. The support of many coaches, helpers and mentors will be required to make this happen together with the participation of club members.

Club Rules - Lewis Toman

It was explained that the club rule requiring all players to have paid their subscription before playing in league teams will be changed to allow a leeway until September 30th. After that date any player in a league team who has not paid their subscription will cause their team to forfeit the match.

An additional rule will be introduced preventing any team from signing on new players after January 31st in any year, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Laws of Bowls & Etiquette - Lewis Toman

Lewis explained that one benefit from the bowls development policy was the realisation that whilst new bowlers are provided with coaching their introduction to the laws of bowls and etiquette is very patchy. He explained that we do not want to put new bowlers off by ramming etiquette down their throats from day 1, but for them to enjoy the game it is important that they become aware at a relatively early stage how it should be played. Additional sections are being added to the Members Booklet to cover these areas and new bowlers in particular should take a copy from reception to read at their leisure.

The AGM unanimously agreed a policy for the coming season of encouragement for compliance with the Laws of Bowls. Three main areas to be focussed on initially are shown below:

The first is possession of the head

Bowlers need to be aware that once their bowl has come to rest possession of the mat and the head transfers to their opponents and communications between skip and bowler must cease until that bowler regains possession of the mat after their opponents wood has come to rest.

The second is interference with bowlers on adjacent rinks

Players must not interfere with bowlers on adjacent rinks. Bowlers sometimes wander across adjacent rinks when watching their wood travel up the green and when changing ends do not keep to the centre of their rink and wander along on the edge of an adjacent rink.

The third is bowlers position after playing a wood

The law requires that by the time your wood comes to rest you must be either through the head or standing behind the mat. The majority of own games are timed with no visits allowed to the head so that means the bowler must be behind the mat by the time their wood comes to rest. There are many instances where considerable time is being wasted because a bowler is five yards up the green watching their bowl come to rest and their opponent cannot then bowl until that bowler retires behind the mat.

It was agreed that a "Law of the Month" will be posted on the notice board to remind everyone of the laws of bowls to encourage greater compliance.

Marketing - Wendy Toman

Wendy explained the club's marketing approach and encouraged all members to take away copies of the leaflet to be used in their home locality to make more people aware of the existence of the club and the free coaching and warm welcome they can expect.

There is an Open Day between 10.00 and 16.00 on Sunday 14th September and a Bring a Friend Open Day on Sunday 19th October. Wendy asked all members of outdoor clubs to encourage their club members to come along for a taster session on 14th September and to “Bring a Friend” on 19th October.

Advisory Team Report - Terry Barnes

Terry explained that the advisory team found that their role was temporarily redundant due to the excellent manner in which the club was being run.

General Reminders for the beginning of the 2014/2015 Bowls Season

Weekend Friendly Matches – Cedric Gunson

Any member is welcome to play in these matches whether you are new to the game or an experienced player. The availability sheets are on the board by the Ladies Changing Room. Add your name to any, a selection of or all of the sheets to play in a match. When the teams are decided please tick your name to indicate that you know that you are playing. A list of the matches during the season can also be found in the Year Book.

Leagues

Leagues start on Monday 15th September.

Eddie Haines is busy at present producing a schedule for each league which will be mailed/posted to the team secretary. He is also sending out Player Registration sheets for recording the members of each team. Please help Eddie's workload by adding the players Club ID. Thank you to those team secretaries who have already returned their Player Registration sheet/s.

Please note that the **Sunday Evening League** this coming season is an open league, men and women in any combination of four players may play in a team.

League/ Pool Player Yellow File at Reception

This folder is to help Team Secretaries who are looking for players for their League Team, for members who would like to play in a league team and for pool players. Pool players may not have the time commitment to play for a team but are willing to play if called upon. However, they must not be registered for any team in the league they are asked to play in.

To use this file please look for the appropriate sheet and fill in the requested details.

200 Club

The 200 club is a way of raising funds for the club. Geoff Arnold will be coordinating it again this season. If you would like to enter the monthly prize draw for £12 for the year please ask at reception or speak to Angela.

Lockers

If you have a locker please make sure that it is paid for at the beginning of the season. If no payment is recorded it will be assumed that you no longer require the locker and it will be made available for another member.

If you do not have a locker and would like one please leave a message at reception. Each request is dated and recorded in the “Locker Book” and dealt with as and when lockers become available.

The Year Book and Member's Booklet

These books are currently being edited and printed. The Year Book provides background to club events and bowling for the coming season. The Member's Booklet gives more detailed information about the club and its operation. Please take a copy of each from Reception at the beginning of the season for your personal use.

And for your diaries:

Sunday 14th September Prospective Members Open Day 10am to 4pm. An Open Day when everyone is welcome to attend.

Sunday 12th October BIBC Bowls Drive – a fun way to settle into indoor bowls from summer outdoors.
Sunday 19th October Bring a Friend Open Day 10am to 4pm. A chance to encourage all those friends and neighbours who would like to visit Bristol Indoor Bowls, view the facilities, play on the rinks and discover BIBC for themselves.

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/>