



August 2016 Newsletter

Letter from the Chairman:

The August Newsletter is being sent out slightly earlier than normal due to holiday arrangements and the need for members who wish to view a televised bowls event being held at the club to register their interest.

Our club is one of three selected in England to host live terrestrial televised bowls. In our case this will be a Test Match between England and Wales on Thursday/Friday October 6th/7th. Play will be from 10.00 a.m. until 5.30 p.m. each day and forty tickets are available for club members who wish to watch. The proposal is that we will divide each day into two sessions 10.00 - 2.00 and 2.00 - 5.30 and all club members who wish to watch can register their interest, and for which sessions, with Angela Green. A draw will then be held and the winners will be able to collect their tickets from October 1st.

This is exactly what the sport of bowls needs and it is important that we fill the seats to ensure that the television coverage shows full spectator stands. We are told that the television cameras etc. will obscure viewing from the lounge area so if you want to watch then securing a ticket is necessary. We will be allocated other tickets which will be available for sale at £5 each for a complete day from October 1st.

The event is being sponsored by Coop Funeralcare without whose financial backing these events could not proceed. They are also organising a singles tournament at the club on Saturday 3rd September from which the winner will be eligible to enter a further tournament with that winner then playing in the Scottish Open alongside all of the bowling top names. This event is aimed at fund raising for their nominated charity, the British Red Cross, and hopefully club members will support this event, where entry is free.

Whilst on your first visit to the club after the summer you will see the new external disabled access ramp you will probably not be aware that insulation has been laid above all of the suspended ceilings and all the ductwork has been lagged. A fresh air supply has now been installed to provide fresh air through the above ceiling ductwork system in the bowls area. This has certainly helped to keep the inside temperature cooler during the summer season, although even this was challenged on the one day that the outside temperature reached 35 degrees.

A significant amount of marketing activity continues throughout the summer with visits to schools, fetes and the Bristol Harbourside Festival where this year 620 people tried bowls. Not all of these will become bowlers in the short term but a number are now being contacted to come along to the club Open Day on Sunday 11th September. It is hoped that many members will also bring along potential new members on this day as well as to help with coaching and in quiet times to enjoy a roll up. Hopefully you will also see in your local free papers adverts for the club and there are fliers at the club which members are encouraged to distribute in their locality. One thing we know for sure is that we can never do enough advertising and word of mouth is always the best way to encourage people to take up bowls.

One innovation at the club will be the planned introduction of a card machine for the payment of annual subscriptions and function costs. Whilst it will cost the club money on each transaction it has been decided that the time is right for the club to take this forward step. A £15 lower limit is being placed on card transactions and it is anticipated that normal rink fees, bar and catering purchases will still be undertaken using cash.

The AGM provides the opportunity to explain in person what has happened in the previous year and what is planned for the future. Many people will pass the committee room seeing people engaged in meetings at which decisions are being made about the future direction of the club. Those of you who read Bowls International will shortly see a feature on our club. The article writer's view was that the manner in which our club works is exemplary. Whilst this is an enormous compliment we recognise that there will always be more to be done with recruitment and retention of members being the most important aspect.

The AGM papers explained that no major works are planned for next summer as we save up funds. It is hoped that the much needed external store together with an internal walkway ramp for wheelchair bowlers access to the bowls area will be provided in the 2018 summer, with a replacement bowls carpet in 2019.

The free Year Book is now available for members to collect at reception. This year we have included a page on etiquette which I would ask all members to read whether they are new or seasoned members. There are some rule changes which were explained at the AGM, with perhaps the most important preventing any walkovers after the first round in club competitions. A further rule change endeavours to stop the major backlogs of matches that developed in certain leagues last season.

The Members Booklet has also been updated and if any members do not have a copy they can be obtained free at reception

As a club we are proud to be fully inclusive. We have been approached to provide the opportunity for people with learning difficulties to hold sessions in the committee room followed by one hour bowling. This will probably start in October and will provide these people with the opportunity to participate in sport - something which they have probably been deprived of in the past. We hope that this will be successful and that our members will understand the background to this new initiative. The same organiser is also planning to assist the club to develop our schools coaching programme, which could lead to a substantial increase in junior members in due course.

The showerproof club jackets are selling well but once those in stock need replacing the price will need to increase from the currently subsidised price up to £25. We are endeavouring to secure waistcoats in a similar material as a number of members have requested these.

I hope to see many of you at the Open Day and that you all enjoy the coming indoor season.

L.D.Toman

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 3rd September British Red Cross/Coop Funeralcare Singles Competition. Spectators are welcome, entry is free.
- Sunday 11th September Open Day
- Monday 12th September Leagues start
- Thurs 6th and Fri 7th October EIBA Televised Test Match between England v Scotland. Club members can enter the draw for free tickets. The cost of tickets for non members is £5.00
- Sunday 9th October the Bowls Drive

For more club information: <http://www.bristolindoorbowls.org.uk/>

Follow up national competition information on the EIBA web site: <http://www.eiba.co.uk/>

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

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