



December 2016 Newsletter

Letter from the Chairman:

The highlight of last month for me was the news that one of our lady members, Ros Constant, has been selected to be part of the England ladies team squad playing in the British Isles Tournament between England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales in Belfast in March 2017. To achieve that recognition is an honour most of us can only dream about and I am sure I speak on behalf of all club members in congratulating Ros on this tremendous achievement.



At club level, nearly all of the club competitions have the minimum number of 8 entries to enable them to be viable this year. The top club competition has 14 entries and the first round is being played in early January. The rest of the competitions playing schedules will be placed on the competition notice board shortly.

At the most recent Bowls & Social Committee Meeting it became evident that many of the club representative teams are struggling to find enough players. I know from personal experience that I was initially reluctant to put my name down on the availability lists, feeling that I was not yet good enough to play. Eventually somebody encouraged me to put my name down and I then realised what a wonderful opportunity it was to play for my club and the other team members were extremely supportive and encouraging. There is a danger that without enough names we will be forced to cancel some fixtures which the opposition will then be reluctant to arrange against us in future years. The men's Somerset league, the ladies' friendly matches and the mixed friendly matches are all looking for additional players so please do put your names down to play in these very enjoyable events.

There may be some misunderstanding regarding the rules for league matches which state that no player can play for a team if they are already registered to play in another team in that same league. If a team turns up one short they are able to play with three players in a fours match and two players in a triples match with their team score reduced by 25% or 33% respectively. It is not permissible for any team to refuse to play against a team that is one short player short. If any team is aware in advance that they are going to be a player short it may be preferable to obtain a 'pool player' or to postpone the match until a later date. It is important that the club operates in a fair manner with all players respecting the accepted rules and protocols.

You will see that we have now changed the toilet flush systems and will shortly be installing more powerful hand dryers in the ladies' toilets. We have installed a suggestion/feedback box at reception and have already received one excellent idea regarding improving access to the rink walkway, which the board are seriously considering. Please put your suggestions in the box so that everybody can contribute to the club's forward momentum.

I cannot write this letter without referring to the club Christmas lunch which was generally considered to be the best one held at the club. The next major club social event will be the Volunteers Evening in late January to which all volunteers will be personally invited to thank them for their efforts supporting the club.

I close by wishing all members a very healthy and successful bowling 2017.

L.D.Toman

Membership Check

The physical membership check is the third check that the club operates to identify where members have not paid their membership but are bowling at the club, and to ensure that our database is up to date. Normally we discover a limited number of discrepancies and resolve these during the initial couple of checks so it was a surprise to find during the physical check a couple of members had slipped through the earlier checks.

The club rules are very clear about non-payment of subscriptions stating that any league team playing with members who have not paid their subs will forfeit hard earned points. As stated above it is important that the club operates in a fair manner with all players respecting the accepted rules and protocols and I am sure everyone would agree that there is little point in having rules if they are not applied. Further random checks will be carried out during the balance of the season.

Coaching

Improver Coaching is held each Friday afternoon at 2.10 p.m. and is available for all club members. The sessions cover different aspects of bowls with the opportunity to practice exercises and develop the skills to improve bowling ability.

For those who have undertaken the introductory coaching and become club members, the improver coaching is an excellent follow on. More information from Angela or Terry Baker.

Mixed Friendly Matches - Cedric Gunson

May you all have a wonderful FESTIVE SEASON and enjoy your bowling in 2017.

You will note that I'm short of players for the busy period at the beginning of January! For those who have never played in a mixed friendly match now is your opportunity.

Gala Day Saturday January 14th 2017

I am also short of teams for GALA DAY on Saturday January 14th 2017, two ladies and two gents in a team. Enjoy friendly competition with excellent refreshments and cash prizes for the winners. Make up a name for your team and contact me.

Cheers, Cedric.

Torquay Tour 20th/23rd January 2017

Full information will be circulated in the New Year.

Christmas Raffle

Many thanks for all the donations for the Christmas raffle, which with Cedric's excellent organisation was a huge success and was very well supported with members making a useful contribution to club funds.

Ladies Friendly Matches - Verna Alford/Lorraine Paget

The home match against Bromsgrove was cancelled by them whereas the away match against Malvern was cancelled by us due to lack of ladies putting their names down to play.

The next ladies friendly match is against Newport on 18th January and is at risk of cancellation as to date only 7 BIBC ladies have registered interest in playing. We are looking for more ladies to sign up to play in this fixture including new members and those new to bowling.

Ladies Competitive Matches – Sue Osborne

After some very good, close matches BIBC are now out of the Yetton Plate Trophy losing to Thornbury 59 to 63 shots and The Mason Trophy, losing to Clarrie Dunbar 29 to 34 shots.

Many thanks to the ladies who played in these competitions and we look forward to improving our performance next year.

Men's Representative Matches - Bob Johnson

The men's Wessex league team are still on course for the play off stages having to date only lost one league match.

The men's Somerset league team are also doing reasonably well. This league is an ideal opportunity for players, wishing to experience more challenging bowling, to put their names down and represent the club. It is an ideal way to improve your bowling and from observation there are many men who would enjoy and benefit from playing in this league, once they put their names down for selection.

More details of up to date results are shown on the relevant websites.

For all other information relating to BIBC members progress in National Competitions check on the EIBA website.

Leagues – Steve Neal

The system recording all players registered to play in each league team is now up to date. An issue of people playing for different teams in the same league has been noted and league points will be deducted from teams that fail to comply with club rules on this matter. It is proposed the rules on postponed leagues matches will be changed next year requiring all postponed matches to be played within eight weeks. This will enable better checks to be kept on playing postponed matches which is an important part of keeping league results up to date.

BIBC Competitions – Tony Down

Nearly all of the club competitions will run this year as, after a little encouragement, the minimum number of eight entries per competition has been achieved. The playing sheets will shortly be posted on the competition board and players are requested to comply with the play by dates.

Club Lockers

As you will have noticed in the changing rooms significant work has been in progress to update records on annual locker rental.

Now that sufficient time has passed for members to notify the club where messages have been left on their lockers requesting that they contact reception, these lockers will shortly be emptied of their contents enabling other members to request use of these lockers. Needless to say, the contents will be safely stored until contact is made with the owners.

Steve's New Year Party

Entry is ticket only. For last minute tickets please contact Steve Metcalf.

And finally, a couple of photos of the festive season: Somerset Ladies dressed festively for the match v Newport and other members played their part on Christmas Jumper Day 2016.



Dates for your diary:

24th December to 2nd January inclusive BIBC closed

31st December Steve's New Year Party for members and friends

14th January 2017 Gala Day

20th – 23rd Club Tour to Torquay

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>

Facebook: Bristol Indoor Bowls Club

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