



Connaught Bowls Club

Newsletter

April 2004

Headlines

Front Page
**Free Bowls
for a week**
See
Chairman's
Comments

Page Two
**Treasurer
confident
about
finances
&
comments
on
need for
Membership
Growth**

Page Three
**Fixture
Secretary
report.
Second bite
of the cherry
for
Singles
Competitions**

Chairman Keith Banks' Comments

Free Bowls Yes it's true, our Treasurer suggested it (he wasn't feeling well at the time). But all joking apart, you will see from his financial report that it's feasible. So from Saturday 24th April, at 2:30pm when the green opens until Friday 30th April inclusive there will be no charges during that period, for club arranged practice matches or for roll ups

Green Ranger:

On the subject of the green **Denny**, asks that at all times of the season when the surface is Tender or Wet, we use the mats. Speak to **Denny** on the 24th April, if you are unsure about "The Mats"; he will give a demonstration if necessary.

Working Parties:

Remember the weekly working parties on Wednesday mornings when, especially in the summer, **Denny Gardiner** needs help on all sorts of routine maintenance. And the rumour is true that the Bar Manager supplies his personal brandy to spice up the coffee

Treasurer

Our Treasurer reports: membership numbers are on the up, recently being swelled by the influx of seven new playing members, all with previous bowling experience, and two social members.

A warm welcome to: **Alan Marshall, Gary Goode, Alison Rush, Ann and Paddy Castle, Christine and Jim Ross,**

There are opportunities to play League and social bowls, and we look forward to seeing you at the club, together with >>>

NEWS FLASH!!

Our Short Mat "A" Team

needing 6 points from their last match to win the **Breckland League** scored 8 points on Sunday 28th March, Well done **Mike & the "A" team squad.**

social members **Iris & Peter Rouse**, who we hope will enjoy watching bowls, or sun bathing, and partaking of the odd glass of water, wine or whisky!

Short Mat:

I've talked about the coming season, but we must not forget the Short Mat season, which is about to close.

Congratulations to: Andrew Stratton for winning the Norfolk Singles Championship (Played in front of television cameras, **Andrew's final should be on Channel Four later in the year: watch out for a series on Minority Sport**), and to all our players in the Norfolk County and Over Sixties' Teams.

In conclusion a massive thank you to **Dennis Reeder** who is relinquishing his post of Short Mat Secretary after ten years, together with his Competition Secretary post for most of that time (Short Mat & Outdoors), Well done **Dennis**, you have served this Club in a Calm and dignified Manner

General Note:

One last thank you to **Bill Adcock**, who is working quietly behind the scenes helping the Competition Secretary, and who has printed this newsletter at very short notice. And who will ever forget the Wedding Photographs on Quiz Night? We all hope to see more of you and **Diana** during the summer months





Finance

Financially, the Club is in reasonable shape and at end March our cash assets, (in hand and at bank) total some £11,200. Since 1 October, Mat Fees have remained at a healthy level and membership has risen to 120 (111 playing members and 9 social members). The collection of subscriptions in January went very smoothly – thank you to everybody. The new Entertainments Committee has boosted the social side, which in turn has helped Bar turnover and general fundraising (for example, the quiz in February made £142). The Bar continues to transfer £250 per month to the main club account

Editors: Question

Are all Treasurers born with a hand shaped ready to receive?

Expenses continue to rise, however. As a result of the on-going claim, our insurance premium has risen by £400 to over £1,500; gas payments will increase in April from £25 per month to £43 per month. It is vital that we secure CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) status and the resultant 80% rates relief; our application to the Inland Revenue was made in time following the EGM on 13 March.

All in all, we remain confident about our finances and are continuing a policy of investment in improved facilities. Accordingly, another large portakabin, costing £1,750, will arrive on 7 April, to sit alongside the existing one at the entrance to the Club. This will greatly enhance our changing facilities. The portakabin by the station will be used in future for storage only

We are grateful to the Ladies Section for offering to fund the purchase of four new large tables, at a cost of some £320, for use inside the Clubhouse.

Double-glazing, for conservatory and for other windows, remains high on the agenda but we must try to get some grant aid. Awards for All is no longer a possibility and we are looking at grants for energy efficiency schemes

The financial year has been dominated by the aftermath of the burst water pipe and major damage suffered on 21 October. So far, the Club has received some £1,540 from our insurers (we insure the contents), from interim payments, after we bore the first £250 under the excess provisions; most of this relates to the new short mats, which cost £1,200. Additionally, the insurance company engaged ChemDry to clean and fire retard the lounge/bar carpet. The outstanding item is redecoration. We cannot start this until Attleborough Town Council, the owners of the structure, conduct dampness etc tests and authorise the necessary repair work, e.g. replastering, under their insurance arrangements for the building. Regrettably, the Town Council is not moving as quickly as we would wish (to put it mildly) and we are likely now to miss a target date of week commencing 19 April for repair/redecoration. This is the 'between seasons' week and would have caused minimum disruption.

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

The Club needs to grow as Attleborough itself is growing and to be more active in its recruitment policy. We advertise in the Attleborough Town Guide and we submitted a feature for the March edition of Dispatch, the free newspaper. We now have two excellent slots in Attleborough Online, under Events and under Clubs and Organisations; we are also looking at the feasibility of setting up our own Website, probably within Attleborough Online. Advertising helps but it is Club members, all 120 of us, who should be doing the recruiting – face to face with relatives, friends and neighbours

One Hundred Club

Is now being run by Mary Fallows, Mary takes over from Ken Lurcock, now Vice Chairman, on left of photo, with Mark Tipton EBA Captain. If you would like to join, the One hundred club, or pay your Dues. Mary will be pleased to see you.



The outdoor season will soon be upon us, and it was felt, that with no Pre-season meeting, a Newsletter might keep everybody in the picture, so a few points of interest. As you are aware, the position of **Competition/Fixture Secretary**, was created to take some work from our new Secretary, **Derek**. So with the help of **George & Bill**, this is what I am doing as I feel my way into the job.

Internal competitions: entry sheets are on the notice board for the internal leagues, together with entry sheets for all the various individual competitions. A steady flow of names is appearing, which is a good sign although, it must be said, more names are really required in club competitions such as **Ladies & Men's Singles**. To encourage more entries this year, we are introducing a Plate Competition for both the **Ladies & Gentleman's Singles**, so you are guaranteed at least two games.

A **Second bite of the Cherry**, So don't be shy!! Get your name down; don't miss this chance.

Thursday Friday League: we have renamed the Thurs/Fri League, which becomes the **Summer League**, so let's hope that we have a good summer (anything like the last year will do)

Entry Form Tip: if you would like to play in club Pairs or Triples Competitions and you do not have a partner, put your name down write beside it in pencil

Playing partner required.

You never know what this may lead to!!!

AGM Note on Internal League Reserves:

You will remember at the AGM. a point was raised regarding reserves skipping the block they are playing for. The Club rule is clear on this and states

“Reserves must not skip”

(Short Mat is different, you can change), The Committee stresses that this rule must be followed. Remember also that a block member must always be asked to play before a reserve and must play if available. A copy of all the competition rules will be placed on the notice board.

Another small request: Will Block Captains or the person in charge on the night please make sure that scorecards are filled in correctly and that all match fees are accounted for.

(This will make us “Happy Bunnies”)



Mike George

Fixture Cards: **George** is in the process of getting fixture cards printed, to be handed out at the opening of the green or before if possible.

That's about it for now; watch the notice board for new items. I hope these news snippets will help us look forward to another good season.

Mike Parsons

Keith again

Don't forget Green opens on Saturday 24th April 04 starting with a Spring Fayre @ 10am. Dig out Tombola Prizes, please. Help is also needed on the day; contact Heather Winup. It's a good fund raiser so come along & spend your money.

Followed in the Afternoon by an Open Drive; book in 2pm for 2:30pm Start.

Join in; it's your chance to try the Green.

Hazel and I will not be with you on the 24th; have a great day and look after the green; hope the weather is kind to you on the day.

Good Bowling, good luck, and most of all good health.

Keith

Final Notes:

This Newsletter is a first effort produced at short notice but we hope to publish others. Any comments contact Derek Liles.

If you have an E-Mail Address let our Secretary Derek know; it's a good way to Communicate Quickly.

John Winup is getting on to Keith to get into the IT world, instead of the chisel and stone he is still using.

