



Bowls England National Club of the Year 2015

Berkhamsted BOWLS Club

Bowls England National Club of the Year Runners Up 2012 & 2013



NEWSLETTER January 2021

2021 and all that jazz

Here we are already one month into another Covid year, there is no doubt this is an extremely tough period for everyone so its more important than ever we stay resolute and safe knowing the cavalry is on the horizon.



On the bright side these groundhog days do at least provide the time to look ahead and give us things to work on in the present. Whilst it seems like an unproductive period myself and the committee are working hard to put things in place to provide the best bowls season we can for everyone whatever the circumstances are.

In trying to predict what is likely to happen this year its worth noting that most people who play bowls are obviously in the older age groups which for once may well work in its favour. If the vaccine roll out goes to plan most people who play bowls will be vaccinated by the time the bowls season starts, whilst that doesn't get round all the challenges the game faces it does give cause for optimism when you think about which sports will get back on their feet first.

Here is a breakdown of significant developments since our last newsletter:

Finance Sub-committee

We have set up a finance sub group to deal with the impact of Covid on our club. The group consists of Alan Jones, Paul Sims, Tony Smart, David Brown, Bob Anderson, Brian Ralphs & Kevin Clarke. We are holding zoom meetings every three weeks and have already met twice. Needless to say the main objectives are to minimize our expenditure and maximize our income so we can continue to deliver the high standards we pride ourselves on. Your ideas and support are very welcome as always.

The decision over this years subscriptions was a very difficult one and was only arrived at after months of consultation with members, committee and finally the finance group. Throughout the process and the ever changing covid conditions we have tried to be mindful of fairness to all whilst preserving the clubs future.

We thank you for your understanding and hope you will support the club when you renew your subs.

Broadwater Access Road

We are glad to tell you the pot holes have all been properly repaired and Dacorum Council have taken on full maintenance for 2021 which should include the funding of fully resurfacing the road. We also been assured the four hours of free car parking will remain unchanged. Beyond this year the Council are looking to share the maintenance with property owners that share frontages onto the road.

Website

The eagle eyed amongst you will have seen changes to our website over the past two months. We have re created many of the pages with contemporary cleaner designs whilst updating the information it carries. We still have more work to carry out particularly on the front page where we want to introduce our latest news and diary events as clear and eye catching posts. Your input and feedback is important to us as we try to deliver one of the best bowls sites in the country, if you want to contribute please contact Kevin or Paul Sims. (please see pictures from two of the new pages at the end of this newsletter)

Kevin Clarke - President

Clubhouse News

Hi Everyone

At this present time, Geoff and I can only make sure that the Clubhouse remains ready for when our fellow members are eventually able to return and use all facilities. To this end only very minimal maintenance is required, such as Fire Extinguisher Maintenance and checks on toilets and water supplies.



We do however continue to make plans for how we could improve certain areas.

One plan is to improve the seating layout in the men's changing room. When this work is done it should provide more space and eight more seats.

As part of a small working group we will also be looking at how we can host events and other activities (all subject to Covid rules/ regulations).

To assist us in this endeavour, we have asked Tony Smart for his input. This is a sensible approach as Tony has experienced similar work with Leverstock Green Football Club. Please be assured that whenever we return to playing Bowls , even if it is under the same restrictions as 2020, We Will Be Ready.

Geoff and I as joint Managers are aware that due the events of 2020 our income from Events and Functions is almost Nil. We have therefore set out a budget for consumable items at a maximum of £200.

So in a nutshell that's where we are at the moment. Now let's look forward to hopefully better times, times when acquaintances can be renewed and the full social experience of a game of bowls be enjoyed.

Until then , please Stay Safe, Stay Well.

Bob Anderson and Geoff Drew (Clubhouse Managers)

Ladies Section

Captains Section

Hello all of you out there!

Well we aren't out of the woods yet and who knows what the 2021 season will bring us - I hope it brings sunshine, freedom and bowls. However in the hope that we might have a full competitive season I ask you to put SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27th in your diary for our annual dinner, dance and Presentation of prizes at the Golf Club.

On a personal note can I thank those of you who contacted me, sent letters and cards on the death of my beloved Frank - they brought great comfort at a very sad time. Here's hoping to see you soon.



Anne Furlong – Ladies Captain

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS

Last year was not quite the season which we hoped for. Not being able to function in our usual ways has meant that socials and fund raising did not take place. Let's hope that this year will be much better. But we need new ideas and that's where I hope you will come in. Please send me your thoughts - the more the better!! I will take your ideas to the next committee meeting. Which ideas we adopt will very much depend on if they can be scaled up or down and that depends on Government restrictions.

Please do contribute, I'm sure we can come up with some really good suggestions.

Email me ASAP : dagmarmckay@btinternet.com



Ladies Coaching

In the last news letter I wrote about possible coaching sessions for those of you who may want it. I'm thinking in terms of such sessions taking place at the same time as roll up. But before I approach members of the club to volunteer their time I need to know that there is a demand. Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you

Dagmar McKay - Committee Member

Men's Section



Happy New Year!!

Or is it "The Dreadful Old Year"? Yes, we are still in isolation: But the end is in sight! Hopefully, with the vaccination, we can be out and about sometime this year!

We have great plans for this year, and have just received the details for the Tuesday Vets League where we will be in Division three out of 4 (Covid permitting), so watch this space.

Please stay safe and don't spread the virus. See you all soon.

Keep smiling and enjoy life!

Gary Fisher - Men's Captain

Our Green and Surrounds

So far this winter we have had very mixed weather. Before Christmas it was particularly mild encouraging the growth of fungus and moss both of which Kevin Brazier, our greenkeeper, has been treating regularly. The new year has been particularly wet but the occasional frosts (and now Snow!) keep things in check. This time of year provides us with a chance to get things ready for the new season including servicing all of our mowers and other mechanical equipment, discussing the green maintenance plan with Kevin and ordering materials to keep the green in as tip-top shape as possible. We are though cognisant of budgetary constraints due to the impact of Covid so are looking carefully into how we can save costs without compromising on quality. I am pleased to say (touching wood) that the ultrasonic and strobe devices that we have put in place appear to be keeping the worst of the fox damage to a minimum. Let's hope that continues to be the case.



Tim Bailey – Green Manager

Treasurer's 2020 Report

I report that the 2019-2020 accounts have been finalised and approved by our two scrutineers, now I include their summary. The Main Report will be delivered at The AGM when it occurs.



- Income from external sources was 50% down and is likely to be 100% down for 20/21.
- The club finances made a loss of approximately £6,000 this is without the DBC Grant of £10,000 which the committee agreed would be ringfenced for the 20/21 season.
- Overheads like utility bills will remain regardless of Covid19
- If our larger income like bridge, social events, bar etc. are lost and our expenses remain we shall struggle to balance the books at the end of the year.
- That Subscriptions should not be increased for 20/21

The committee have reviewed the scrutineers report and responded with the following: -

1. Our expenditure in 2021 should be less than 2020 i.e. no large outlays anticipated
2. Green materials are anticipated to be 30% less for the forthcoming year
3. Depending on unforeseen breakdowns servicing costs should be reduced
4. Electricity usage should be reduced due to new LED lighting recently installed throughout the clubhouse and with the fridges and freezers running less due to reduced clubhouse activities

As previously mentioned, as income for 2021 is likely to be down by 100%, the committee have formed a sub committee to review certain aspects of our finances. The first discussion took place on the 15th of this month and the topic was **Subscriptions**.

Here is our submission from that meeting which has been ratified by the full committee...

"We (the Committee) have sought the views of many members over the past few months regarding a rebate offer for the 19/20 season. The consensus appears to support the Club's aim to maintain the Club and its facilities in the best condition possible, therefore most members are not looking for any rebate."

*The Sub Committee have noted this but would still like to offer the option of a 6% discount against the 2021 subscription renewal. This reduction is optional and can be declined if you prefer to support the Club and pay the full charge". On your 2021 renewal forms we will offer you two choices – please choose **YES** to paying the full subscription or **NO** to get the discounted offer.*

Friday Triples League - (Ladies and Men)

Following Phil Buntings decision to leave the club I have put myself forward to oversee our re-entry into the Friday Triples League run by W & D. We have been in it in the past but towards the end struggled to gather enough players therefore I am looking for any members (all abilities welcome) to progress their playing skills.

I have looked at the initial draw and we have 5 matches In Zone 1 to start off with; our opposition being Abbots Langley, Bovingdon, Potten End. Kitcheners and Tring (2 away and 3 Home) all matches are late June or early July. I believe the winners of this mini league go on to play other Zone winners

In the past this used to be solely for men, but the rules have since been changed to incorporate the ladies' section of clubs so really it is open to all members.

So please. please do nominate yourself by telephone or email see my details at the end; the more the merrier means the less one needs turn out.

Here is hoping Coronavirus allows us to proceed

Tel: 01442 875586, Mob: 07772787028 email: treasurerbowlsclub@btinternet.com

Alan Jones – Club Treasurer

Committee and Things

Its been business as usual albeit a little quieter, as external competition entries have now all been completed. All that is left is this year's signing on to our club and then the club's affiliation to Hertfordshire and Bowls England.

Membership forms will arrive in the next few weeks.

We had hoped to run a Christmas raffle, then it turned into a New Year one and now it is hopefully an Easter / opening of season raffle, restrictions permitting. More details to follow, fingers crossed.

The annual end of May Bank Holiday Gala has been postponed. In lockdown, it is impossible to get all the arrangements in place which have to start now. We have reserved August Bank Monday as a possible date to hold the Gala but, as you can understand, everything is very flexible at the moment.

The Committee have met regularly during the last year via Zoom. If there is anything you want us to discuss, please get in touch with me or any committee member.

Christine Sims – Club Secretary





100 Club

Our club needs us more and more in the coming months and years and especially our money and all down to the pandemic!

As has been indicated to us all since Spring of last year, the club's income streams have ceased to be - bridge club, bar profits, raffles and social functions to name but a few.

BUT the one stream that has remained in place is our 100 Club.

Now on behalf of the club I am asking each and every one of you to please dig in to your pockets. The cost to be a member is only £1 per month or £12 a year and the year runs from August - July. So you can pay £6 which will give membership until July 2021 or find £18 which will buy you a share from February 2021- July 2022.



And the benefit to you would be your number being entered in to the monthly draw and you standing a chance of winning a monetary prize. At the same time our club benefits by receiving 50% of the monies taken in to the club account and this helps us all, full and social members.

A brief resume of the 100 club is that we currently have sold 178 shares (some of our members have purchased several numbers already) but there are some members who for whatever reason have chosen not to do so. The more people who contribute to this initiative the bigger the prize money is and conversely more money goes in to club funds. January's winners received £51 - 1st prize, £25 for 2nd prize & £13 for the 3rd prize AND £89 each month remains in club funds.

So PLEASE if you can find your way to supporting our club get in touch with me. 01442 866365, 07850 123441 or via email - lesleybrown@ntlworld.com or on your health walks, drop a note through my letterbox - 20 Trevelyan Way. HP4 1JG.

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

Lesley Brown – 100 Club Manager

See pictures of our new website on the following two pages : -



OUR CLUB 'enjoy our facilities & location'

About Us

We are a lawn green bowling club based in central Berkhamsted providing a highly popular and skilful game for all ages and abilities to enjoy. Our playing season runs from mid April to late September and currently provides outdoor sport & leisure to 120 members with a social programme running indoors throughout the winter months in our spacious modern clubhouse.

'National Club of the Year'

We are very proud to say we were named 'National Club of the Year' in 2015 by the sport's governing body Bowls England following runner up positions in 2012 & 2013. In striving to be a progressive club with imaginative thinking, modern facilities & strong membership we are now recognised as one of the best bowls clubs in England.

Our green & location

Over the past eight years we have improved our green hugely through sustained investment in our equipment & maintenance programme aided by our highly experienced greenkeeper. Our Club has recently staged County friendly matches along with County & District competition finals. We are located close to the town centre with the Grand Union canal and open park providing an idyllic backdrop. We are neighbours to the Tennis club and Football club (Comrades) with whom we enjoy a good relationship. The high street is a three minute walk away with large Waitrose & M&S stores nearby.

Our Clubhouse

In recent years we have modernised our clubhouse with new kitchen & bar facilities making it a wonderful facility for staging a wide range of social events. It meets all the current safety standards and through its open plan has the flexibility to adapt to any event. These include parties, quiz nights, race nights, bridge sessions, skittles leagues, film nights, funeral wakes and art exhibitions. The club has recently installed Wi Fi, Bluetooth and has a superb sound system.



Club Address

Berkhamsted Bowls Club, Broadwater, Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2AL Tel: 01442 877111

Contact information

Secretary Christine Sims - Email: berkhamstedbowlsclub@gmail.com T: 01442 873413 M: 07796 178040

Social media

Website: www.berkhamstedbowlsclub Also find us on Facebook and Twitter





COACHING 'improvement creates smiles'

Our approach is simplicity

We run coaching sessions throughout the season primarily aimed at all new members, whatever the age and ability. These take place on our green and are designed to be as informal and friendly as possible. Our qualified County coaches aided by our team of support coaches are available to help all our new recruits as well as our members looking for further improvement.

Our emphasis is on simplicity, progression and enjoyment. We try to avoid too much explanation preferring action and demonstrations for quick learning.

Individual and group sessions

We hold FREE group sessions particularly in recruitment periods at the start of a season which normally run for a few weeks. Once the season has settled down we are very happy to give one on one sessions to anyone wanting extra help throughout the whole season.

We cover rules, etiquette and playing technique

Our basic introduction to the game for new members also covers the following areas:

- *Equipment use
- *Etiquette & rules of the game
- *The roles of markers & umpires
- *Formats of the game
- *Game skills, practice drills, team play

There is also the opportunity to use our club afternoons on Tuesday & Thursday along with Friday evenings to play with other club members in an informal but educational atmosphere.

