



Little Bowden Bowling Club

Autumn Newsletter

To begin, hearty congratulations to all those members who won a club competition this year and commiserations to those who “fell at the last hurdle”! Thank you to Chris Orme for patiently steering all competitions to a satisfactory and scheduled conclusion.

More congratulations!! In the Harborough League the D Team won their final game to both secure top spot in and promotion from Division 3. The F Team were champions of Division 2 and thus are promoted to Division 1. The A Team retained their place in Division 1 but regrettably the B Team will be demoted to Division 3.

LBBC finished champion of the South Leicestershire Triples League (Division 4) so a ‘well done’ to everyone who made a contribution during the season.

I can give you advanced notice of our Presentation Evening. This is scheduled for **Thursday November 7th** and will be held at the clubhouse. You will no doubt receive much more information about this event but please make a note of the date in your diary.

Most members will know that Barbara Livermore is leaving the Market Harborough area. We of course wish her well but an immediate concern is the need to find a replacement (or replacements) for the valuable work she contributes with the 200 Club and the Sainsbury’s Voucher Scheme. We urgently need someone to take over both of these money raising schemes. If you think you might be that person then please contact Barbara directly (and very soon!!) or Ray West.

Mention of the need to replace Barbara reminds me that our AGM is not so far ahead into the future. Thus far this season we have muddled through with the catering arrangements, green mowing and the team selection for friendly games. I do not think we can continue to run a successful club in such a speculative manner! I know that our treasurer is concerned about our financial position and I think we can all look forward to a lively debate about fees at the AGM! Next year I am happy to continue as the Green Keeper (if elected!!!) but I will not be able to mow the green anywhere near as often as I have done this year during the summer months. Without volunteers this task and others will need to be paid for.

Our Captains have done a superhuman job in getting teams onto the green this year (well done!!) but we cannot ignore the fact that friendly bowls does not attract the same enthusiasm it once did. Next year we will still be running 4 Harborough League teams, the South Leicester Triples team and accommodating those bowlers who want to play the regular friendly games. The question is, “What friendly games are required by the membership?”

The Management Group has discussed concerns regarding Ladies’ only bowls games on Wednesdays and the mixed Thursday games. It is clear that there has not been overwhelming support for either. Lack of support for the Ladies’ games prompted Janet to write to all club members earlier in the season but the response was not overwhelming.

The Thursday fixtures have also been problematic. Our Thursday Captain Angela has had to work overtime to raise teams to fulfil fixtures and in her absence, Bill Sneath has found the task equally daunting.

We recognise that some of our members enjoy competitive bowling in both the Harborough League and the South Leicestershire Triples League. Perhaps this enhanced opportunity to play league bowls reduces the appetite for mid-week friendlies? It is also worth noting that some Saturday games have been compromised when our club has struggled to compile a team to fulfil the fixture.

We are also scheduled to play 5 indoor games during the winter months (look out for these on the notice-board!). Do our members welcome these??

So what to do? It is the belief of the Management Group that you, our playing members, need to give us a guide on this issue. We need to ascertain what appetite members have for regular (or occasional!) Thursday games and what future there might be for Ladies' games.

You are therefore invited to complete the attached questionnaire and return it. Your views are important and we want to hear them.

I would request that only lady members complete and return the first section of the questionnaire. It is understood that some men members may have views about Ladies' only fixtures but this questionnaire is only about the viability of these games and not the propriety of them within a mixed club.

All members should complete the second section. Clearly no-one can be expected to give a definitive response in respect of their availability into 2014 but your response will give guidance as to the future shape of our fixture list.

In respect of the question concerning "preferred" fixtures this question has the potential to cause upset to other clubs if unfavourable opinions leak into the bowling fraternity. You are therefore asked NOT to identify your least favourite opponents but only those you would be inclined to sign up for, given your availability.

This completed questionnaire may be returned to Richard Hall by e-mail or printed off and left at the clubhouse.

Thank you

Richard Hall

Questionnaire

LADIES ONLY MATCHES (to be completed by lady members only)

1. If available would you ordinarily put your name down to play in a Ladies' game? YES NO
2. Do you think it important for the club to safeguard Ladies' only games? YES NO
3. If you have answered NO to one or both of questions 1 & 2 are you ever likely to make yourself available for a Ladies' only game? YES NO
4. Which of the following statements best defines your views should Ladies' games no longer be organised?: A. I do not care as I can bowl as often as I like in other friendly games and in the Harborough League. B. I would be disappointed (very disappointed) but I have opportunities to bowl in other friendlies and the Harborough League. C. I would be very disappointed because I do not feel confident/like playing in other mixed matches.
5. We are a mixed club. Do you believe Ladies' only games should be arranged if there is enough support amongst our membership? YES NO
6. Any other comments?

THURSDAY MATCHES (all members to complete!)

1. On a scale of 1 – 10 how enthusiastic are you about Thursday games?
(not at all) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (very)
2. Do you think it would be a good idea to reduce the number of Thursday games, ie (A)to play every other week, (B)to play one week in three or (C) strive for say 6 "plum" fixtures spaced throughout the season. Circle A B C or D (I have no opinion)

SATURDAY MATCHES (all members to complete!)

1. Which Saturday fixtures have the greater appeal for you, that is, which opponents are you more likely to sign up for? Please list no more than 6 clubs.
2. Would you prefer Saturday games to be "tea and biscuits" rather than a plated meal?

YES

NO

NO OPINION

3. If the club continues to offer a meal after friendly games do you think it acceptable that all members be required to cater at least once or twice throughout the season?

YES (I would be prepared to do that)

NO (I would NOT be prepared to do that)

4. Please add further comments

Completed by:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.