



## Little Bowden Bowling Club

### Spring Newsletter

The 2014 bowling season is no longer over the horizon but very imminent so time to hunt out your woods, woollies and water-proofs!! Having bowled with and against a number of club members throughout the winter months, I know that the appetite for indoor bowling is satiated and there is much anticipation for the forthcoming outdoor season. Whilst the Management Committee have not been idle these last few months we are not entirely well set for the season ahead.

I will however start with the good news!! A lot of work has been put in upon the green and surrounds so the season should start as planned. **GREEN OPENING day is Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April** so this is a clarion call for volunteers to come and help prepare the clubhouse and outdoor area ahead of the new season. The more members who turn up, the less arduous the work to be done!!

What will be expected? A general clean up, benches to be removed from the clubhouse and placed round the green, a bit of sweeping, mats to be returned to the ditches, a bit of housekeeping to the green and then we can all go home again. The green should be open for bowling on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April** (weather permitting!). Please give 90 minutes of your time. We will aim for a 9.00am start.

A new dishwasher has been purchased and installed. It is ( I am told ) is easier to use than the previous model and offers the additional benefit that it actually works. Given that all members are going to be “invited” to cater this year (more about that later) we plan to give instructions during the morning of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

The club safe has recently been acting temperamentally, despite new batteries and a service it has failed us. A new safe has been purchased and is now installed.

A number of new club lettings have been negotiated and these afford a steady and useful stream of income into the club.

As per our Secretary's recent e-mail, the fixture booklets are available from within the clubhouse.

The fascias and soffits to the clubhouse are going to be re-decorated (it sounds much worse than it is!) and the ridge tiles on the hips are to be re-bedded. This work is in part possible because we are still in receipt of discretionary relief from Business Rates and, as such, the £800.00 which our treasurer had budgeted can now be spent elsewhere.

At last year's AGM there was overwhelming approval given for all members to assist with the catering throughout the season. Whilst a number of clubs might have opted out of providing after match refreshment, the overwhelming consensus is that it remains an integral part of the culture of bowls, whilst also providing a valuable source of income. Given that we all enjoy the benefits of the bowls club, both on and off the green, it is only fair that all members (without exception) should make a contribution to the catering so we have now reached the stage where a rota is being drawn up. Prior to being allocated a day you are invited to opt for

one! This is not quite as straightforward as it might appear as we do not want 2 or 3 novices in the kitchen at the same time but it is a starting point!! If members can give dates when they would be happy to be included on the rota we will do our utmost to ensure all angles are covered. If we do not hear back from individual members then the Management Committee will allocate a time. Every effort will be made to be fair and reasonable to all members but an unwillingness to join the rota will not be well received!!

**We do not yet have a Saturday Captain!!** There are a number of key roles within the club and this must surely be one of them. I do not think we can muddle through the season seeking out volunteers week by week so we urgently need someone or someones (it could be a shared role) to step forward to take on this position. Please contact our Secretary if you feel you could undertake this role.

**We do not have a Cleaning Organiser.** This is also a key role, particularly given the amount of times the clubhouse is now in use throughout each week. Do we have someone who could possibly take on this role? This problem can be circumnavigated if we were to employ a cleaner but would that not be the thin end of the wedge? What next? We are a members club and as such depend upon our members to undertake responsibilities within the club wherever and whenever possible (see next paragraph!!). Please contact our Secretary if you could undertake this role.

The conifer hedge is to be trimmed back and the clubhouse is to be deep cleaned and the floor re-sealed on April 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>. Members wishing to bowl may do so but the clubroom should not be entered!!

No nominations were received for the post of Captain for the South Leicestershire Triples League so I shall once again resume this role (it does at least guarantee me the occasional game!!).

The team sheets are now on display for the opening games of the season and you are urged to get down to the clubhouse and add your name to the lists.

Let us all look forward to a successful and enjoyable season!

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