

Farnborough Bowling Club

Spring Newsletter 2016



President's Message

Another season is about to begin and let's hope it is as successful as the last one.

A lot of work has been going on in the closed season, not least, the funding application for our green replacement; we will hear in the next few weeks if we have been successful. If we don't get the funding from Sports England we have a secondary plan in place so we should be able to do at least the green renovation at the close of the season. This has been made more achievable by our Members who have donated £2,800 towards the "Smile" fund; a very big thank you to all; it's still not too late to make a donation.

Activities start on Saturday 23rd April with the green tidying, please try to get along and give a hand, the following day is the Opening Drive (just turn up and join in)

I wish you all a successful season,

Michael

Social Events (Anne and Edna)

Our three skittles and fish and chips events during the close season were well attended and great fun. We also made a considerable amount of money for the club funds.

We had a games evening which Rona & David very ably organised with a little help from their friends. I never thought that I would spend an evening playing snakes and ladders without any grandchildren about!

Our Christmas entertainment was provided by a trio called Tyler's Toast. They were very good and a splendid time was had by all.

There will be a race night on 9th April during which the club competition draws will be done. Try and support Diane in her efforts. It will be the first time that the club has run such an evening on these lines (no films).



Friendlies (Anne Hellier- Captain)

Our first friendly match is on 7th May away against Milford. I hope that as many of you as possible will put your names down to be considered for selection. If you are a new bowler don't be shy and say that you are not good enough, we all had to learn at the start and the friendlies are the ideal place to get experience and learn the etiquette of the game. We also need the old hands to play as well so that they can pass on their knowledge to others.

Edna and I will try and be as fair as we can in our selection but if you have any complaints please come to us to discuss the problem. Selection will be done at the beginning of the week prior to the match. Please tick your name, after the team is posted, to confirm availability, or phone me if you find that you are suddenly unavailable.

Don't forget the clubhouse cleaning and grounds tidying on 23rd April (it is the Queen's 90th birthday!!!). It is everybody's duty to do something, however small.

There will be two practice drives as listed in the fixture card. Please come for some invaluable early season practice.

Edna and I would like to wish everybody a very happy and successful season. See you on the green.

Club Competitions (Martin Lee)

Membership subscriptions and competition entries are now coming in.

The Costar Trophy will be on 5th June, the Two Wood Pairs on 10th July and the Nell Rumble Shield on 6th August.

The Memorial Trophy will be held on 8th May this year. This is again early in the season and is a great opportunity to support a good cause and have a competitive fun day before the real competitions begin. We are once again supporting Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

Monday Club

Monday Club starts on the 25th April, please arrive by 1.45 pm so we can start bowling at 2 pm.

Monday Club is open to all bowlers so if you have a friend at another club bring them along for a great afternoon of bowling, tea and biscuits and a chat.

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Leagues

F&D league. (Alec Sharman)

We are back in Division 1 again this year, which as we all know will be a challenge. Some of our more experienced players do not play in this league for various reasons, but can I ask that **ALL** Members play at least a couple of games throughout the season to not only ensure we have enough players for each game, but also strengthen our team as a whole. If we do that then I am sure we can do well.

F&D competitions. (Alec Sharman)

Last year we had a record breaking year in F&D competitions, winning the Ken Britten Cup and the Mixed Triples. In addition, Sheila and Diane winning the ladies pairs, with Sheila runner up in the ladies singles. This proves we are capable of winning at the highest level. Let's show the other teams we can do it again. Remember, all players must have played at least 2 league games to qualify to play in F&D team comps. Good luck to all who entered the individual competitions.

A&D League

This season we will be competing in Divisions 1 and 3 of the League again. We will be running the teams on the same principles as last season, Division 1 on merit, Division 3 as a squad.

There is a Men's practice game on Tuesday 26th April at 17:30, please try to attend this and get some early practice on grass, The B team play there 1st game the following Tuesday, The A team have no game so there will be another practice that evening.

Stan Hardman (Colin Alcock)

As with last year, when we had such an overwhelming response for availability, I intend running the team on a squad basis to try to ensure that everyone who makes themselves available gets at least some games. We can obviously only field 9 players each week within the rules of the league which means many people may miss out. This also means we may not be putting out the strongest team, but at least it will be a club team. If we do have a lot of spare players, please feel free to come and have a roll-up, and like last year, if possible I will try and arrange a friendly or two to get more people a game.

Ladies (Joan)

The Thornbery - We have been drawn away against Cove in the preliminary round, the match is to be played on the 9th June.

Gazette Cup - We have been drawn against Pyestock in the preliminary round.

Blackwater Valley Ladies League - Our first match of the season is against Hawley on the 13th May.

Ladies Friendlies - Our first match is on the 24th May and is a home game against Yateley. Availability sheets for the Friendlies and the BVL will be in the clubhouse very soon.

Recruitment

If we are to realise our aims in improving the club facilities we need to increase our membership to be able to meet some additional costs. Anyone who has got any ideas or would like to get actively involved please let Diane Hill know.

Information

Lots of information about fixtures, etiquette, photos, etc. is on our website so check it out at farnboroughbowls.uk

The are Bowls Hampshire and Bowls England Yearbooks in the clubhouse, they contain a lot of interesting stuff, well worth a look.

Coaching

Coaching starts on Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings from 28th April. If you know of anyone who would like to try bowls please bring them along.

Some Dates

- Saturday 23rd April - Green / Clubhouse Tidying (Refreshments will be provided)
- Sunday 24th April - Opening Drive
- Monday 25th April - Monday Club starts
- Saturday 30th April - Fish & Chips Drive
- Sunday 1st May 1:30pm - Aussie Pairs (extra event not in fixture card)
- Sunday 8th May - Memorial Trophy

Stop Press! Lots of people required to help with the green tidying on 23rd April from 9.30am.
Opening Drive Sunday 24th April 2.30pm