

Bowls Hampshire

Newsletter No. 2



Forward Peter Little

Welcome to the July / August 2021 newsletter in which a lot has happened on the competitions front, referring to Hazels excellent and informative item below. I hope this finds you all enjoying your bowls when the weather allows.

Development Report Peter Little

Well, the two months since the last issue of the newsletter started on a routine level and finished on anything but that.

I had the pleasure of attending two matches involving the juniors of the county, firstly the trials on Sat 12th June, then the game between the Under 25s against Kent Under 25s on the Sunday 29th June. The young persons of the county in both events put up excellent performances and showed that if we can keep them in the sport then the future has some promise.

In line with the matter of youth recruitment into bowls this was part of a very agreeable conversation I had with Alan Lane the new Clubs and Participation Officer at Bowls England. He, like me, comes from a professional background in a totally different sporting arena, his being professional rugby mine being professional football. Throughout our conversation he has some very similar ideas and some not so similar but very intuitive thoughts on the way forward. I do hope some of his ideas are taken up and moved forward and he gets the support he requires (He will have mine when required).

I now have had a few conversations with other clubs regarding declining membership numbers or the increase of these in some instances. Being a league player, I also get the thoughts of our local clubs put to me at matches. The consensus I come away with is that although the pandemic has taken its toll on membership levels these are expected to rise again: possibly when the new summer season opens next year. Those clubs that have artificial surfaces outdoor and indoor have levels that have held firm or increased.

Now the lockdown is ending would those clubs that have open days organised let me know when they are taking place so I can arrange some matters and visits.

To finalise matters I have two requests, firstly could the coaches in the South West of the county let Anthea Dore know who of you are willing to travel to other clubs in the area as the lockdown ends.

Secondly could you as clubs let me know which of you have rinks that are available to hire for a small fee to the general public. This request ties in with a matter I spoke to Alan about and your input will really help.

Competition Survey

There has been a lot of comment this season on the changes made by Bowls England to the competition formats.

We wish to find out the views from as many competitors in Hampshire as possible to enable us to make a proper representation to Bowls England and have devised a short survey and ask that you spend a couple of minutes completing this form to express your views. If you wish to expand and add further comments please complete a separate sheet

To ensure all answers and comments truly reflect the views of those within Hampshire we ask that you include your name and email address, along with the name of your Club

A copy of the survey can be found via this link

<http://www.bowlshampshire.com/Competition%20Formats%20-%20Questionnaire.pdf>

All responses should be emailed by 31 August to survey@bowlshampshire.com

County Competition Update – Hazel Marke BH Secretary

With all the competitions nearing their completion, the first competition due to reach the quarter final stage was the Ladies and Men's two wood singles which due to extreme weather had to be cancelled and eventually took place on Wednesday 21st July at Banister Park BC at 6pm. For the spectators there was some fantastic bowling with a first-time quarter finalist Carter Blandford of Leigh Park BC just missing out on the last end of the semi-final 14-15 to seasoned bowler David Simms Alton BC. Another first-time quarter finalist Matt Carr of Basingstoke Town BC also progressed through to the semi-final losing 9-17 to previous winner Peter Ward Ringwood BC.

In the ladies' competition two first time quarter finalist Lorraine Prior Sport Centre BC and Rachel Powell Farnborough BC were against one another, with Rachel progressing to the semi-final where she lost 14-17 to Sharon Varndell Braeside BC. The other half of the draw saw Sue Brightman Milton Park Ladies and Laura Kitcher Kings Park BC progress through to the semi where a fantastic match culminated with Sue Brightman winning on the last end 13-12.

In the ladies' singles there was more excitement for the spectators with two of the quarter finals ending 20-21. Sue Brightman Milton Park Ladies who had progressed through to the final of the two-wood final, 20-21 to Margaret Holden Alton Social BC. Alex Tymon of Milton Park Ladies also losing 20-21 to a first-time qualifier Carol Bloomfield. The other semi-finalists another first time qualifier Kim Tavener Moordown BC beat Janet Ballard Waterside BC and Kate Fyfield Alton Social BC another first-time qualifier received a walk over due to Janet Felgate being unable to play due to having to attend hospital, we all wish Janet a speedy recovery.

The semi finals ended with success for Margaret Holden and Kate Fyfield both from Alton Social BC so an exciting final awaits us on the 14th August.

In the men's singles there were two first time qualifiers Mark Berry Purbrook Heath who lost out 14-21 Alan Geary Boscombe Cliff BC and Colin James Waterside BC winning through to the semi 21-17 against Matt Carr Basingstoke Town BC who had progressed through to the semi in the two wood singles.

In the other two quarter finals, Adam White Alton Social BC won 21-16 against Jamie Ward Leigh Park BC and Chris Daniels Boscombe Cliff BC lost a tightly fought game 20-21 to Ray Long Fleming Park BC.

In the semi finals Adam White progressed through to the final 21-10 against Ray Long Fleming Park BC and first-time qualifier Colin James Waterside BC won 21-11 against Alan Geary Boscombe Cliff BC.

On Sunday 25th July with the weather predicted to be very wet, it was delightful to see lots of spectators cheering on their teams in the Men's and Ladies Senior Fours which took place without interruption by the weather. The men's semi finals were both close matches with Bob Kelly, Charlie Munden, Tim Orr and Chris Daniels of Boscombe Cliff BC winning 14-10 against John Pullinger, Jeff Passmore, Martin Ellis and Graham Hillier Leigh on Solent BC and Mark Burnett, John Keat, Gary Carter and Colin Thresher Atherley BC winning 16 – 12 against Carl Taylor, John Stone, Chris Cranham and Jim Marsland Cove BC.

In the final the team skipped by Colin Thresher Atherley BC raced ahead and eventually won 17-10 against the four skipped by Chris Daniels Boscombe Cliff BC.

The ladies' senior fours saw the team of Janet Ramsey, Julie Keeton, Heather Maltby and Rose Farge Highcliffe BC all receive their County badge, play Sue Brightman, Pat Macrae, Julie Greenwood and Wendy Brown Milton Park Ladies who won 18-6. The other semi saw a very tight match played between Jan Leppard, Sue Lews Parkes, Lesley Mitchell and Janet Ballard Waterside and Lesley Johnson, Alice Atwell, Hazel Marke and Margaret Holden Alton Social BC with Alton just pipping Waterside 14 -11.

In the final the team skipped by Wendy Brown Milton Park Ladies BC came up against three of the current senior fours British Isles champions skipped by Margaret Holden Alton Social BC who eventually won 19-10.

Many thanks to all at Banister Park for providing the greens for all the competitions and a special thank you to the green keeper Tony and the ladies who provided everyone with wonderful food and plenty of liquid refreshment.

The finals for County Competitions are on Sunday 14th August starting at 10am at Banister Park Bowls Club, where we hope to see lots of spectators.