



East Bergholt Bowls Club Newsletter

Summer 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT

It's hard to believe we are nearly halfway through the Outdoor Season, where does the time go. Unfortunately, the weather has been so unsettled we don't feel as though we've had a summer at all do we. I think I have probably bowled three times this season without a coat/jumper of some sort, but the wet gear has had several outings. The last social event was the cheese and wine evening which turned out to be a great success, next on the programme is the ploughman's lunch. Previously we had a very good turnout, everyone enjoying a very generous lunch so hopefully we can repeat the event. Melvyn is planning the Treasure Hunt for this year, which will be around the village with a buffet back at the clubhouse, hopefully you've put your names down.

The new bar has been a great success, boosting club funds and putting our events in line with other clubs so I thank all involved I believe obtaining the licence was a bit of a tedious task. The social committee had a meeting this week and there are a few more events in the pipeline so keep an eye on your emails.

Yet again we need to thank the Greens Team for their tireless work, I've heard lots of "wows" from visiting teams as they walk through the gates. Not forgetting Reg and Jenny for their work on the surrounds although with the weather so changeable I don't think watering has been a problem this year.

The John Furnish Day is approaching, I have already sent out emails asking for help with cakes and light savoury refreshments and also raffle prizes. I also need help serving teas etc. in the clubhouse, I'm not going to do a rota I'm sure you all know when to help. Rex will be serving bacon rolls in the morning so he may need a hand there too so just keep an eye out. Your help is greatly appreciated, I couldn't organise it without you all. Jenny Furnish has kindly agreed to come and present the prizes. This year we will have cash prizes for the winners and runners up.

I think our club shirt fund is growing and I would like to thank you for choosing your preferred design hopefully we will be able to have new shirts next season. The idea of the fund is to provide each member with one free shirt with the option to buy more if you need extra. We are still looking for sponsors to help but we are not having any luck at the moment, the football club and tennis club seem to have nabbed all the local businesses.

Obviously, I'll leave the team and match results to the captains and managers, but I'd like to wish you all great bowling for the rest of the season.

Take care all

Terri Catchpole

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well, the summer is progressing and bowling is being played in all weather with a wide range of scores. The green is looking great and that is down to the dedication of the green team. If it looks like it does now and plays as well in September, those visiting us to play in the Quinton Cup semis and final will have a great experience.

Many thanks to all who took part in the vote to decide our new shirt design. The shirt selected by a large margin was the second one:



Over the next few months, we will be working towards getting the final shirt designed agreed with the manufacturers, finalising the costs and seeking the funding.

The web site is being viewed regularly by a lot of people, members and non-members and seems to have raised our profile within Suffolk. If you haven't seen it yet, then log on. Many people have made positive comments on how it could be tweaked, and I thank you for this.

I am now collecting archive material and if you have anything interesting concerning the club then do, please get it to me, especially photos.

And finally, one of our bowlers took on the comment more weight needed, not sure if he ever did find his wood.

David



OUTDOOR CAPTAINS' REPORT

At the halfway point of the season things are very much as they have been in recent seasons. Performance in the leagues has not been great so far, other than with the Falcons. We seem to get off to a slow start, struggling in away games on poorer, heavy greens. Many of the defeats were only a matter of points but we need to find a way of tightening up. Nevertheless, enthusiasm to play remains high which is good.

Cup matches have also not proved so successful this year and team managers have struggled at times to get people to play. I think we may need to review how many competitions we enter next year, spend more time practising and focus more on the leagues, especially early season.

In- house tournaments have gone well, with generally good weather and some very close matches. Winners so far have been -

Chairman's Cup Drawn Pairs -	Alan Burstall & Tony Furtado
Richard Worn Singles -	Brian Cassells
Malcolm Watts Aussie Pairs -	John Mayhew & Tony Furtado
Captain's Cup Drawn Triples -	to be played 21/7/24
Ladies Singles Beeston Trophy -	to be played 24/8/24

The Knockout competitions are proceeding more or less on schedule and hopefully will produce a few surprises.

The big success of the year has been the bar which aside from providing much appreciated refreshment is increasing the social aspect of matches - and raising money. Many thanks to Vic, Cathy, Diane, Rex & Alec for their efforts.

Lastly thanks to all club members for their support and especially to those who help set up for matches and tournaments and put equipment away at the end. Enjoy the rest of the season.

Alan & Geoff



TEAM MANAGER'S REPORTS

SWALLOWS

At mid-season, I have to report a blindingly good start to the year with two clean sweeps on our first two results.

However, we slipped back a bit with the next four matches but were never far off winning these either. In fact, on two of these matches, we were within two shots and six shots of winning, this is encouraging, and I know that we are a capable team.

We have had two great results in the last four matches, which shows me that we can maintain a decent standing in the league.

Tony Ryan

HERONS

After a poor start to the season losing our first four games, we have managed to turn things around and now have won our last five matches. This has enabled us to climb to a respectable position in the league. Hopefully this will continue to the end of the season.

Mike Catchpole

EAGLES

Our season is short as there are only five teams in our league. Our first game was away to Woodbridge and my thanks go to Linda Gardner for responding to my call for players. I also played to make up the numbers - my performance confirmed I had made the right decision to be a non-playing captain! Sadly, we lost this game and our other game last week away to Kesgrave. We were due to play Stonelodge at home on 26 June, but I agreed to reschedule it to 21 August when they could not get enough players. My thanks go to my small squad and with positive thoughts by all of us, better results will follow.

Valerie Ayton

KESTRELS

As we reach mid-season the rallying call is 'the only way is up'. Sadly having only won one game and drawing another Kestrels find themselves firmly rooted at the bottom of division 3. Despite holding leads going into the second half of many matches we have somehow found a way of letting the games get out of control with an element of bad luck, good opposition play and a lack of concentration contributing to the end result.

Reflecting back on the 2022 season when we were promoted what was noticeable was the confidence gained by winning games which is where we need to get back to, hopefully starting with our next match, there is still much to play for, so as I said earlier 'The only way is up'

Alan Burstall

MAGPIES

From the Magpies the season is turning out to be a slog particularly for the only 3 ladies in the squad who must play every game if available. Despite a decent start (a win and a draw) the weather turned cooler, and damper and we struggled with the greens. We also had a spate of injury, illness, holiday and clashes with cup games (which always seem to be arranged for Fridays) which didn't help.

When the weather improved, and the greens became firmer we have picked up one other win but had two heavy defeats. However, we have four home games to come so hope to pick up a few more points. On the plus side the bowling has been enjoyable, and we have had good banter with all our opposition. This season will see us have 8 home games meaning next season we have a lot more travelling to do and more experiences with "funny" greens, but at least we avoid the Bocking Alliance one. (funny but not humorous)

George Hudson

Our wonderful rose planted two years ago in memory of Mick Lomax

