



## **THE RINK - June 2022**

### **The President speaks**

Here we are halfway through what has been a successful season so far.

Unfortunately the results of the Gents Leagues have not all been as successful as we had hoped, but there is still time to improve. It has been good to see some of our new Members playing in the Leagues and I think the future looks positive.

We have come to an end of a very successful six week School coaching programme from which 4 Juniors have joined the Club. A big thanks is due to Joan Pammenter for all the organisation put into making this event successful. Thanks are also due to the team of Coaches who came along every Tuesday to assist.

I would also like to thank Joan for all the planning put into the Coaching programme we are following on the Saturday morning sessions. This appears to be very well attended and the improvements are noticeable in the new members bowling.

I understand that several members of the Club have had Covid during this month and I hope they are all recovering well.

The Management Committee have been aware and have been keeping a watchful eye on the Green with the obvious dry patches which did not appear to be improving. A Meeting was arranged with the Green Contractor to ascertain what the problem was and what could be done to improve the condition of the Green. The Contractor explained that the problem was Hydrophobic Turf which leads to localised dry patches (please Google this as it gives a full explanation). The whole Green had a wetting agent applied and verticut to try to even out bumps wherever possible. Also extra wetting agent has been ordered which will be added to the Sprinkler system and used during the rest of the season.

A further meeting is being set up with the Contractor with a view to the ongoing maintenance of the Green, organising more regular meetings with him to discuss actions required to be taken and the opportunity to clarify any concerns we may have which requires to be addressed.

I know it can be frustrating when the Green is not at its best, but be assured that the Management Committee are trying their best to get the Green back into shape and hopefully this may address some of the members concerns regarding the Green. On a more positive note there appears to be new growth coming through in some of the bare patches.

I have also noticed that most people are working to the rules on rink selection.

The Social event this month was the Fish and Chips followed by Jazz, which was well attended. It is good to see the social side of the Club return and hopefully our future events will be as successful.

Bill Batten.

### **News**

A successful fish and chips social event was held and enjoyed by a healthy turnout - after some friendly, though always competitive, bowling. Thanks to everyone who supported the event and those who helped out.

Ladies external fixtures:

- We continue to enjoy the Heather League and Forth League games, giving a wider pool of players experience of playing in different circumstances. We are currently placed in the top 2 of the Heather League and just in the top half of the Forth League - a position we are more than happy with considering it is our first year in this competition.
- Our pairs team of Eileen Batten and Lyndesay Fraser did very well in last week's Forth League Top 6 competition, only being narrowly beaten by London Road Foundry in the semifinal
- Our first full day's competition - the ladies Centenary Quaich - was held through some initially poor and then better weather. Congratulations to Susan Gardiner and Alison Harrington with commiserations to Eileen Batten and Louise Wood who narrowly lost out in the final.

Gents external fixtures:

- Our Top 5 team won their first round game versus Whitehouse and Grange before losing in the second round to Postal. Norrie Davidson and Douglas Main have progressed to the next round in in the Senior Pairs and Jim Melles in the Senior Singles.
- We have had mixed results to date in our Tuesday (seniors), Wednesday (first and third team) and Thursday (seniors) leagues currently lying in the bottom half of the respective tables. There are a number of games still to play and these leagues are providing the opportunity for some of our newer members to gain valuable experience for the future.

We are pleased that members are following the rink allocation system that was put in place for members which seems to be working well. Please note that rink 7 should now be included for ties. If any rinks are not to be used (for whatever reason) this will be communicated via the board at the club.

As we did last year, we will be holding a "new members" event during late July/early August to hear how things are going, what works well and what else we could do to make the experience of being a new member of our club the best one possible. An email will be sent separately to those members who have joined us recently.

We intend to run a "Top Ten" competition during September this year - a Ladies v Gents single day competition involving a singles, pairs, triples and rink match.

Members are reminded not to park over the drives of our neighbours - please be considerate when parking at the club.

Members are encouraged to arrange a marker for singles ties as well as using the scoreboards for all ties (this also helps with the "spectator experience").

Unfortunately the Blackhall Sports Day had to be cancelled due to the weather. The organising committee had their social event at the clubhouse in the evening, a welcome relief we are sure for the hard work they put into the organisation of the Sports Day.



Congratulations to Jenny Clark and Les Dickson who narrowly beat Susan Gardiner and Iain Gibb in the final of the Burgoyne Cup. A great day of bowling was played in good weather.

## **Upcoming Dates**

- Burgoyne Cup - 2nd July from 13:30
- Ladies Championship Final - 20th July from 14:00
- Bowls + Country & Western social event - 23rd July (bowling from 14:00)
- Councillors Cup versus Maitland (mixed) - 30th July from 14:00 (followed by a catered meal)
- Ladies charity day - 3rd August from 14:00 (in support of the children from Dnipro, Ukraine)
- Nellie Hastie Triples (Ladies) - 5th August from 10:30
- Carricknowe friendly (Ladies) - 9th August from 14:00
- Gents championship - QF (11th August at 18:30), SF (16th August at 18:30) and Final (20th August at 14:00)
- Trinity friendly (mixed) - 13th August from 14:00
- Corstorphine friendly (Gents) - 17th August from 18:15
- Invitation Pairs: 21st August (afternoon, mixed) - Note: our members can invite a player from another club or pair up with another member from Blackhall Bowling Club.
- EWBA championship finals (Blackhall hosting) - 26th August from 10:30

Full details will be provided on the noticeboards at the club. Further events may be added in due course.

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