



THE RINK - April 2023

The President speaks

Our season got off to a flying start on Opening Day, with 57 people playing across all 7 rinks. My good lady (Pamela) looked resplendent as she threw the silver jack to get proceedings under way before being presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers – thank you to the club. The weather was reasonably kind, and everyone appeared to enjoy being back on the Bowling Green, Joan Pammenter's rink of John Waterlow, Dot Latimer & Donald Cameron scooping the silverware. Thanks to Katy & Gary for organising teams, setting up the rinks and tallying up at the end.



Play was followed by an excellent catered meal, which everyone appeared to enjoy – thanks to the caterers for doing a splendid job. Also thanks are due to the ladies who put a lot of effort into setting up the tables ahead of proceedings and also tidying up at the end – our clubhouse looked very inviting to come back into after play concluded. Finally thanks to Cammie Pammenter for looking after the bar, Les Dickson for organising the Grand National Sweep, and the ladies who did the raffle.

Our Monday Hat Night has also re-started, with a healthy turnout of 33 players on the first Monday of the season. The Hat Night is an excellent way to meet your fellow members and learn a bit more about the playing and etiquette side of bowls, so I would encourage everyone, particularly newer members, to come along and join in. Starting time at the moment is 6 pm, however, this will move back during the season as the days get longer.

The Ladies have also had their Opening Day, with once again a very healthy turnout enjoying some afternoon sunshine before tucking in to some tasty sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes – I know, because I was kindly invited along and had a most enjoyable afternoon – thank you and well done Ladies !!!

The Match Secretaries (Katy & Gary) have been busy making the draws for the various internal competitions, and these have been, (or will shortly be) posted in the respective locker rooms – good luck to everyone – maybe this will be your year to flourish on the green. The Gents and Ladies league matches are due to kick off shortly – again good luck to everyone involved for an enjoyable and successful season.

Our next Social Event is the 50/60/70's music night on the 20th May – this also features bowling ahead of some Pizza and entertainment – numbers are looking reasonably good, but the more the merrier, so please put your name up if you haven't already done so.

Looking further ahead in the Social Calendar I am pleased to advise that our 125 Year Celebration has now been fixed for Saturday, 2nd September. The format for this event has still to be finalised, however, it will involve bowling, fine dining, and sparkling entertainment. Watch this space for further details, but in the meantime make sure you put the date in your diary.

In the Clubhouse, we have recently set up an Honesty Bar, offering a small selection of beers, wines & soft drinks – this is particularly useful on the occasions when the bar is not open and you may fancy a small refreshment to celebrate a notable victory on the green, or maybe just to enjoy some conversation with fellow bowlers.

Douglas J Main, President.

News: We have a busy month ahead, between hosting external ties and playing in them, and the start of the Ladies and Gents' Leagues. Some of the dates of these games are detailed below. Why not come along and enjoy the bowling/support our teams. The bar will be open for the evening / weekend games.

This month also sees the start of our Bowling tasting sessions for Blackhall Primary Schoolchildren. These sessions will take place every Thursday from 4th May until 8th June. As a result, the green will not open be for general play on those days until 11am.

Please also note that the green will be closed all day on Thursday 25th May for fertilization.

To celebrate the Coronation, our Hat afternoon on 3rd May will have a "Coronation Theme". Appropriate clothing (e.g.-red, white, and blue) is encouraged!

We have a **Social** on Saturday 20th May.

Bowling, commencing at 4pm, followed by food and entertainment, all in good company. You can sign up at the Club.

The **gardening squad** have been hard at work and their efforts are already enhancing the green surrounds.

They have further plans for improving our gardens and we are very grateful to them for their efforts. If anyone has a **garden shredder** for shrub and tree prunings, which they would be prepared to lend to the Club, the gardening crew would be very grateful.

Finally, the Club is the sum of its members, and it needs continually to look to recruit new members.

We have **Open Days** on Sunday 7th and 14th May. Please try to come along and encourage any neighbours or friends who may be interested in joining to come along also. Alternatively, they will be made most welcome at our Saturday morning coaching.

We have a great club. Let's support it.

Upcoming Dates – April/May

- Saturday 29th April (10.00-12noon) - Coaching (weekly) – but please note there will be no coaching on Sat. 6th May.
- Mondays 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th May (14.00) - Ladies' Heather league ties.
- Monday 1st May (18.00) Hat night – (weekly) – please check the club noticeboard for varying start times throughout the season.
- Wed 3rd May (14.00) - Hat afternoon (weekly). Players, please sign in no later 13.45.
- Wednesdays 3rd May (18.30) and 24th May (18.45) -Gents League matches.
- Thursdays 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th May (9.30 until 11.00)- Blackhall Primary School Bowling taster sessions.
- Fridays 5th and 12th May (14.00) – Ladies' Forth League ties.
- Sundays 7th and 14th May (14:00- 16.00) – Open Days.
- Thursday 18th May (18.45) – Hosting Gent's EBA ties.
- Saturday 20th May (16.00) - Bowling followed by social evening – Pizza and salad, and “50's, 60's and 70's” Music Entertainer. Sign-up sheet in Club.
- Sunday 21st May (14.00) – Hosting Bowls Scotland Ladies' ties.
- Monday 22nd May (14.00) - Hosting Bowls Scotland Gent's ties.
- Tuesday 23rd May (18.30) – Hosting Bowls Scotland Gent's ties.
- Thursday 25th May (All day) - Green closed for fertiliising.