



THE RINK - May 2023

The President speaks

Our season is well under way now, with some decent weather of late encouraging greater use of our Green. Our Ladies and Gents League teams have made a reasonable start with some good results recorded so far.

Our Green is playing well – many of our members and also quite a number of visiting players have commented favourably – so well done to our hard-working Green sub committee. Additionally, our Gardening Squad have also made a grand job of making our club grounds look so pretty – we are always looking for new people to help, so come along if you think you can contribute – full training + a bacon roll will be provided.

Our Monday Hat Nights have been very well supported, with numbers well up compared to the same period last season. I would encourage all members to come along and join in – the format allows everyone to have a chance at playing in the various positions (lead, skip etc.), and the less formal approach makes for friendly and enjoyable bowling.

The Ladies Wednesday afternoon sessions are also very popular, with an impressive 47 ladies playing recently – these sessions are followed by tea and chat in a very informal setting, so once again, I would encourage lady members to join in.

We have had 2 Open Days in May, both of which were fairly well attended by potential new members – my thanks to all of our members who assisted on these days, giving great encouragement to the newbies. The number of attendees who have signed up to join our club is poorer than last year -so far, but hopefully there is time yet for some of them to join.

Our initiative with Blackhall Primary School is also underway – the kids seem to really enjoy these sessions, and my thanks go to the coaches who work very hard to ensure the kids have a good time, and hopefully either join as junior members, or return to bowling when they are a bit older (or even encourage their parents to join).

On the social side, we recently had a bowling / pizza / music afternoon / evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came along – thanks as always to all those who worked hard to organise and set up the bowling and the entertainment. Our next social event is on Saturday 17th June -bowling followed by Fish & Chips – this event is already well subscribed, so if you want to come along, please get your name up ASAP.

Also – our Honesty Bar is up and running fully now – a number of members have taken advantage of the selection of cold drinks which can be purchased at reasonable prices on any occasion when our bar isn't open.

On Saturday 3rd June, we will be involved in Blackhall Sports Day from around 12 noon to 5 pm, having an opportunity to demonstrate bowling to a hopefully large audience – as always, this takes a fair commitment from our members – if anyone can assist, even just for some of the time, please contact myself or any committee member.

Finally, we are making good progress with our plans to have a celebration for the club reaching 125 Years – catering has been booked (likely to be a 3 course sit down meal), entertainment

options are being considered (mostly in house) and the Match Secretaries are planning some afternoon bowling ahead of the celebrations – don't forget to save the day – Saturday 2nd September 2023.

Douglas J Main, President.

News: We have another busy month ahead. See below for the main events.

Coaching continues on Saturdays between 10am and 12noon, but please note there will be no formal coaching on 17th June and 1st July.

We have a **“Come and Try” Day** on Sunday 11th June, between 2pm and 4pm. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to come along and give bowls a try!

We have 2 Round Robin Competitions coming up. On Wednesday 28th June, the usual afternoon hat game will be replaced by an **all-day Round Robin Pairs Competition** when the **ladies** will play for their **Centenary Quaich**. A snack lunch will be available.

And on the afternoon of Saturday 1st July, we will play for the **Burgoyne Cup**. This is another round Robin Competition – this time **for ladies and gents**.

Both Competitions are good fun - and not too serious. Sign-up sheets are up in the Clubhouse (or will be shortly).

And a wee bit of older news: our ladies on the green in the Costa del Sol – April 2023.



Upcoming Dates – May/June

- Monday 29th May - Hat night – (weekly) – please check the club noticeboard for varying start times throughout the season.
- Wednesday 3^{1st} May (14.00) - Hat afternoon (weekly). Players, please sign in no later 13.45.
- Thursdays 1st and 8th June (9.30 until 11.00)- Blackhall Primary School Bowling taster sessions.
- Fridays 2nd and 9th June (14.00) – Ladies’ Forth League ties.
- Saturday 3rd June (10.00-12noon) - Coaching (weekly) – but please note there will be no coaching on Saturdays 17th June and 1st July.
- Saturday 3rd June (12.15-16.30) – Blackhall Children’s Sport’s Day – at Ravelston Park – to include bowls taster session.
- Monday 5th June (14.00) - Ladies’ Heather League tie.
- Tuesday 6th June (2pm) – Ladies’ friendly v Maitland
- Sunday 11th June (14:00- 16.00) – Come and Try Day.
- Wednesdays 14th and 28th June (18.45) -Gents League matches.
- Saturday 17th June (15.00) - Bowling followed by Fish and Chips. Sign-up sheet in Club
- Monday 19th June (2pm) – Hosting Forth League Pairs Tie
- Wednesday 28th June (10.30- all day) – Ladies’ Centenary Quaich – Pairs Round Robin. Sign-up sheet in Club.
- Saturday 1st July (p.m) – Burgoyne Cup - Mixed Pairs Round Robin. Start time to be confirmed. Sign-up sheet in Club.