



Leatherhead Bowling Club

Newsletter Issue 21

NEWS

As requested at the AGM I will be publishing a regular Newsletter but probably on a monthly basis. For those at the AGM and others who have read the minutes you will know it is the Club's intention to hold social events on certain Saturdays from December. The content will be discussed at next Tuesday's committee meeting and advised subsequently.

SHORT MAT

The new season of short mat (hopefully our first full one after two truncated winters) has been a rip-roaring success with more than 25 regular players (mostly summer players too) spread over Saturday mornings, Monday afternoons, Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings – the latter being a 'sizzler' with chef Rob Corlett again in his element supplying burgers, hot dogs and toasties plus he provides us with a variety of music to listen to as we enjoy our bowls. David Lokkerbol also offers coaching on Thursday mornings.

Competitive matches – we will have our own internal competitions over the winter BUT at the last minute we were invited to put in a team to play in the Wey Valley Thursday afternoon league. With our two most experienced bowlers in Sue and David Lokkerbol already committed to Cobham (but likely to join us in the 'transfer window' we hope!) we have fielded a four person team for the four matches played thus far and sit mid-table with a win and three narrow defeats – two of them by just one shot – the defeats being against the three top teams in the league!

The team selection is trying to give all those interested a game with Chris Little and Rob Corlett picking the teams. Given we are competition novices the performances have been really impressive. The high attendance at the in-house events is bringing as much £100 per week into the club, which helps our cash flow in these fallow months.

We also intend joining the Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire League later this season.

THE CLUB AND GROUND

The green has been 'put to bed' with Jamie working hard on it to return the surface to its usual excellent condition with treatment to the grass and new seed. We even have a 'hawk' to frighten off the birds intent on digging up the green plus Mrs Fox appears

to be hibernating or has slunk off somewhere else – no doubt put off by Desta's ammonia!

Ray Dawson will be advising of work to be carried out over the winter for any members interested in helping.

MEMBER NEWS

It was good to see Roy Fassnidge at the AGM after his long time out of action whilst his body returns to something like its athletic best! He hopes to have a full season in 2022.

At the AGM we all thanked President Brenda for her sterling work for the club from the 1980s – what a stalwart she has been and we all look forward to her swansong at the Presentation Dinner in November.

A VIEW FROM THE MAT (Short)

With some trepidation I joined Rachel Leese, Sarah Campbell and Chris Little at the most impressive Wey Valley Indoor Bowling Club with its vast array of indoor rinks for the longer version of the game but with a separate area with ten (!) short mat rinks – with me used to our rather confined space at our club it was quite overwhelming. Skip Chris having thought we were playing a-not-so-good Knaphill team eventually announced it was, instead, top of the table Ripley.

She told me I was at 3 then changed her mind and put me at 2 with Rachel at 1 and Sarah 3. I could see as soon as we started why she promoted Sarah who had never played short mat until this month but now looked like a county player. Chris has played well in the matches so far but, although I might be biased, she was outstanding in this match of very high technical content against some very good opposition. Playing at our club in a friendly is one thing but representing the club in a match against experienced players is something else and the degree of sustained concentration and the technical difficulties of the game make this so much more difficult than some might think!

I was barely average in the first nine ends where Rachel and I largely failed to dominate the jack only to be saved by Sarah and Chris and we were 10-5 down at the tea break. The rallying cry was let's try and make the second half a win for us even if we do lose overall.

What a game it was when we fought back as Rachel and me at last found our rhythm and we pulled up to 13-14 down with two ends to play. On the penultimate end we set up a four shot hold with their skip having one bowl left – he played a blinder and won the end by that one shot. 13-15. Final end ... we started well with Rachel and me giving us two shots and Sarah added a third but they came back at us and were holding three with the jack off to one side and Chris had one bowl left – if she could hit the right hand side of the jack and send it across the rink we could hold as many as three. She did exactly what was required and the jack went towards our three BUT not quite far enough and we only held the one shot to lose 14-15. Who said this game was boring!!

Friendly with Ashtead Sunday 31st October

We had an excellent afternoon of short mat bowling on Sunday playing host to our friends from Ashtead. We had two mats in competition with David and Sue Lokkerbol, Pat Shopland and Ken Leese on one mat and Sarah Campbell, Rachel Leese, Margert McGuigan and Rob Corlett on the other. I am pleased to say that we had a convincing win, with David's team recording 16 shots to 11 and Sarah's recording 33 shots to 7. It's always a pleasure to host matches with Ashtead and Rob will negotiating a date for a return match in the new year. They are also keen to host quiz night with us and we will let you know when the details on this are firmed up.

Steve