



Leatherhead Bowling Club

Newsletter Issue 24

NEWS

The summer season is just around the corner and membership renewals are flooding in and we already have four new members too with more to follow. Please return your forms etc. to Steve as soon as you can.

The necessary Health and Safety and Safe Working Procedures reviews by the club and the council have been completed. We now have additional guidance and for those who carry out groundling and other duties around the clubhouse and grounds, you are requested to read the guidance which will be displayed on the notice board to the left of the bar.

Congratulations to Clive Kendall, one of our leading players and our bar controller, in obtaining his Indoor Surrey Badge and has already represented the County in a competitive match.

We enjoyed another successful social evening in February where Shuffleboard was the theme with much hilarity and in quieter moments a quiz to tax our brains over a welcome drink and a lovely Shepherd's Pie – our thanks to all those who helped organise a lovely evening.

On the subject of social evenings, we have another on Saturday March 12th organised by Sue Lokkerbol, details of which have been circulated as also have details of a fun short mat evening on the 18th where the Short Matters are challenging those members who play indoors at Mole Valley. Please support both if you can.

There have been a series of matches, indoors, where Leatherhead members, most of whom play indoors supplemented by a few who do not, have played as a team against Mole Valley Mixed, Ladies and Men plus Horsham Mixed. Despite a good time had by all we have lost all four – some by a large margin but one by only the one shot.

SHORT MAT

The winter based Short Mat continues to be well-supported on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. The internal competitions are reaching their semi-final stages with Finals Day set for Saturday April 9th from 10am.

Our constricted Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire (SHAB) league has ended. We had one win and a draw but what was pleasing was how as the season progressed we competed extremely well. For example, in early season we lost 32-9 to Ripley who include Surrey players in their ranks, and they play Short Mat all year, but in the return match we lost narrowly by 15-13. Similarly, against Chobham Heath having lost heavily away we managed a draw at home. In this league next season, we will be graded in a league (so we should be in a weaker one) but have to put out two teams of four which should not be a problem, but we will perhaps have stronger teams now we have all experienced competitive matches.

In the Wey Valley Thursday League, we still sit comfortably in mid-table with a few wins and some close matches. The standard is lower here and we have tried to give all those interested a game, and this has worked very well.

We have also had a two-rink friendly with Cobham whose old mats we have. We attuned to them much better and ran out winning on both rinks with a total of 41v27 – it was a pleasant Sunday afternoon with a half time break for a cuppa and chocolate wafer with a couple of drinks from the bar afterwards.

THE CLUB AND GROUND

The Green is looking in good condition with Harry the Hawk (it's artificial!) keeping the larger birds away from seeking worms and digging into the grass. We had a trapped bird as most know and Rob is tracking its progress with the RSPCA – recovery is slow.

Ray Dawson, who heads up the Groundlings and Maintenance teams, has been repairing the walls in the clubhouse and these will be painted in early April. The ditches of the green have been cleared of leaves. Ray will shortly be issuing details of pre-season work now that we are heading into springtime. An email has been issued requesting volunteer rink marshals so please do volunteer so we can spread the workload rather than relying on the faithful few!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Official opening of the green – Saturday April 23rd (but green available for use from beginning of April)

From early May – 100 Up organised by Chris

Recruitment weekend – May 6th to 8th

From end of July – Barham Triples organised by Steve

Club AGM – October 15th

Presentation evening at Tyrrells Wood – Saturday November 26th

Full details of the season's programme will follow soon.