

Karen Hall

I received a letter from Karen Hall, who you may remember played with us in 2010. Following the sad loss of her baby at the start of 2011, she and her family are planning to move away from the village. She wrote, "I shall miss all the lovely people I met at the club and wish you all well for the future." We also wish them well in their new lives.

Club Shirts

I'll be putting in another order for club shirts before the season starts so if you missed out last time please let me have your size. Each shirt costs £14.95.

Solden Hill House

Residents of Solden Hill House will be joining us again this season for their weekly roll-up. If anyone would like to volunteer an hour or so of their time once a week to help out please let me know. It's great fun as anyone who helped out last year will tell you.

Just before Christmas Carl Upton lost his long fight with cancer. Carl, who was married to Sarah (a regular visitor with Solden Hill) helped Paul and I with bits of building at the club earlier in the year. Our thoughts are with Sarah and their two young sons, Harry and Ollie.

Recruitment

We're always on the look-out for new and experienced bowlers and it's never too early to start looking. If you know anyone who might like to try the game for the first time or someone who already plays and would like to come and have a go at Woodford, please let me know.

Colin Brock

I'm delighted to report that Colin has now returned home after successful surgery on his hip. He would like to thank everyone at the club for their best wishes and is looking forward to getting back on the green, pain-free, in May.

Things we need...

There are several items we either need to replace or would like to buy before the season begins, so keep your eyes open and ear to the ground for any bargains. In particular we'd like to get a hostess trolley, a microwave, a vacuum cleaner and a white plastic garden table.

Members Handbook

Enclosed with your newsletter is a new members handbook which hopefully provides all the information you need to know about competition rules, playing regulations, membership, match and green fees, dress codes and etiquette as well as the contact details of all club officials. I'd welcome any comments members may have.

Dates for your diary...

22 March	Green Opens	30 June - 1 July	Tour to Yorkshire
13 April	Competition Draw Night	8 July	Headley Rose Bowl
20 May	Club Open Day	22 July	Nicholl Cup v Byfield
21 May	Club Open Evening	29 July	Captain's Day
17 June	President's Day	15/16 September	Finals Weekend



Woodford-cum-Membris Bowls Club

Newsletter

January 2012

**For the latest news visit
www.woodfordbowls.co.uk**

I hope that you all enjoyed a fantastic Christmas and New Year wherever you were, whatever you were doing and whoever you spent it with. And it was lovely to see so many of you at Brian and Sue's on the 7th. Our thanks go to them for organising and hosting the evening.

Believe it or not the start of the season is only 16 weeks away. This year we have 33 fixtures including new home and away matches against four new clubs - Caldecott Park, Bugbrooke, Bradwell and Banbury Chestnuts.

On the green...

The green seems to have emerged from the winter in reasonably good fettle. There's a good covering of grass and very few signs of moss or disease. Paul and I have continued to attend to it on a weekly basis, Dean has aerated it at least once a month and Paul has continued to mow it regularly. At the beginning of February, once the temperatures hopefully start to rise, we'll smooth out some of the remaining divots and undulations.

Off the green...

Progress continues apace at the club. Within weeks there will be paving on all the perimeter paths. The slabs (all 700 of them) were generously donated by Bradstone, while the cement was given to us by the Banbury branch of Jewson. Local contractor, Nigel McKie has agreed to lay the slabs for the cost of manpower only (£600) and five members of the committee have each loaned the club £175 to cover the costs which will be repaid at the end of 2012.

In the clubhouse Chris is finishing the honours board, Paul and I have started to fit some additional kitchen units, plastered and painted walls, put up new notice boards, fixed the odd leak and lay a new floor. We also received generous donations from Carpetright (new vinyl flooring for the kitchen), Comet (a £50 voucher) and the Hampshire Flag Company who have given us a club flag.

There are still one or two other things to finish before the season starts so if anyone would like to lend a hand, please get in touch (01327 261560). We'd be delighted to see you.

Membership & Competition Form

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 2012 membership application and competition entry form. I know that this is slightly earlier than usual but please can you return your completed forms and payment to club secretary Linda Brassington (83 Byfield Road, Woodford Halse, NN11 3QS) before the end of March.

Draw Night

Competition draw night will be held on Friday 13th April at the clubhouse. Proceedings will start at 7pm and should take no more than an hour. Refreshments will be available.

Derek Headley

Despite his unfailing spirits and determination in the face of adversity, Derek suffered a massive stroke on Boxing Day and remains critically ill in Northampton hospital. The stroke has caused paralysis to one side of his body and he is unable to swallow or communicate. I'm sure that I speak for us all when I send our best wishes to Derek and to Gina, who as always remains by his side.

200 Club

January's winners are...

£50 Val Moseley
£10 Linda James
£10 Olwen Kirkham
£10 Keith Fox

February's winners are...

£50 Richard Acton
£10 Carol Brock
£10 Richard Acton
£10 Jill Fox

Woodford on tour...

The 'travel agents' at Woodford have been busy planning the club's first tour. On 30th June and 1st July, a team from Woodford will be touring North Yorkshire, playing Tony and Linda James's new club Flamborough on the Saturday and another local club on the Sunday.

We'll be staying in a highly recommended local hotel or B&B, which serves good food and a decent pint. Spaces are limited to just 16, so if you'd like to come along please contact Sue Collett on 01295 760223 or at fixtures@woodfordbowls.co.uk as soon as possible.

Teas

So that we all have a chance to play in matches this season without the additional worry of teas, we're talking to a local cafe and caterer about providing teas for home matches (including hot meals). We'll let you know the outcome in due course.

Nationwide Bowler

Woodford's progress continues to attract attention and in December our story was featured in *Nationwide Bowler*, including some stunning photography by John Hayward and Tony Sanders. I will put copies of the magazine in the clubhouse but if you'd like to read it before then, there is a link on the news page of the club website.

Practice Sessions

We're hoping to get the green open a week before our first fixture against Harpole on 1st May, so we can all get our eye in after a winter off or on the indoor circuit. And following the success of our day with the County coaches, we're also going to have some regular practice/skills sessions for those who want to hone their games.

Car Boot Sale

Such was the success of the last boot sale and auction (we raised over £100), we're planning to do another on May Bank Holiday. So if like me you're planning to have a bit of a clear out this spring, don't forget to set aside anything you no longer want, let me know (01327 261560) and I'll collect it from you.

Greenkeeper's Day (Sunday 12 August)

To reward those who dedicate their time and energy to improving and maintaining the green, the committee has decided to reintroduce Greenkeeper's Day next year. Plans are yet to be finalised but it'll be a fun day, no doubt involving lots of beer, a barbecue and some bowls, when we can all show our appreciation for their efforts.