

Loan repayments

Those of you who contributed financially to the building of the clubhouse will receive a cheque for £20 within the next few days. A final payment will be made in June.

Volunteers

See what WE can achieve! I'm delighted to say that with each and every newsletter, more members are coming forward to offer their help and support. That's not to say that 'it's alright someone else has volunteered'. If you can spare an hour every now and then, even if it's just to put the kettle on, we'd love to see you up there. It's for your benefit.

Ladies Gala

Almost all of our lady members met at Joan Bodily's to discuss the ladies gala and it was met with unanimous enthusiasm. You'll be glad to hear that I've volunteered the men to help out on the day—scoring, serving and generally entertaining our female guests.

New Members

Whether they're new to the area, new to bowls or considering changing clubs, we're always looking for new members. If you know anyone who might like to try their hand or move to Woodford from another club, please ask them to contact Tom Rigby on 01327 261560 or at chairman@woodfordbowls.co.uk.

Gardening

Under the watchful eyes of Norman and Barbara Langdon, the areas surrounding the green have also been receiving a makeover and come the start of the season should look a real picture. If anyone can donate any flowers, plants, cuttings or compost they will all be gratefully received and if you're able to give them a hand, you'll be most welcome.

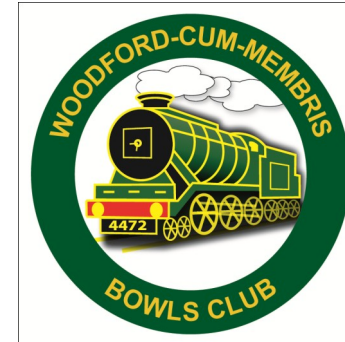
As we all know, gardening can be back-breaking and time-consuming work. So this season we're introducing a scheme where members can 'Adopt a Pot'. We'll supply the pot and soil and all you have to do is fill it with whatever takes your fancy and make sure that it's watered throughout the season. Interested? Then get in touch with Tom on 01327 261560 or Barbara on 01327 261658. There might even be a prize for the best pot!

A Joint Vision

I've also been in discussion with the football club, cricket club and Parish Council regarding the area immediately outside the club gates. This has long been an eyesore and has become a car park during busy periods.

With the help of village firm Main Line Timber, we are to fence off this area, lay a concrete paving path and plant some shrubs along the edge. The football and cricket clubs have agreed to remove the portakabin, tidy up the area behind it and fence it in. I hope that I've also persuaded the Parish Council to re-surface the car park.

This will be a lengthy project and will probably take much of the season to complete but the end result should give the Sarafield a much needed makeover and provide visiting clubs with a much nicer welcome to WcMBC. Plans can be seen on the club website at www.woodfordbowls.co.uk/events.



Woodford-cum-Membris Bowls Club

Newsletter

March 2011

www.woodfordbowls.co.uk

Green Report

So far in our efforts to revive the green we've had over £4,000 worth of treatments and equipment loan — and it's cost nothing except the price of a few pints to keep the workmen happy. The spirit and generosity shown amongst the green keeping community has really been humbling and I think that mankind in general could learn a thing or two from it.

The intensive programme continues. In February, Dean Broughton, a turfcare contractor from Leicestershire, brought his sarrell roller and aerator to the club and the green is due to be reseeded and topdressed this weekend. Then all we need is some rain and sunshine. As much effort and time as you put in, nature is always in charge.

As a result, and bearing in mind the comments from both members and visitors about the poor state of the green last season, the committee has taken the decision to rearrange the early part of the season to give the more damaged parts of the green as much time as possible to recover.

All fixtures in May will now be played away and the triples league and club competitions will start in June. To enable members to practice two or three rinks will be kept open and rotated but please tread carefully as new grass is trying to make its way to the surface. I've enclosed an amended fixture list, so please throw the other one away.

My thanks go to John Hayward, Mike Brassington, Richard Tyack, Chris Golder, Brian North, Ken Barber (plus hernia) and Paul Shrimpton who have all turned up, come rain or shine, and worked tirelessly on behalf of the club and its members to ensure that the green is not only playable but possibly better than its been for several years.

So much has been achieved but there's still much to do in the final few weeks. If you feel inspired to lend a hand (and there are plenty of fit and healthy members who are conspicuous by their absence) contact Tom Rigby on 01327 261560.

Honorary Members

The committee has invited Ken Barber and Paul Shrimpton to become honorary members of the club. Without the time and energy they have both given the club during recent months, I'm not sure that we would be in a position to open our gates this season.

Sponsorship & Donations

During the past couple of months I have contacted several local and national companies asking for their support. Locally, Main Line Timber were happy to help and have donated over £500 in materials. I've also agreed to work for Whetherday Nursery in Badby for 12 months in return for free soil, sand, shingle and plants.

Environmental biotechnology company, Symbio, which supplies products to a range of sporting venues has taken a core sample from the green for analysis and given us a season programme of disease treatment and soil nutrients worth in excess of £500.

I've also had a meeting with building supplier Travis Perkins and they have supplied paving to replace the path outside of the clubhouse, the area outside of the gates and also a small patio area to the side of the clubhouse. On top of this, they have also supplied a large quantity of sand, cement and wood.

200 Club

February's winners were...

£50 Tom Rigby (donated to the club)
£10 Olwen Kirkham
£10 Clarry Bodily
£10 Linda James

March's winners are...

£50 John Cook
£10 Richard Acton
£10 Linda James
£10 Liz Hayward

The 200 Club is a vital source of fundraising. If you would like to buy a number in the draw or add another to your collection, please contact Sue and Brian Collett on 01295 760223.

Members Handbook

I am producing a member's handbook which will provide all of the necessary information you need to be an active member of the club. If there is anything in particular which you think should be included, please let me know via email at chairman@woodfordbowls.co.uk.

Draw Night — 11th April

We're holding a draw night at the Clubhouse at 7pm on 11th April to which you are all invited. Refreshments will be served and it should take just over an hour. So come and see who stands in your way of silverware this season.

Northamptonshire Bowling Association

I recently received a letter from Laurie Harrison, secretary to the Northamptonshire Bowling Association. His letter regarded the 'delicate matter' (as he put it) of ladies subscription fees. On behalf of the club, I told him that we wish to remain in the 21st century and that until the Association represented both men and women we would not consider it. Our future affiliation to the NBA will be up for discussion at the AGM in November.

Rule Changes

There are two rule changes for the forthcoming season. Firstly, the winner of the previous end may no longer hand the jack to their opponent — a frequent tactic in County matches. The only exception is where an extra end is being played, when a coin will be tossed.

Also, in all forms of the game skips will now always be responsible for keeping the scorecard unless they delegate this responsibility to another member of the team at the start and inform the opposing captain.

Subscriptions & Competition Entry Forms

REMEMBER, all annual subscription and competition entry forms MUST be returned to either Tom Rigby (73 Byfield Road) or Linda Brassington (83 Byfield Road) by the end of this month at the very latest.

Compost Bay

We now have a new compost bay which will hopefully keep us in topdressing, saving the club around £300 every season. My thanks go to Paul Shrimpton who braved torrential rain and sub-zero temperatures to help me build it.