



PURLEY BOWLS CLUB

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2024 (VOLUME 1, EDITION 1)

Hello fellow bowlers

Welcome to the first of the Club's regular newsletters, which will, hopefully, provide you with news of people, events, matches & results. Apologies that this is rather lengthy, but there are a number of items that need inclusion. Although this originates from the Club, it is also your newsletter. It is not intended to replace, or duplicate the Club's website, which will remain the official record of the Club's activities. Rather, it is intended to enhance the information on the website. If you have anything you think might be included in future newsletters, please email me, Andrew Stanley (andrewastanley78@gmail.com). I will liaise with the Committee to see if that information can be made available.

Membership

At its peak (August 2023) the membership last season was 122, with 46 ladies & 76 men. Unfortunately, a number of colleagues are no longer with us this year, remembering especially Mike Green, Derek Lea and Steve Parnham. The membership currently stands at 109, with 44 ladies & 65 men.

Important information

I have been asked by the Committee to draw your attention to some important information, which is contained in the following two sections.

BowlR

*The club have invested a reasonable sum of money to enable this software to be available, **and to be used by the Club members**. You should have previously been issued with a Member Number & an initial password to enable you to log into the system. Please be aware that BowlR is the **only** recognised method for booking rinks for roll-up's, matches etc., and for organising member's match availability & selection. It will also provide information on the draw for club competitions & subsequent results. A complete list of member's contact details is also available.*

If you have not received log-in information, or for any reason you are unable to access, or use, BowlR, please contact Tony Gallagher (tel. no. in fixture booklet; tonygal1@sky.com), who will assist you.

Match Selection

*In making yourself available for a match on BowlR, you will be expected to be available if selected. All selected individuals will be notified by email, and **unless** you notify the Team Captain, in good time for them to make a reselection, that you are no longer available, you **will be expected** to play. Whilst the team sheets will be posted on the notice boards, this is for reference only. You will notice that the box previously marked 'Availability' is no longer there. It is now not acceptable to indicate on that sheet that you are unable to play, you **must** notify the Team Captain.*

Team Captains will pick a team from those of you who have stated they are available to play, bearing in mind their ability, but also recognising that all should be given a chance to play in a reasonable number of matches each season. The Team Captains often, certainly with the men's teams, have trouble forming a team. If more of you sign up their task is not only easier, but you might be given an opportunity to play.

OK, now that's out of the way!

Prestigious Competitions

Many of the more able amongst us have entered external competitions. Details of these will, hopefully, be provided in April, once the draws are shown on the relevant websites.

The Green

Having been repaired, improved and rested over the winter period, the green is now being maintained by a Sports Ground Contractor. The Club has been promised that, the grass being cut at least three times a week, the quality of the playing surface will be as good as, if not better than, before. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

The season will officially begin, subject to the weather having been suitable for the prior preparation of the green, on **Saturday 13 April**, with the Opening Ballot. Six mixed rinks will be available, and the Committee hope that you will help make it a maximum turnout.

Rink reservations for roll-ups or individual's matches, whether internal or external, must be made on BowlR. Matches, competitions, ballots etc. organised by the Club will take priority.

Fixtures

A fixtures booklet, which details all Club organised matches & other events throughout the season will be available to all bowlers. As the season progresses, changes to matches will occur for numerous reasons, so it's best to consult the fixtures lists on our website for the latest information.

Ballots will be held every Monday & Friday afternoon at 2pm, and Sunday mornings at 10.30am. These are open to all, and you should enter your name on the entry sheet at least 20 minutes before the start time. Rinks will be made available dependent on numbers.

Please note that Club Triples competition, which starts in late July, will be held on a Tuesday, and not, as previously, on a Friday.

It is also proposed that an Australian style 2-4-2 league be arranged on Thursdays, with two 1.5-hour sessions. Full details will follow, when finally agreed.

All of you, whatever your ability, are encouraged to enter for **any** (appropriate) match, via the BowlR system. Not only will you get enjoyment from playing, but the competitive nature of the match will improve your game.

Facilities

Canopy

It had been planned that, over the closed season, a new canopy would have been erected along the 'road end' of the green-side. For those of us who have previously spent some time sheltering under a fairly small, swaying plastic roofed shelter, this would have been a welcome addition.

Unfortunately, it has been discovered that this will require Planning Permission, which will take some time to obtain. It has, therefore, been decided to postpone construction until the end of the season.

Neil Young will, no doubt, be looking for volunteers to help to prepare the green and to carry out a number of other associated tasks. Please offer your assistance if you are fit, and feel able to help.

Side gate

The electronic locking system of the side gate to the bowling green has now to repaired, and requires a pass card to operate it. If you have one of the white PSC credit card sized membership cards, this should operate the lock. Those that don't, or for more recent members, a card can be obtained from reception.

Captains Charity 2024

The Captain's charity this year is the **South East Cancer centre**. Charities do valuable work, and everyone will know somebody who has got or had cancer. All the social events held by the club will offer an opportunity to donate. Please try to give generously. The total collected so far is £260.00.

Imminent social events

Numerous social events are organised throughout the year, many of which are detailed on the website. Reminders of both these, and any additional events, will be sent at the appropriate time. As a reminder, cribbage evenings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm.

Pre-season buffet

The pre-season buffet will be held on Saturday 6 April, with details being forwarded shortly.

..... Please remember

The Committee work hard to ensure that there are sufficient opportunities for you to enjoy your bowls. It is your Club, so why not make full use of the opportunities available.

PAST SOCIAL EVENTS

Charity Christmas Card (as previously reported in the PSC March newsletter)



It is customary for some of the ladies of Purley Bowls Club who do not wish to write Christmas cards to donate to a charity instead; In fact, some ladies do both! This year 30 lady bowlers enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner in the Cowen Suite and collected £135 for 'Christian Family Concern'. This local Croydon charity, which helps young mums who are not so fortunate as others, is close to my heart, as I have recently become a grandmother.

Recently, Purley Ladies played a game with Croydon Indoor Club, and Jean Williamson who is a Croydon bowler, and a Trustee of the charity, was able to receive the collection officially.

The photograph shows Sue Souppouris (Captain of the day), Jean Williamson and Ursula Wharf who is our Ladies Vice Captain and designed the card.

Purley 'did' the Lambeth Walk (as previously reported on the PBC webpage)

Five-star entertainment from the Cowan Vaudeville, Purley

If you remember the *'The Good Old Days'* which the BBC broadcast in the latter half of the 20th century, this was a feast of nostalgia. Despite the evening having been organised in a very short space of time, the acts followed each other seamlessly, and were introduced in fine style by John Thurley (remember Leonard Sachs?). A large cast of (mainly) lady members sang & danced to tunes from the late 19th & early 20th centuries, all displayed talents, previously unknown! Thanks goes to all those who were brave, or foolish enough, to 'take the stage'.



The evening started with the 'Anne Jameson Trio' singing, what else but *'Doing the Lambeth Walk'*. Jane Harding followed with a rendition of *'My Old Man Said Follow the Van'*. Then a bevy of 'Pearly Beauties' gave us *'Oom-Pah-Pah'*, which culminated in a raucous cacophony, when the audience lustily joined the singing. They continued their performance with *'Daisy, Daisy'* and *'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'* (up the Hammers!).

John Roe played a series of song selections throughout the evening, inviting the audience to join him, which they did with gusto. Elizabeth Bennett sang both *'Hold Your Hands Out You Naughty Boy'* and *'You Made Me Love You'*, wonderfully, in spite of a malfunction of the microphone. Well done, Elizabeth! Mick 'Bomber' Durkin' gave us *'You Are My Sunshine'*, which he first sang publicly in 1945. After the interval he also performed *'Every Time We Say Goodbye'*. During the interval, a pub-style meal was served, which, judging by the empty plates, was enjoyed by all. A raffle also raised £260 for the Captain's charity, which this year is the **South East Cancer Centre**.

Not content with organising the evening, Mary Roe gave a rendition of *'Molly Malone'* and later *'Danny Boy'*, the latter moistening many an eye. John Roe (is there a theme developing here?) followed by reciting the amusing poem *'Albert and the Lion'*. Ann Traynor, ably supported by Jennifer Lees, gave us a Scottish Aire, and Fiona Weaver *'A Dorset Ditty'*.

For a finale the whole cast joined together for *'Show Me the Way to Go Home'*, which we duly did, having been wonderfully entertained. Apologies to all those whose names have been omitted, your efforts were appreciated all the same.

Men's 'Pie & Pint' Evening

On Friday 23 February, over thirty of the men members held the annual 'Pie & Pint' evening. All enjoyed catching up with old friends, who they may not have seen since the end of the last season. The ticket price included an individual steak & kidney pie, both mashed & chipped potatoes, peas and, of course, a pint of beer! It was generally agreed that the food was excellent. Everyone was looking forward to the new season, whilst recognising that there needs to be a significant improvement in the weather to enable the green staff to properly prepare the surface. Keep your fingers crossed!

INFORMATION ZONE

2023/4 Committee

For those, like me, who may have missed the AGM, a reminder of the 2024 Committee:

Men's Captain	Neil Young
Ladies' Captain	Jane Seymour
Men's Vice Captain	David Reynolds
Ladies' Vice Captain	Ursula Wharf
Men's Match Secretary	Colm Gallagher
Ladies' Match Secretary	Linda Gallagher
Club Secretary	Jane Harding
Club Treasurer	Jim Hallums
Management Comm Rep	Miki Aynsley
Green Ranger	Butch Manning
Men's Comm Member	Tony Gallagher
Ladies' Comm Member	Kara Lyford

If you have a matter which you wish to raise regarding the Club, please contact the relevant Committee Member. I am sure that they will be pleased to help you in any way they are able.

And finally

LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES ETC

The club's representatives, selectors etc for various leagues are as follows:

ESL representative	Richard Carr
ESL Rinks selection team	
Lead & team selector	Tony Gallagher
Team selector	Sean Gallagher

ESL Triples selection team

Lead & team selector	Richard Carr
Team selector	Tony Andrews
Tons representative	Ken Clarke
Lead & team selector	Ken Clark
Scout	Bob Jenkin
Scout	David Reynolds
Vilamoura representative	Mary Roe
Lead & team selector	Mary Roe
Team selector	Carolyn Reynolds
Team selector	(Male) TBA
CDL representative	Linda Gallagher
Team selector	Jane Seymour
Team selector	Ursula Wharf
Cristal League rep.	Linda Gallagher
Team selector	Jane Seymour
Team selector	Ursula Wharf
Mid Surrey League rep.	Linda Gallagher
Team selector	Jane Seymour
Team selector	Ursula Wharf

It had been hoped that an additional league could be found for our male bowlers to play in. Unfortunately, there are no other suitable leagues, hence Tons, Vilamoura & Friendlies remain the only options.