

## **MEN'S CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2024**

Good evening, gentlemen, welcome to the end of season meeting.

At the beginning of the year, we had our annual Pie and Pint evening which was well attended and Lucy provided some very tasty food.

We had to delay the start of the bowling season again due to adverse weather conditions. A couple of weeks later we were off.

Again, this year we were using Bowlr. After discussing how we wanted it to run in committee we all agreed to continue for the season with some minor adjustments, and I think it ran quite well.

We have investigated another booking system and some members attended a demonstration evening which I believe went very well, more details at a later date. I would like to thank Tony Gallagher for all his hard work running Bowlr for the last few years.

We discussed in committee a different format for the open weekend, instead of running our own weekend and decided to go with a format from Bowls England called 'The Big Bash Weekend'. We had a few people attending and 7 were signed up. Liz Fry and Tony Gallagher led them through the training and several have started playing towards the end of the season. Many thanks to Liz and Tony for their time.

Howard was running the Friday Ballots again this year, many thanks for your hard work again.

The Tons and Vilamoura leagues were again competed in, unfortunately we didn't perform as well as previous years.

Once we got onto the green the bowlers made full use of it and made up for any lost time. All the internal competitions got under way with a lot of very competitive games happening.

We went into the ESL season with heavy hearts due to the sad passing of Steve Parnham at the beginning of the year. David and myself asked Tony Gallagher and Sean Gallagher to take over the mantle, to which they agreed. Many thanks to both of them.

This year's ESL was always going to be an uphill struggle due to the leaving of a few good players last season, and so it proved. Unfortunately, we only won three of our matches so we have gone back down to division 2 next year.

In the triples ESL we fared much better finishing 5th in the league, right in the middle.

I would like to thank Richard Carr for organising and running the triples league and thank all the men that played week after week in both formats.

On the Captain's Day we had glorious weather and some great games, including the Pat Teasdale ladies vs men which was won by the men. Well done all.

I would like to congratulate Pete Power for getting his Surrey badge, well done.

Our finals weekend was bathed in sunshine and the bowling was outstanding, we had a lot of help as always from club members so many thanks to all, these events wouldn't happen otherwise.

We decided to take all the pictures as the games finished on the green which worked very well.

The presentation dinner was well attended and every one enjoyed the evening.

Talking about dinner events we have had some very good evenings this season starting with the Lambeth Walk, with John Thurley as master of ceremonies which was very well attended and a lot of very good costumes on show.

This was followed by the pre-season Buffet, again very well attended.

The food provided by Lucys kitchen was very good on both occasions. Before the end of the season, we had a 'Fizz and breakfast' bowls match which went down very well with a hearty breakfast at the conclusion, well done all.

I think that concludes my report for the year, I would like to thank PBC for having me as captain for the year, as most of you know I am leaving the club for pastures new. My time at

PBC for the past 7/8 has been great fun, meeting and making lots of great friends who I will miss. I hope to return next year to meet up and possibly arrange a roll up or two and a drink in the bar.

## Lady Captains Report 2024

Background - I joined Purley Bowls Club in 1999– and this has been my 25<sup>th</sup> Season. At the beginning of the Season, we welcomed both Jane Casey and Mandy Power to their first full season and haven't they done well. Despite both being injured at different times they adapted to full membership without any problems. Dorothy phoned me in the closed season and asked how she would go about rejoining Purley- within days it was like she had never been away and it was good to have another 'back end' 'I will play anywhere' bowler in the mix. I do hope that all three of you have enjoyed your season.

I think belonging to the Bowls Club is about having an enjoyable time on the green at all levels. I see my responsibility as Ladies Captain is to make sure that the Ladies have a good time at whatever level they choose to bowl at, try to iron out problems when they arise and do our best to make sure every lady is getting a fair share of the games on offer. I am under no illusion that you cannot please everyone all the time...

The weather had much to answer for this year. We opened two weeks later than intended as the green was very tender, our new Grounds man Ian suggested we let the green rest a little longer. I am so pleased we did – what a lovely green we have had to bowl on despite Summer never really arriving.

Our first Bank Holiday Drive was cancelled due to poor weather but we managed to get some other fun days in and I thank all those who supported these. Despite Captains day clashing with the TLC finals we had a good battle against the men and came second. It was disappointing that the Ladies Captain v Vice Captain and Bowls and Brunch the following day were both poorly attended but these days were tweaked and turned out to be very enjoyable for those who did turn up.

Thanks to our very hard working fixture secretary, Linda, we are now in three leagues and we managed to field teams at all times. The friendlies that were cancelled were cancelled because the opposition could not raise a side. We came third in the CDLL, second in the MSL and won the Cristal League. We came fourth in the Smiths League – This one was difficult to field as so many of our ladies hold Surrey badges and those others who were eligible to play were busy playing other competitions. Ladies I think a decision should be made do we wish to continue with this league?

It was a good move playing most of the MSL games on a Saturday morning. Our opposition seemed to like this too! It allowed workers to take part but as many of these games were at the beginning of the season some of our players were excluded because there were clashes with other Competitions. Nonetheless coming second is a good result in our first season.. Games at the end of the season proved difficult to field and the result of games did not always reflect the strength of the teams.

In the Surrey Delegates report I have mentioned with pride how successful the ladies have been this season in Surrey. We have had success in other competitions, too! I would like to Congratulate both Jane Sanders and Linda Gallagher for making good progress in the National Over 55 singles, Champion of Champions and National Mixed Fours Competitions. They reached Area finals in all these disciplines. I would also like to congratulate Jane Harding on being selected to play for Disability Bowls England South at Leamington. It was a pity that she had to cancel at the last minute through no fault of her own.

It was lovely to see the TLC competitions and the celebration Lunch in September being so well supported by Purley ladies. I congratulate Jane Gibbs and Linda Gallagher for reaching

the final of the Aussie Pairs and Ursula for winning the 2-wood competition. I would like to thank Lynn Donovan for all the hard work she has put into the TLC comps since the Borough folded. Lynn told me some time ago that this would be her last season as co-ordinator.. Please think if you would like to take over this role.

I really did enjoy co-ordinating the Internal Competitions this year. Finals weekend was the icing on the cake. The weather was dry and there were some very closely contested matches. Could do better:

- Our beginning of season Bowls Bash and Big Bowls Weekend did not work for Purley 2024. Not many new bowlers joining this season. I will take responsibility for this – I thought it worth a go as both initiatives are supported by Bowls England. The Bowls Bash was particularly troublesome for Elizabeth who emailed BE tirelessly trying to get things moving. I still think the short format game is a good idea and I do believe we can keep it in reserve to use at a later date.
- Despite trying to get selections out in good time, Bowlr selection process was very time consuming and too many of us who are not taking their names out when they are no longer available. I am suggesting that we change to the Surrey system next year. This is run along the same lines as Bowls Surrey Online. John Tucker has shown some of us how this works and I think we would do well to adopt it. In the Match Availability Module there is the facility to withdraw from games. I am not sure that this will make the slightest bit of difference to selection problems but it does put the onus back on the individual. The Surrey System also keeps track of statistics negating the need to keep separate spreadsheets and it is cheaper. I would continue to use the diary in the Clubroom. Still too many who do not do Bowlr and say call me if you are short. Those ladies are not getting their fair share
- A few people have not been picked for half the games they asked for. On closer inspection this is because in some cases bowlers were putting their names down for the wrong type of game
- I am sorry I didn't play many ballots or games. At the beginning of the season I made reasonable progress in the Surrey Singles and Pairs as well as spending 5 Saturdays with the Johns.
- The Past times – It seemed like a good idea at the time to put 2 teams in but it shouldn't be allowed. Well done to Team B for winning against Epsom before being knocked out by Sutton
- Too many things are different between the Men and the women and despite my best efforts there is much which can still be improved.

So much to be grateful for

I would like to thank everyone who holds a post on our Committee for their continued hard work on your behalf. I would also like to thank those ladies who deputised for me when I could not take games. Ursula, Linda, Sue and Janet all stepped up to Captain of the day when asked to. Janet not only managed to create a mixed game between ourselves when the opposition didn't turn up but collected tea and biscuit money when Committee had decided that mixed games would not be charged.

Can I thank;

Mary Roe for being the milk monitor – wonderful job.

Pam for monitoring the ladies competitions Board

Kara for being our Ladies Committee rep.

Miki for being our Management Rep

Jane for sticking with the post of Secretary' despite the debacle at the beginning of Season when no monies could be accessed – I hope the second season is easier.

Linda Gallagher who resigns from the Committee as she and Tony will not be bowling at Purley next season. The Club will miss both Linda and Tony very much. The ladies will particularly miss Linda as for many years she has been a key member of the Ladies' section. Who will we find to do the chores; Ladies' Fixture Secretary, Bonus Ball organiser, Board writer, 'WhatsApp' Administrator & League Delegate roles? We will find others to carry out these roles eventually.

I will miss something we cannot replace. Linda - a very good Club team member. Who will play anywhere needed. She is not only a bowler with exceptional competence and individual talent but she has that rare ability to make others bowlers of lesser ability feel good about themselves and so raises their game. All I can add to that is that I am sorry Linda will no longer be a Purley Lady and I wish her and Tony every happiness in their new club.

My next thank you – is to Ursula, a Vice-Captain. You are always there to support everyone and this year has been no different from others. There have been times this season when I have been so overwhelmed and you have pulled me through. It has been a delight to work with you I do hope that your Captaincy goes well and I will try to be there should you need me.

I do have a few others to thank. All the ladies who have contributed to making Purley the lovely club it is. All those who play in the Ballots,. All those who put their names down to play for the Club, all those who turn up for fun days, all those who contribute to making match teas, sweep the floor, empty the dishwasher. Purley Ladies have much to be grateful for and Purley Captains also.

I thank you all for your support , kindness and friendship throughout the Season and look forward to playing alongside you and supporting the new Committee with you in 2025.

Jane Seymour October 2024