Connaught Bowls Club

Newsletter August 2013

NOTES FROM EDITORS

We are doing a Newsletter earlier than usual i.e. before the outdoor season finishes. We can still cover most of the outdoor activities but at the same time alert members, especially new members, to the short mat season

CHAIRMAN STAN GROOM'S FOREWORD

We are nearing the end of another memorable outdoor season. Our playing results have not been spectacular but weatherwise the season has been excellent (a bit chilly early on) and we have turned out teams mostly without difficulty. I am delighted that Geoff Randle, our club coach, again has brought through new players who have joined the club and in some cases have appeared in our teams already. I am delighted also to welcome on board some experienced players who have moved to Attleborough and joined the club. I invite all the new players to join us for the short mat season; if you have not played before there are introductory sessions arranged.I have not been present at the club over the past weeks owing to the unfortunate accident suffered by Pauline, my wife, but I am pleased to say that she is out of hospital and making good progress on her way to recovery. I would like to thank the many of you who have sent cards and good wishes; this is really appreciated. I wish you all a very happy and successful season of bowling in the coming months and my sincere good wishes to everyone

CLUB SECRETARY MIKE PARSONS

Mike is standing down at the November AGM as Club Secretary. We tend to take club officials for granted, especially when they are efficient, but we will not do that in Mike's case. Mike has been club chairman in very difficult times and also has captained various club sides. As Secretary in recent years he has been the driving force behind several initiatives – these things just do not happen. Examples are the improved changing accommodation (amongst the most spacious in the county), the rebuilding of and extensions to the conservatory and the revamping of the kitchen. There have been several other building-related things, where with the help of Bill Adcock and others Mike has spent hours of personal time on getting things right

At one time our green became sparse and rootless and then it became over-grassed and heavy. Firstly with Bim and latterly with Kevin as our first "outside" greenkeeper, Mike has been involved in planning the improvement. Doubts were expressed from time to time but they pressed on and we are now playing on a much faster and well-tended surface. As mentioned elsewhere Mike has worked hard on getting representative matches to the club and there is accommodation and a green worthy of those matches. Mike is not just a planner – he gets his hands dirty as well (a week or so back removing something very unpleasant from outside the front gate!) and is always to be seen tidying here and straightening up there. He will be a hard act (or acts) to follow

CLUB TOUR

A party of 40 or so sets off for Bournemouth on Monday 2 September and returns on Friday 6 September. Four matches are booked with a free day on the Wednesday. Unfortunately Stan and Pauline Groom have had to pull out owing to Pauline's recent accident but Carolina and Giuseppe (Joe) Li-Rocchi now full-time Attleborough residents, have stepped in.

We also welcome as playing members on tour Catherine and Dennis Branch from the Thetford club – both are very well-known to us as tough but sociable opponents and we are much relieved to have them on our side! What takes place on tour stays on tour so you will hear nothing more!

COACHING AND NEW MEMBERS

Once again Geoff Randle's Saturday morning coaching sessions have gone very well. Quite a few members of the public responded to the pre-season leaflet and most of these stayed on to join the club. Already at least two, Steve Lake and Bernie Sayer, have made their debut for the men's 'B' team and have played well in domestic competitions. Also attending coaching were David and Diane Quadling, who joined the club to play short mat and found themselves immediately thrust on to the green! Both have done very well and are excellent club members.

Another thank you to Geoff for all his work and one little anecdote. After the main coaching is finished Geoff spends 40 patient minutes coaching a young boy who for obvious reasons needs individual attention – what a Community club is all about.

Three experienced bowlers joined the club this year, Sue and Terry Shoebridge and Paul MacDonald, and soon established themselves in various club sides. We've been very pleased to welcome them

Club Update

MEN'S EBA 2013

The season overall was disappointing. With Connaught 'A' finishing next to bottom in South 1 and with Connaught 'B' finishing third from bottom in South 2.

With a record of 3 wins and 9 defeats and a poor shots record of 620-785, Connaught 'A' could not hold their own after promotion to South 1. There is some possibility of league restructuring and a reprieve from relegation but as things stand the team will be rejoining Connaught 'B' next season in South 2.

With 6 wins and 6 defeats and a shots record of 672-691, Connaught 'B' did well in a division with little to choose between the teams in 2nd to 6th position. Indeed the team twice beat Wymondham Dell 'B', who finished 2nd to earn promotion. Unfortunately some inconsistency led to offsetting and unexpected defeats.

Now is not the time and place to examine things in detail – that is the job for next year's captains. However, Connaught has more playing members than all bar 3 or 4 clubs in Norfolk and a regular zonal Division 1 status must be a given for its 'A' side

OTHER BOWLS

Thank you to all roll-up organisers and to Joan Knox for organising the ladies friendly matches. And a big thank you to Mick Utting for organising the Thursday/Friday Barry-Moore League and for running the bowls on all the domestic "big event" days eg Ivor's Day, the Yates Pairs Day, and the Buckingham Cup.

A word about the Barry/Moore League, named after Joan Barry and Dennis Moore who worked hard for the club over many years. For years this league occupied 6 rinks every Thursday and Friday evening and the clubhouse was humming afterwards. This year we were down to 3 rinks and most people leaving the club as soon as they had played. Not good. Those who played and stayed were not very happy. Mick is a superb organiser but he cannot drag people kicking and screaming into these competitions. Over to you

CONNAUGHT LADIES

At time of writing Connaught Ladies have a 50/50 record in their main competition, the Breckland League. For several years they have been at or near the top, slugging it out with Thetford, but in 2013 are in transition and having to settle for less. A 6-2 win at Thetford, who will be champions again, was a highlight. Other clubs seem to have strengthened in recent years and the way back will not be easy.

An individual highlight once more was achieved by Sylvia Parsons, Maureen Gulliver and Diana Adcock, who for the second year running won the county-wide Coronation Triples.

CLUB FINALS

The finals of the various outdoor competitions take place on Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th and Monday 26th August – full details are on the noticeboards. The various players have sweated blood to make the finals, which will be more of an occasion with people watching, so do your best to give them all some support

ASHILL MIXED TRIPLES LEAGUE

This remains the staple competiton catering for men and women playing in the same sides. In 2013, after several years of running 4 sides, Connaught went down to 3 sides on the basis that overlaps with county and other competitions made team selection a nightmare. Therefore Connaught 'C' was disbanded, Connaught 'A' and Connaught 'D' remained in Division 1 (out of 4) and Connaught 'B' remained in Division 2.

Connaught 'A' are having a middling season, Connaught 'D' will be relegated and Connaught 'B' have done very well. The Ashill League is not important, status-wise, in the way the EBA leagues are important but winning it is not easy with 3 or more teams entered. Connaught field three mixed strength sides, because for example married couples play in the same team for ease of travelling etc. Changing all that to select on strength alone would be fraught!

OTHER COMPETITIVE BOWLS

A glance at the fixture list and the website will bewilder any new member because the club plays in a huge number of competitions, men, women and mixed. Fermoy Cup, Bales Cup, Jermy Cup, Top Club, Webb Cup, Nowak Trophy, Coral Cup, Invitation Shield, county competitions – and that's not the complete list!

Highlights were winning the Invitation Shield, Ladies Coronation Triples (D Adcock Mo Guliver & S Parsons. The men's 4$ (O Secker, K Ramsbottom, J Winup and G Sheridan) reaching the county quarter-final and Connaught 'B' reaching round 4 of the Fermoy Cup. Importantly Connaught always entered and always competed.

TOURING AND REPRESENTATIVE

Thanks in large measure to Mike Parsons' work as Secretary and to tremendous back-up work by club members, the club has been able to attract excellent fixtures in recent years. In 2013 we have hosted Norfolk v Lincoln and Group 3 v County Presidents. The club itself will have played against Norfolk Past Presidents, Norfolk Vice Presidents, Glasgow Tourists and Sunderland Tourists. We have a good reputation for hospitality and value for money (thank you, Sandra and Richard, for all that catering effort) and people enjoy visiting the club. In return we have done well with bar and raffle takings.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman – Stan Groom
Vice-Chairman – Mike Gulliver
Secretary – Mike Parsons
Treasurer – Derek Liles
Club Captain – Ken Ramsbottom
Ladies Captain & Ashill Captain - Alison Rush
Short Mat Rep – Bob Oatway (as Short Mat Secretary)
Ladies Reps – Maureen Gulliver (as Ladies Chairman)
Vera Moore (as Ladies Secretary)
Internal Competitions Secretary – Mick Utting
Social Committee Rep – Sheila Bragg (as Chairman/Secretary)
IT & Communications – Bill Adcock
Bar Manager – John Winup
The Club President Bill Adcock and Ladies President Sylvia Parsons can attend Management Committee meetings but in those capacities do not vote)

Connaught Bowls Club Annual General Meeting Friday 15 November 2013
Starting @ 7 for 7:30pm Please try to attend

KEN LURCOCK SHIELD

Many of you will be taking part in this new end of season competition, a knock-out competition for drawn pairs 3-woods. The club is very grateful to David Willimott of Carmichael Darts & Trophies Norwich, who supply our trophies, for sponsoring the competition.

Why Ken Lurcock? It is bizarre to be asking this question but already there are new members who will not have heard of Ken. Ken was taken away from us suddenly and savagely last year as cancer consumed him. He had been a remarkable stalwart for many years, one of those people indispensable to volunteer clubs like Connaught. The club became a major part of Ken's life after his wife, Margaret, died. Ken took on task after task, variously President, Chairman, short mat Chairman, 100 Club, auditor of accounts, tour organiser, doing the bar on Sundays, captain of the EBA and short mat 'B' teams and until illness struck him rarely missing a match. He was a hands on person, not just a figurehead. He worked for the ambulance service as a volunteer driver and also ran a small private hire service, mainly for club members and ferrying us to and from Stanstead and Heathrow etc. On one or two memorable occasions his diary let him down as we waited forlornly at the airport at 3.00 in the morning!

Many of us became close personal friends of Ken's and it still seems strange and sad not to see him bustling through the door engaged on some task or other. We want to preserve his memory and hence the Ken Lurcock Memorial Tour and the Ken Lurcock Shield

SHORT MAT

To inform new members (and a few of the existing members!) – Connaught probably is the biggest short mat club in Norfolk in terms of playing numbers and size of playing programme. The club's playing record is hugely successful both in league and cup competitions and several of our players are regulars in the county teams. Our Short Mat Secretary, Bob Oatway, is County Vice President , Assistant County Team Manager and Assistant Competition Secretary. Bob also manages to play a decent enough game on the green!

We run 4 external league sides, two in the Breckland League, one in the South Norfolk League and one in the Tens League. Alison Rush will captain Connaught 'A' and John Winup will captain Connaught 'B' both in the Breckland League. Sheila Bragg captains the South Norfolk side and Bob Oatway (that man again!) captains the Tens League side. We also enter teams in the Norfolk County Cup and the Norwich (City) Cup as well as cup etc competitions run by the leagues in which we play.

Domestically there is a Tuesday afternoon triples league which runs throughout the season and a Thursday/Friday evening triples league. The Thursday/Friday league runs one session pre-New Year and then entries are invited again for the post-New Year session. We end the season with the popular Thurgood Shield 2-wood drawn pairs competition. As well as the leagues and the Shield the club's individual knock-out competitions take place (Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours) with the finals another end of season feature.

If you look at the internal noticeboards and on the table just inside the main door you will see notices on which you can enter your name for teams and competitions. Entries are good so far but don't be shy – there is still a place for you!

Roll-Ups, usually very well-attended, take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Anybody, even team players are allowed in, can turn up, register and take part.

Geoff Randle departs for the long mats in the winter but other people will run a few sessions on Saturday mornings (10 to 12) for new members wanting to try short mat. The first session is booked for Saturday 21st September. We will look at rules and etiquette special to short mat and go into a bit of technique. If you have been coached by Geoff you will have basic technique and it is a question of adapting to the pace etc. Advice is to go to roll-ups as well and also to join one of the leagues where you will meet a wide cross-section of club members.

Babies take gripe water for their wind. If you have a gripe, do not drink the water: talk to me. We will do our best to resolve any difficulty you have. However, we will not please all our members all the time: just remember that!

Join our 100 Club
Three prizes
Every month
You could Win A Prize
And help Club funds

Contact 100 Club Organizer Alison Rush for details

Reminder Notice
Connaught Bowls Club
Annual General Meeting
Friday 15 November 2013
Starting @ 7 for 7:30pm
Please try to attend
(£1 off first drink for Club members)

Christmas Draw
7:30 on 21 December 2013
The draw squares are on the noticeboard beside the bar.
Prizes for the draw welcome. It's also the club outdoor trophy presentation evening
see noticeboard for details
(Nibbles & £1 off first drink for Club Members)

Christmas Dinner
14 December 2013
@ 6:30pm
Name list will soon be on the main noticeboard

Subscription Night
18 January 2014
7 for 7:30
Also 100 club draw and payment

OUTDOOR INTERNAL CLUB TROPHIES AND LEAGUE WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP 2013		
Brenda Yates Memorial	**Winners**	Bim Wood and Bernie Sayer
Pairs Day	**Runners Up**	Stan Groom and Steve Hall
Buckingham Cup	**Winner**	Bill Adcock Joan Knox and Michael Marlow
	Runners Up	John Moss Diane Quadling and Terry Shoebridge
Freda Free Ladies Cup (Drive)	**Winner**	Valerie Mason
	Runners Up	Sheila Bragg
Redmill Trophy	**Winner**	Connaught A Team
EBA Captains Day	**Runner Up**	Connaught B' Team
Ken Young Cup	**Winner**	Not Played
(Ladies v Gents)	**Runner Up**	Not Played
Ivor's Fun Day	**Winner**	Richard Harrison
(Drive)	**Fancy Dress**	Brenda Cox, Richard Harrison and David Warne
Sid Watson (Drive)	**Winner**	
	Runners Up	
Invitation Shield	**Winner**	Connaught
	Runners Up	Runners Up Ashill, Third place Diss and Fourth place Bradenham
Barry/Moore	**Winners**	Joan Knox, TT Dennis, Jamie Cotton and Mick Utting
Summer League	**Runners Up**	Bim Wood, John Winup, John Askew and D & D Quadling

Buckingham Cup 2013 Fin alist



Pairs Day 2013 Finalist



Vera Moore (Norfolk Lady's President) Day at Connaught



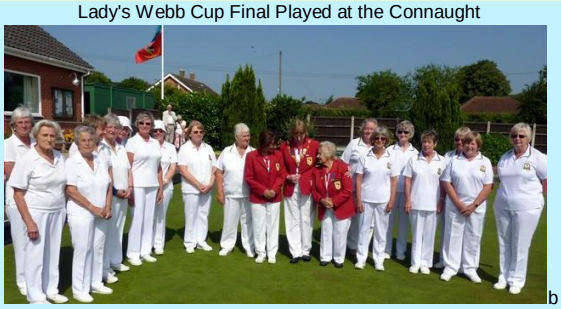
Lady's Freda Free Winner Valerie Mason



Ivor's Fun Day



Lady's Webb Cup Final Played at the Connaught



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Club Lunch Organizers



Sunderland Tourist



Glaswegians Tourist



Don't forget view our website www.connaughtbowlsclub.co.uk

We always try to keep the site up to date also use the link page to visit other bowls sites