CONNAUGHT BOWLS CLUB

Newsletter January 2013

CLUB CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

GREETINGS TO ALL MY FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF CONNAUGHT BOWLS CLUB

As I said at the Christmas dinner" The older you get the faster time goes " at which point you all fell about in Sympathy !!, Well here we are at the start of another New Year, 2013 for me is a land mark year the Eightieth year of my existence and the second year to have the honour and privilege to be Chairman of this excellent club which grows in membership every year thanks to the efforts of my committee and social side who work tirelessly in organising various events as in the past Jubilee year and the recent New Year's Eve Party, only attended by a small number of members who all agreed we had a very enjoyable evening. I do hope this year members will give their whole hearted support to all our functions and events as although our membership is large there was a slight lack of support to some of the bowls events last year.
In conclusion may I take this opportunity to wish every one of you most sincerely a Very Peaceful Warm and Happy New Year! "So carry on enjoy your sport, as we are impressed, so keep em rolling with your bowling you really are the best!"

BEST WISHES FROM STAN & PAULINE.

SUBSCRIPTION NIGHT SATURDAY 12 JANUARY 7PM ONWARDS

Bring your cheque books and make cheques payable to "Connaught Bowls Club". £35.00 full members, £30.00 senior citizens, £12.50 juniors, £10 social

Alison Rush will also be doing 100 Club renewals and new members. Separate cheques, please, also payable to "Connaught Bowls Club". You can sign up for 6 months or preferably for the full year (£6.00 or £12.00 per number).

As a "thank you" to those paying up the club will fund £1.00 towards your first drink and will provide nibbles to go with your subsequent drinks

NOTE FROM EDITOR

We have decided to do a Newsletter for the New Year. There has been a bit of a break but there is still a lot going on and some people may not use the website (shame on you!), www.connaughtbowlsclub.co.uk, which is updated virtually daily with all club news

BAR

We do need some more bar stewards – speak to John Winup before he speaks to you! We will persevere with Sunday opening 12.00 to 14.00 but a few more faces will be welcome

NO LONGER WITH US

Sadly some members passed away during the year and we remember with affection Ken Lurcock, Eric Sopp and Dennis Reeder

CLUB TOUR SEPTEMBER 2013

After some early alarms we are very pleased that the tour to Bournemouth is going ahead. A few spaces may still be available – see noticeboard for details. Doubtless Mike and Derek will be seeking deposits soon, so get those cheque books out again

Club Update

SOCIAL EVENTS

Sheila Bragg and the Social Committee are doing a great job in running some things themselves and in encouraging members themselves to organise things. In 2012 in the summer the Committee put on the Jubilee Day and the Olympics Fun Day, both highly topical and both very successful. The autumn has seen them do Halloween Night and the New Year's Eve party. Members launched into catering.

Sandra Adcock and Sylvia Parsons did a Sunday lunch, Carolina and Joe Li-Rocchi did a Sicilian Evening, and Heather Winup/Marianne Liles did a Bar Meal Night – all cracking events.

So far for 2013 Sheila & Co have lined up a Barn Dance on Saturday 9 February, Sandra has booked a lunch date for Sunday 17 February (watch the noticeboard – places will be limited), and Heather will lead on a Cheese & Wine on Saturday 30 March. In addition private parties have been booked to which club members have been invited.

COACHING AND RECRUITMENT

Geoff Randle will continue with his 10.00 to 12.00 coaching sessions on Saturday mornings which are free to club members. Not enough of you take advantage of this. Do team players in particular think that they know it all? They certainly do not, judging by some performances! Everybody can improve to some extent – that extra 1%, 2% etc can make a big difference in matches.

Geoff's sessions are also available on a limited basis to members of the public and quite a few of our newer members have joined through that route. But we still need more and younger players – the age profile of the club is too high. You can all help by trying to recruit on a personal basis. Family, friends, neighbours – the younger the better, but even the 40-60 age range would be a start!

CLUBHOUSE

We are very much on a "care and maintenance" basis as space constraints will not allow major projects/extensions etc. However, the conservatory extension for completion before the outdoor season will give us more viewing space in the summer and more changing space in the winter. Given the amount of catering now undertaken, a new commercial dishwasher is planned for the kitchen

OUTDOOR SEASON 2013

Preparations already under way with Kevin Manning still working hard on the green – yes, it does need work in the winter! The men's 'A' side will have their work cut out on promotion to South 1 but will battle hard. The men's 'B' team will continue blooding new players but need some experience to help out.The ladies team as usual will be very competitive. We hope to field 4 Ashill sides again but currently there are not enough names on the list. **The Ashill League is important to the club, for bringing new players on and financially in terms of fees and bar takings. Please make yourself available** We have one or two tourist games lined up as well as other friendly and representative matches

CALENDAR YEAR 2012

We kicked off with the usual subscription night and a healthy renewal rate. As more people joined during the year membership steadied between 160/170.

A successful short mat season for 2011-12 saw a lot of bowls played. The two internal leagues, club competitions and roll-ups were all well-supported. ⇒

CALENDAR YEAR 2012 Continued

The club's teams had good seasons, with the highlight being Connaught 'A' winning the county-wide Norwich Cup. Connaught 'A' finished 2nd in the Breckland League and Connaught 'B' comfortably mid-table. The Tens League and South Norfolk League sides performed respectably.

The outdoor season was hectic. Vera Moore celebrated her year as President of Norfolk Ladies, a major honour for Vera and the club. If Vera does something she does it in style and her President's day at the club was tremendous. She brought several representative and competition matches to the club and also left her mark throughout Norfolk. From Yarmouth to Kings Lynn nervous ladies still stand to attention while others scurry to bring her a glass of Chardonnay. We write in jest – as President Vera raised over £1000 for MacMillan Nurses.

The men's EBA 'A' side won promotion from South 2 to South 1, a division below the Premiership. The 'B' side, also in South 2 were less successful, but several new players made their debuts. The ladies team finished 2nd in the Breckland League and 4 sides were fielded in the mixed triples Ashill League. A major playing highlight was the winning of the county-wide Coronation Triples by Diana Adcock, Maureen Gulliver and Sylvia Parsons.

The short mat season for 2012-2013 has reached halfway. The 'B' side is out of the County and Norwich Cup, with the 'A' also out of the Norwich Cup but into the quarter finals of the County Cup. In what is something of a transitional year the club's sides are doing quite well, with the Tens League side and a stronger South Norfolk side having some excellent results. The internal programme remains very busy.

REMINDER SUBSCRIPTION NIGHT SATURDAY 12 JANUARY 7PM ONWARDS