

From the Board

The new blue carpet is being laid in the week commencing May 18th. We anticipate the work taking the whole week and so there will be no access to the bowls hall. The club will be open for all social activities with bar and restaurant open for their usual hours.

Club Opening Hours

Summer opening hours begin in May. The hours are much the same as winter with the exception of Sundays when we close at 3pm. Please also note that unless notified to the contrary, the club is closed on all Bank Holidays. There is a small possibility that we may open on the late spring bank holiday May 26th but that is a work in progress. We will be producing a one off mid-month newsletter to give information about the carpet opening event and any bank holiday opening.

Don't forget to join the club's WhatsApp groups for easy access to information. Contact director Scott Harris for information. scott@myitwizard.co.uk 07779 285839

Bowls Shop

Opening hours are:

Wednesdays 12 – 5pm every week

Saturdays 8.30 – 1pm

On call JoBo 07884280002. Or Keith 07740724396 Anytime every day and we will open up if urgently needed. We are only 10 minutes away.

Bowling News

Finals Weekend

Each session had 2-3 games and some games that could have gone either way.

Friday evening started with 3 pairs matches

The mixed was a seesawing game where our eventual winners, Jude Knowles and Paul Gent took an early lead, before Matt Sellen and Mary Chapman rallied in the middle and then the former pair ran out 20-11 winners.



The men's pairs was a game where no pair won an end by more than 2 shots.

The 2 David's, Whitbread and Young coming out on top 15-6 against Les Herbert and Trevor London.

Our first game that went to the last wood, of which we had 5, was the ladies pairs. Carol Hain and Gail Barnes were trailing the whole game until the penultimate end where they took the lead by 1. A very close head on the final end had them holding 2, and despite Sue Hayward and Babs Testers wood coming into the head it was unable to change the outcome, a 15-12 win for Carol and Gail.

Saturday morning was the time for the 2 Triples matches

The ladies started well for Mary London, Sue Sturmer and Trish Ellis taking a comfortable lead, but steady bowling from Kath Barth, Jude Knowles and Jackie Clarke saw them fight back for a 24-13 win.

Again like the men's pairs the men's triples had no big scoring ends, with Ian Whatling, Chris Pierce and David Young coming

out on top 17-7 over Keith Berwick, Richard Moore and Ray Ecclestone. Some excellent bowling by the 2 leads Keith and Ian.

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Saturday afternoon gave us 3 singles matches, the 2 wood and our 2 singles plates. All 3 games were closely contested. In the 2 wood David took an early 7-0 lead, but as the game progressed Paul came back to trail by a single point at 17-18, before David won the last 2 ends to come out on top 21-17. The next game to finish was the Terry London Plate, with John Williams getting a healthy double digit lead before Luke Suckling got on the board. Once Luke got going he clawed his way back into the game, edging a very close game 21-19. But the best on the afternoon games was yet to come, in the singles plate Paul Obey played Neil Ramage. Paul took an early lead and gradually extended the lead, he looked comfortable but Neil's experience started to show and led by 20-18 and holding shot to win the match, Paul's first attempt to remove the shot wood just failed, but his second and last attempt was on the money taking it into another end. On this occasion Paul was holding the 2 required to win the match and despite Neil's good efforts Paul's woods remained giving him the 21-20 win, a great game.



Sunday morning was the time for a couple of pairs games and the Terry London Non Winners Singles.

Warren Foy took on David Young in the singles, the first few ends were nip and tuck, but unfortunately for Warren David found his weight and ran out a 21-5 winner, good news is David can't enter it next year.

The 2 pairs games were close finishes with both games having early leads and then they pegged back.

In the Veterans pairs, Sue Sturmer and Mick Bates took on Sue and David Hayward. Sue and Mick started positively with a 4 on the first end and looked comfortable throughout the early stages, but gradually the Haywards fought back and looked to then have an unassailable lead going in to the final end, 5 up. After the leads had finished Sue had Mick had 3 of the 5 they needed to force an extra end, and as the end progressed it looked like they might get them but David had put a shot in the head, but from the bar area it looked as if they had 4, maybe a 5th. David's final wood made no change and once the measuring was all done, the

Haywards won 18-17.

If we thought that was close then the Aussie Pairs went to another level. John Kerr and Stuart Ingram took a 13-2 lead against Alison Andrews and Neil Ramage. In all sport never give up, and Neil and Alison definitely didn't, they got a single, then a couple of 2's and before we knew it, we were into an extra end the match was tied. Neil and Stuart had the first 2 bowls for their teams and it looked like each had one within inches of the Jack, but the spectators had no idea who was holding. As the end developed no one was able to change the head so an amazing comeback win for Alison and Neil.

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The Sunday afternoon session always has the Men's and Ladies Singles as well as the Bernard King.

The men's final was between David Young and Luke Suckling, Luke was looking for his second win of the weekend and David his fifth.

David quickly went into a 6-0 lead, and over the next 8 ends or so the ends were shared quite evenly, David leading by 13-8, but like the morning game he found his weight and ran out 21-8 winner.

The ladies final was between Babs Tomlin and Jude Knowles, who was going for her third win of the weekend. Early exchanges were pretty even before Babs started to pull away, but then Jude gradually worked her way back to 14 all, before Babs won 21-16.

The Bernard King was the last final to finish, with Paul Gent looking to win this particular title for a tenth time up against David Hill.



The Bernard King is over 2 sets, each set played over 9 ends. It's a great leveller because it doesn't matter if you win the first set by 1 or 15 you only get one point. And that's exactly what happened Paul won the first set 15-0, one point to Paul. Second set was totally different with David coming out on top by a couple of points, so 1 point each, best of 3 tie break, and after 2 ends it was 1-1. Whoever wins this end wins the match, after 7 bowls had been bowled there were 3 bowls around the Jack, and Simmo our marker wouldn't commit, said it was a measure. Paul made the decision not to bowl his final bowl as he believed one of his 2 bowls were closer than David's, and after the measure he was correct and a tenth title was Paul's.

Another great game and another great finals weekend.
David Young



Didn't he do well?

We are enormously proud of David Young who fought brilliantly in the EIBC National novice singles. He finished runner up, with a final score of 21-18. Several Angels went to Nottingham to support him while many more followed online and via WhatsApp where spectators were posting the scores. It was nail biting and a great 2 days seeing him sail through the 3 earlier rounds.



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We are disappointed for him but feel certain we shall see him returning as a national champion in the future. Well done David from us all.

In the County Finals

The mens Over 55 Pairs Paul Gent & Pete Harris were runners up losing 21 9

Over 55 Triples Barry Tomlin, Pete Harris & H were runners up losing 15 12

In the ladies Over 60s singles Babs Tomlin was runner up losing 21 16



Ladies' Fun and Mix Day

On Saturday 5th April thirty or so ladies met for an afternoon of quirky games and a chance to meet other lady bowlers of any and all levels of experience and skills. The idea originated with the Ladies' selection team, as an opportunity for us all to mix and have fun. It certainly lived up to its title and was a resounding success.

Each rink offered a different challenge and players circulated round them all – twice! - in randomly selected groups while playing as individuals to try to get the highest overall score. It was very clear that none of us could do it all, easily or otherwise!

At the end of the afternoon, most players stayed to see the presentation of prizes. Third place went to Karen Case, second was Jo young and the winner was Kath Barth. The top two were presented with "vintage" trophies (to keep!) and a bottle of something nice to take home. Everyone scored some points.

The afternoon was filled with laughter and enjoyed by all. It is intended to have another , maybe at the end of the Summer season, with slightly different games and maybe only three bowls each instead of four...

Thanks go to all who devised, laid out and ran the challenges, Matt Sellen in particular, to David Young for finding and polishing the trophy and to Paul and the bar team for all their invaluable help and support as always.

Here's to next time!

Gwen Smithies, on behalf of the organisers.



Kent League Challenge shield

The trophy is back with the Angel. The shield is the combined men's' and ladies Kent League matches against the Royals. They needed 76 + shot difference to beat us.

The ladies had an 8 point to 4 win. 81 shots to 61. Congratulations ladies well played and thanks for bringing it home.

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Social Angels

Hello all

Another packed month at the club with the Social Angels kicking it all off with our Race Night. So many keen punters and a few very lucky ones too. Thank you for your support, it was busy!

The quiz, as popular as ever, is looming on Saturday 17th May starting at 7.30pm. If you haven't booked a team, then you're too late! I think we had our full quota of teams within two weeks of releasing the team spaces. If you haven't thought of a team name then please do and let the bar know, it'll save me calling you!

Don't forget your raffle tickets for the grand reopening, come down to the club on Sunday 25th May just before 11am and enjoy the occasion.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Jude Knowles Social Angels Chair

100 Club Winners

April Winners are:

Mr R Colyer: Mrs B Bullen: Mrs C Parker
Each receive £12