

ANGEL IBC NEWSLETTER

July 2019

YOUR CLUB, YOUR NEWS, YOUR NEWSLETTER



UNSUNG HERO

Have you ever wondered who does such a splendid job of keeping our bowling surface clean?

We'll meet Colin Docksey, pictured left, who has been volunteering his time to complete the valuable task of vacuuming the bowls carpet for the past 18 years. Colin has not accepted any payment but did ask the Club to make donations to Demelza House Hospice on his behalf. As a consequence he has raised a significant amount of monies for the charity over this period of time. The Club wishes to formally thank Colin for his unwavering support and dedication. It is much to Colin's credit that he carries on this weekly task early each Monday morning without any fuss or expectation of acknowledgement.

As Colin is stepping down from the end of the summer season, the Club needs to identify someone to take over this role. Colin estimates it takes about 75 mins to complete and he is more than happy to show someone the ropes if someone steps forward.

100 CLUB DRAW RESULTS

This month's prize winners are:

Mr P Burtenshaw

Mrs M. Dyke

Mrs A. Durkin

Each wins £12.00

NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR SECTION



Doug Cook Memorial Shield

Our junior bowlers took part in the third Doug Cook Memorial Shield on Saturday 13th July. The round robin matches took around two and a half hours to complete and it came down to the last match and very last end to decide the overall winner. The shield was won by Lewis Goldup (pictured above) aged 16. Well done to all those who took part.

EBYDS National Finals.

I am very pleased and proud to say that Lewis Goldup's performance at the Regional EBYDS School of Excellence he has qualified him to compete in the National Finals taking place on 20th October in Melton Mowbray.

Well done Lewis and good luck.

Junior Bowlers wanted!

Due to other commitments the number of junior bowlers is diminishing. If you have any grandchildren/children aged between 6 and 18 or know anyone else that may like to give it a try please let the office know. We return to bowls after the school holidays on 31st August.

Lorna Goldup, Junior Section Co-ordinator

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that the Club was informed that **June Yeoman** died on 2nd July.

BOWLING HALL iPADS



After feedback from members our systems have been amended so it is no longer necessary to enter Bowlr passwords on the bowling hall iPads.

All you now need to enter either your league or competition scores is your 4 digit membership number.

The entering of our own scores after each game is a huge help to the volunteers who give their time to manage our various leagues and competitions; especially to Malcolm who previously had to spend hours every week entering our scores for us!

And don't forget, you can see all your latest league tables, results, forthcoming matches and club competition trees on your website. Just let the office know if you'd like some help in doing this.

SWING LOW

At the last AGM safety concerns were raised by members around the current configuration of the swinging doors between the bowling hall and bar.

After review it has been decided that the most efficient way to mitigate these concerns is to extend the glass lower down in the existing doors. It will then be possible to see more clearly if anybody is on the other side of the door when swinging open (eg juniors who may not be tall enough to be seen through the current door).

We are awaiting cost estimates to effect this change.

2019 MEMBER RENEWAL PROCESS

Yes, it's nearly that time of year again! And the Office has already started planning this year's renewal process.

It may surprise you to learn that the postage cost alone associated with our membership renewal process is as much as £500 per annum! The process also takes up a huge amount of staff time. This year we are thus looking to streamline the process to save on as much of this cost as we can.

We will thus email as many renewal letters as we can and encourage members to personally collect any letters not emailed from the Club by the end of August.

To help with this please ensure that the Club has your current and correct email address. If you want to check the email address being held just login to Bowlr (through the website) and go to “Account”.

To also save on the significant staff costs spent chasing late renewals, we would also ask that members please return their renewal letters promptly before the 30 September deadline.

Money we can save on our membership renewal process will help to contain future increases in subscriptions and rink fees!

Further details on the renewal process will be shared in the August Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS



Producing new Membership Cards every year represents a further quite substantial cost to our members (costs include set up, printing and staff time issuing / posting).

Fortunately our new Bowlr system gives us the option to move away from annual Cards and to adopt ‘lifetime’ Cards instead.

Whilst there are pros and cons to issuing new cards every year, on balance it is a cost to members that cannot be justified. The decision has thus been made to move to ‘lifetime’ cards.

Probably the strongest argument for having annual Membership Cards to date was to provide ultimate ‘proof of membership’; preventing anyone who hasn’t renewed from continuing to bowl. This risk is now at least partially mitigated by Bowlr, with participation in Club leagues and competitions directly linked to membership renewal information. Then, to further mitigate this risk the Club will put a list of ‘lapsed’ members on the Notice Board each year.

Further details will be provided in the August Newsletter.

This month Introducing Tom Young ... see back page

LOCKERS

The Office is currently trying to establish which lockers are in active use.

Unfortunately the Club currently has no definitive list of locker allocation. It is also very likely that some lockers have ‘passed between members’ and some lockers previously allocated are no longer being actively used by members.

It would thus be very helpful if ...

- 1) any member previously allocated a locker but no longer needing it let the office know
- 2) every member using a locker confirms as part of the renewal process which one they are using.

Any locker not ‘claimed’ will then be reallocated to those members awaiting a locker.

KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO TRY BOWLING?

To recognise the importance of us all introducing friends and family to the Club, a membership referral voucher scheme will be introduced from 1 August.

If you introduce a guest to the Club who then goes on to become a member you will receive a £5 bar voucher.

And remember, taster sessions with our Level 1 Club Coaches can be arranged for anytime that suits our guests, including weekday daytimes, weekday evenings and weekends.

Further details will be available from our website and in the August Newsletter.

CLUB OPEN WEEKEND... INCLUDING FREE BOWLING AND A QUIZ!



Our Club Open Weekend of 7th and 8th September is fast approaching and we hope to attract a good number of guests to come and have a go at bowls and sample our Club.

Why not come down to help? We will be “open” between 11am and 5pm.

We need volunteers to meet and greet, host guests in the bar and restaurant area, manage guests onto the green, support them having a go, collect details before they leave ... and if there are quiet spells volunteers can enjoy a free game!

The green will be open for free bowling over the whole weekend (subject to rink availability and guests will of course always have priority).

There will also be a fun quiz open to members and guests on the Saturday evening.

Just let the Office or bar staff know if you feel you are able to help on the day.

COLLECTION OF RINK FEES



The trial of 'self-collecting' rink fees within the bowling hall has been a successful one. The majority of feedback from members has been positive and it is proving more efficient for the office to administer, which in turn ultimately reduces members' costs.

It has thus been decided to extend the trial through to the forthcoming winter season.

There may of course be some refinements to the process as we get further feedback from members and the Office, but the principle of bowlers 'self collecting' their rink fees and 'posting' into the Office will remain as is. We will review again at the year end.

In the meantime if you have ideas or suggestion on how the process may be further improved upon please let the Office know.

MEET YOUR NEW BOWLING COMMITTEE

Go to "Who's Who" on your website to see who is on your new Bowling Committee.

The Bowling Committee is responsible for all playing matters, including carpet maintenance, club fixtures, leagues and competitions, dress on the green, coaching and player development. We look forward to hearing more from the committee regarding its plans and current priorities later in the year.

In the meantime if you have any questions or suggestions for the new Committee why not join the first "Members Round Table" being organised for Tuesday September 24th? These are designed to give members an opportunity to raise with Officers or Directors any topics they wish in an informal setting.



TUESDAY
24 SEPT
@7.30PM

GOT A SUGGESTION?
GOT A QUESTION TO ASK?
WANT TO FLOAT AN IDEA?
JOIN YOUR OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION

M in your Club
MEMBERS ROUND TABLE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In response to a member request, a ‘public record’ of all future monthly Board Meetings will be made available to members starting with the most recent Board Meeting held on 27 June.

The ‘public record’ will be made available both digitally (from the “members only” section of the website) and as a hard copy within the Club. The record will be as per the formal Board Meeting minutes, appropriately redacted to protect any issues of sensitivity to staff, members or third parties.

The objective of releasing these records is to further improve communication between the Club’s Board and its members. Members are thus encouraged to raise with Directors any questions or issues arising from these records and the above-noted Round Tables will provide an excellent opportunity to do this!

To see the ‘public record’ of the meeting held on June 27th, simply login to the members section of the website and look under the “members” tab.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST

With the aim of generating interest in our forthcoming Open Days the Club will be hosting a promotional stall at the Tonbridge Farmers Market (held opposite the Club in Sainsbury’s car park) on Sunday August 11.

We will require volunteers to host the stall from 8 am to 1 pm; to hand out promotional flyers, generally promote the Club and to sign up anyone potentially interested in attending the September Open Days.



To get people in the bowling spirit we will have a set of “New Age Bowls” available for members of the public to have a go with at the stall. If you haven’t seen these New Age Bowls in action before why not come to visit the stall and have a go yourself!

If you are able to volunteer an hour or so of your time to help host the stall on the 11th please give your name into the Office or behind the bar - many hands make light work!

SOCIAL MEDIA

We now have social media profiles with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. These will all hopefully help get the word out about our wonderful club and assist towards Project 650. But there is plenty that all members who are on social media can do to assist. First of all, if you are on any of these platforms, please connect with us:

Facebook - Angel Indoor Bowls Centre Tonbridge

Twitter - @angelibc

Instagram - angelindoorbowlsclub

This month we are going to look at Facebook, and how you can help:

- Invite local friends to connect with the page
- Check in on Facebook when coming to the club. If you are bringing friends to social events, don't forget to ask them to check in too!
- Share posts that you like onto your profile so your friends can see them
- Photos! If you have a smartphone it is so easy to take a quick photo. Either share them onto the page with a quick blurb or send them into the office and we can use at some point in the future
- Invite friends to any events that are placed on the page. For example, there are 2 events for our Open Weekend, one for each day. This will also assist us in knowing how many people are coming and can organise volunteers accordingly!

Please help us by sharing with your network of friends - we will all benefit by new members and extra income!

FOR SALE

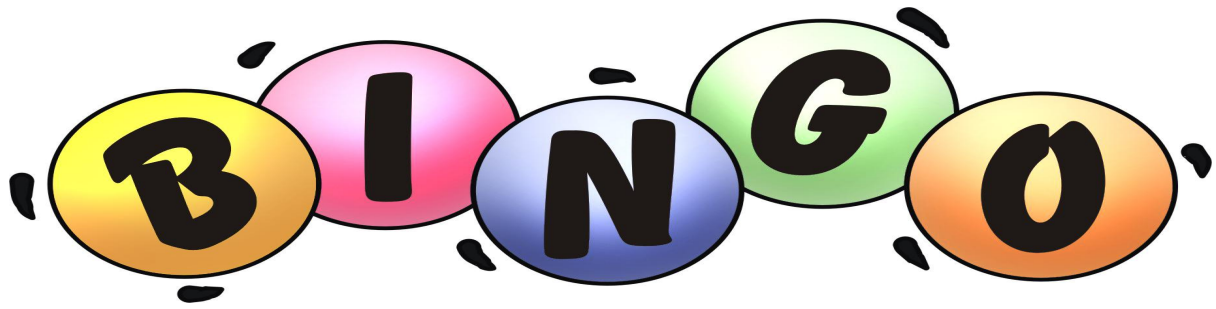
Brand new (roll up only 3 times) Taylor Ace bowls, black. Size 2, heavy. Brand new cost was £245. Will accept £130 ovno.

Call Tony Racher on 07889 403006.

Vector VS bowls, white, 4H. Logo Invicta horse. Nearly new condition. **Sensible bids welcome.** Call Gwen Smithies 01732 351975

Next month's Angel newsletter will appear on 16th August or thereabouts, to allow for the Editor's holiday! Any items please to gwencat@hotmail.co.uk by 12th August.

If you have any questions or feedback on this issue, please send them to office@angelibc.co.uk



SUMMER BINGO NIGHT

SATURDAY 27TH JULY

8.00PM – 10.00PM

MONEY FROM SALE OF BINGO CARDS

TO BE RETURNED AS PRIZES





Introducing ...

Your Competition Secretary Tom Young

Tom, tell me about your involvement in the Club

Currently mens competition secretary and I also arrange 'buddies' to help new members settle into the Club. Heather (ladies competition secretary) and I also look after the trophies and honours boards. I used to edit the Newsletter and for a couple of years also run the new bowler taster sessions. Oh and I was a Director for 3 years and previous to that had a hand in "rebuilding" the Club up after the flood!

Wow, what drives you to give so much time to the Club?

To be honest I am a natural 'do-er' and have always volunteered to help in the running of Clubs i've been involved with. I feel that every member should do their bit for the benefit of their Club. That's what Clubs are all about.

When did you start bowling?

On retirement from the Fire Service in 1999.

How did you find the Fire Service? Traumatic?

I absolutely loved it. I was operational right to the end, tending to get the big fires and traffic accidents. Of course there were traumatic moments; anything involving children is particularly hard. But overall it's was a very rewarding career.

So what's been the highlight of your bowling career to date?

Outdoors it's got to be getting my County Badge. Indoors it has to be representing Kent last year when we won the National Over 60s Inter County Cup. I was also so close to getting to the County Finals last season - that's my ambition for this year.

How do you find your volunteering role fits in with your bowling ambition?

To be honest not always easy. It can be distracting when bowling in a match and colleagues want to badger you about other Club stuff. I must admit it was a particular challenge whilst a Director. Perhaps members could be a little more mindful generally to respect Club Officers and Directors when they're bowling and 'off duty'.

You've been a member for 18 years. Where do you think the Club is at now?

I genuinely think in a good place; moving forward and modernising with ambition. We're developing good depth amongst the mens competitive bowlers and reckon we can match the best in Kent on our day. It would be great to attract more competitive bowlers on the Ladies side. The Club is also getting busier in the summer.

What about the other aspects of the Club?

I've always maintained that bowls is for everyone. We all need to accept that we each bowl for different reasons. Some of us just like to roll up; some only like to play competitively. The Club can only be successful if rink usage is at a good level. So we must all be tolerant of each other and respect other members at whatever level they bowl.

Tell me about Tom off the green - I hear you like Football?

Ha ha. I've been watching Fulham for over 50 years! I've watched them when 91st in the league and in the Europa Cup Final in Hamburg. And in all that time I've been married to lovely Heather whom I met at Ightam primary school nearly 70 years ago. We first dated when she was 16 and we've been together ever since! And we've now got two grown up sons - one lives here and one split between here and Florida.

Favourite Fulham player?

Difficult. Probably Allan Clarke. Before being snapped up by Leicester then Leeds.



Thanks for your time Tom and, on behalf of members, a huge thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the Club both on and off the green.