

NEWSLETTER

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January 2019

A review of the past month, a preview of the coming month and more

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS



to
Frank Greenwood
of **Golcar Lib**
for sponsoring this
issue of the newsletter

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WE CAN DO MORE TO ATTRACT NEW BOWLERS

We believe that we have a really good couple of league competitions with clubs that want to play the game in the right manner, a good mix of teams with some very good bowlers and others that are well organised and see themselves as being more committed to providing a service to their local community. Playing standards vary but interest, enjoyment and commitment are common. The Management Committee is equally committed in supporting clubs even more to ensure that we retain the element of competition but under a sensible set of rules which enable and encourage bowlers to get a game of bowls with teams in our leagues.

Over the last three years those rules have been updated to support teams in establishing themselves and being able to attract a steady number of new bowlers. The relaxation of the maximum number of 10-man team bowlers able to bowl in the 6-man league being an example. Then the change to allow bowlers to bowl for different clubs in different leagues and the abolition of Starred Bowlers for B and C teams was also well received.

The latest amendment to the qualifying age also helping teams to sign up bowlers before they think about getting a game in neighbouring leagues with (now) similar age limits. The Management Committee is now proposing yet another initiative to support clubs in attracting bowlers and this will look to amend the rule regarding Starred Bowlers.

At a Special General Meeting to be called for 18 February the Management Committee will propose that the rules around Starred Bowlers for teams in Sections 3, 4 and 5 are abolished. So Starred Bowler status will only apply to teams in Sections 1 and 2 so making a further 75 current bowlers potentially eligible to bowl in our 6-man league. It is hoped that clubs will support this vote to help them attract even more bowlers to play for their teams in our leagues.

NEW TEAMS FOR 2019

The League has already received applications from two clubs to field new teams in the 10-Man League in 2019. Hemplow being one of those which will mean fielding a B team to supplement their current A team playing in Section 2. They will continue to have a team in the 6-Man League as well.

Marsh Lib are also looking to join the 10-Man League and this is a direct result of the interest generated following the formation of a 6-man team that entered our competition for the first time last season. I am sure that clubs will welcome both of these additions to our leagues.

In addition, we are aware that at least three clubs are seeking approval from internal club meetings scheduled over the first ten days of 2019 to enter new teams in our 6-Man League. There may be more but this indicates an increasing interest in bowling in Huddersfield and bowling in the HDVBA in particular.

Once all new member clubs are known the Management Committee will set about the task of determining which teams will form each of our Sections for the new season. Currently we have two Sections (4 & 5) with 12 teams; 14 teams in Section 1, 13 in Section 2 and 11 in Section 3. It would be good to take the opportunity to balance the Sections out whilst ensuring that new teams are put in the most appropriate level for their first season. This may result in some reorganisation of the Sections which is rarely welcomed but necessary to retain an equal number of fixtures within a framework of teams of a comparative level.

Once that is all complete then the task of drawing up the 2019 fixture programme can commence. This has always been a hefty piece of work that all clubs look forward to receiving. The use of Bowlsnet has made this task easier as long as all the settings are established properly from the outset. All being well the fixture programme should become widely available by 29 January.

50th ANNIVERSARY PLANS

The work continues on organising events to celebrate the Association's Golden Jubilee Anniversary in 2020. There are a number of plans already in place but many are dependent on funds being available to support them. That being the case the current focus is on raising financial support to ensure that we mark the 50th Anniversary in the proper manner.

As well as sponsorship from local and national businesses the organising Committee are looking to all forms of interest and are now appealing to individuals to show their support for this milestone in Veteran's League history. Accordingly, individuals are now invited to become Patrons of the Golden Jubilee Anniversary. A donation of £10 or more will enable any individual or local business to be added to our list of Patrons which will be included in all documentation released as part of the celebrations including the 2020 Year Book. Send your donation to the General Secretary to get your name added to that list and thank you for your interest and support.

Provisional bookings have been made with two venues for a start-of-season and close-season events with the latter including a Presentation event for all the season's team and individual competition winners. In addition, speakers are being approached to add that little bit extra to mark the Anniversary in the appropriate manner as our predecessors and successors, as well as current members, would expect.

CLOSE SEASON TRANSFERS

More bowler transfers between clubs in our leagues have been completed in the run up to the 2019 season and a full listing of all close season transfers to date is included below. Clubs are reminded that all transfers should be completed before 31 March to enable those bowlers to be eligible for the new season. Transfers can still be completed after that deadline but only with the approval of the Management Committee and that will introduce a delay and doubt about any transfer as there has to be a good reason to sanction it. Contact the League Secretary now to get all transfers approved well before the season starts.

TRANSFERS FOR 2019 SEASON

DATE	NAME	FROM	TO
16-10-18	Brian Hamilton	Primrose Hill Lib	Marsh United
28-10-18	John Fawcett	Holmfirth	Brockholes
08-11-18	Michael Bell	Brockholes	Ravensknowle Park
08-11-18	John Swallow	Brockholes	Ravensknowle Park
12-11-18	Stuart Greaves	Clayton West	New Mill
20-11-18	Dave Worrall	Netherton Con	Marsh United
10-12-18	Peter Hopkinson	Lindley Lib	Golcar Lib
10-12-18	Robert Senior	Lindley Lib	Golcar Lib
13-12-18	John Mikula	Marsh United	Greenhead Park
13-12-18	Bill Beattie	Greenhead Park	Outlane
14-12-18	Ben Hammond	Golcar Lib	Outlane
17-12-18	Peter Thornton	Lockwood Con	Lindley Lib
18-12-18	Vincent Hanlon	Lindley BC	Lindley Lib
30-12-18	John Wright	Milnsbridge	Hemplow
31-12-18	John Pix	Canalside	Springwood

Clubs are also taking advantage of the close season to sign up new bowlers, a growing number of them becoming available for the first time due to the new qualifying age rule of 60 years. New bowlers to the League can be registered at any time during the year. All the new additions to date are listed below.

NEW REGISTRATIONS FOR 2019 SEASON

DATE	NAME	CLUB
15-10-18	Harry Redman	Rastrick
15-10-18	John Booker	Marsh United
05-11-18	Rob Allen	Golcar Lib
08-11-18	John Kneeshaw	Ravensknowle Park
11-11-18	Derek Hey	Holmfirth
17-11-18	David Frost	Thorpe Green
17-11-18	Martin Skuse	Thorpe Green
23-11-18	John Wise	Paddock I&C
23-11-18	Peter Brier	Paddock I&C
29-11-18	Michael Pollard	Slaithwaite C&BC
13-12-18	Peter Farnsworth	Holmfirth
13-12-18	Leo Scott	Holmfirth
13-12-18	John Allen	Lindley BC
15-12-18	Donald Rae	Milnsbridge
17-12-18	Alan Brown	Cowcliffe
17-12-18	Steve Halsall	Cowcliffe
17-12-18	Joe Harding	Shepley
17-12-18	Ronald Leather	Shepley
17-12-18	Ronald Usher	Shepley
18-12-18	Keith Hatzler	Bradley & Colne
18-12-18	Steve Mynott	Bradley & Colne
24-12-18	Stephen Lunn	Waterloo
24-12-18	P. Atherton	Waterloo
27-12-18	J R Wilson	Waterloo

CLUB REPS CORNER

Does your club have an active Veteran's League bowler who has reached or is approaching their 90th birthday? If so, the League would very much like to hear from you. It is our tradition that we mark such milestone dates with a small presentation to these members. Make sure that one of your members doesn't miss out on commemorating this achievement by informing us now.

Transfer activity continues to be strong and all clubs are reminded that any bowler transfer should be completed before the new season starts. Any club wishing to transfer a new bowler to their club needs to contact the League Secretary in the first instance. He will then contact that bowler's current club to check that there is no reason that the transfer cannot go ahead, such as any outstanding financial commitment, before finalising the transfer and updating the Bowlsnet system accordingly.

Any club proposing to enter or withdraw a team for the 2019 season needs to do so before the 14 January deadline. Otherwise all league memberships just roll forward, you don't need to register a current league team again.

The League's Annual General Meeting will be held at 2pm on Monday 18 February. Get that date in your new 2019 diary. In addition, Club Representatives will shortly be receiving formal notice of a Special General Meeting to be held on the same date following the business of the AGM. As covered on the front page of this newsletter this is to receive a proposal from your Management Committee to change the rule regarding Starred Bowlers. Clubs are asked to read this proposal carefully, consult with their club members and come prepared to vote at the meeting.

All clubs will shortly be receiving a list of their current registered bowlers on the Bowlsnet system. Every club is asked to update this listing removing any bowler no longer bowling for them for any reason so that we have an up to date record of all registered bowlers. It is also against the law of the land (new GDPR legislation) to retain personal records of inactive members so help us to stay legal by updating your club records when you receive your listing. Thank you.

Once the majority of transfers and new bowler registrations has been completed then the task of selecting Starred Bowlers for the 2019 season can be undertaken. This is usually undertaken at the March meeting of the Management Committee. Starred Bowlers are only allowed to play for their club's top team and cannot play in the 6-Man League at all. A provisional list of those bowlers, club by club, has been on the HDVBA website for some months. Any club can influence the final selection of these bowlers by contacting the League Secretary suggesting any changes to the provisional listing by including alternatives and reasons for change.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

I am very grateful to **FRANK GREENWOOD** of **Golcar Lib** who has most generously sponsored this issue of your Newsletter. If you would like to sponsor a future issue then it costs just £20. Full details from the editor.

My Bowling Life
HOW I GOT INTO REFEREEING
by Allan Dobson (Part 2)



I had really enjoyed my first season of bowling, and was already looking forward to the following April, when I saw a small article in The Examiner about a series of three or four seminars being held during the winter evenings to teach bowlers the laws of the game, with a view to eventually becoming a qualified referee.

I didn't really fancy the referee bit, but I was keen to properly learn the laws. Already I'd come across a few 'urban myths' re how the game should be played, plus a few over competitive individuals who had tried to take advantage of my obvious inexperience by 'old manning me'.

Bradley and Colnebridge WMC was the venue, and along I went with six or seven other bowlers to be introduced to the redoubtable Joan Wrigley and her small team of trainers. The sessions were entirely painless, the support from the experienced referees was first class and I did learn an awful lot. Before I knew it, one Saturday morning, I was sitting the final examination, and a few days later Joan phoned me to say I had passed and invited me to the next referee society meeting - how could I refuse?!

I spent the next two or three years 'learning the ropes', watching and working alongside numerous referees and slowly getting the necessary experience. I made lots of mistakes, but gradually I learnt not to make the same errors over and over again. Refereeing is not easy, it takes a huge

amount of concentration to oversee a singles match - eight players, sixteen woods and four jacks often in play at any one time. My general tactic is to anticipate where the jacks are going to be led, that way I'm usually in a good position to intervene if two or more jacks are in close proximity. Only very rarely is a referee called upon to arbitrate regarding the laws of the game.

A particular highlight was being the referee in charge of the quarter-finals of the 2014 BCGBA Senior Merit at Cleckheaton, won by our local bowler Ashley Daykin. With a temporary stand along one side of the top green, there must have been over a thousand supporters there. Plenty had enjoyed the amber nectar. The noise was overwhelming, the atmosphere rowdy but good natured. I couldn't hear a thing the players were trying to say, all communication was by hand signals.

After writing my first article last month I came across fellow 'Yettoner' David Fox. He made the point that two nice things about playing at a top level was, firstly, that if a bowler played an obviously bad wood and it was struck by a wood from a different end then it would be forfeited without question - no 'That was lucky, I'll have it back'. Secondly you don't get 'Beer bandits', when you win and buy your opponent a drink and he then spends the rest of the game trying to ignore you rather than doing the decent thing and asking you if you want a drink. The top bowlers undoubtedly play to win, but generally they know each other very well and play the game in a good spirit.

Many people have asked me, 'Why be a referee'. Probably the main reason is the same as why I enjoy bowling. Crown green bowling is like belonging to a large family, you see the same faces at most of the larger bowling events and, apart from the occasional prat, most people are supportive and friendly.

After a game it's good to sit down and chat with supporters and bowlers. Probably the highest praise I received from one county captain in his after-match speech was, '..... as for the referee, I didn't notice him, so he must have had a good game' - that's fine by me!

Finally, I'll close by mentioning two individuals. Ian Alderman from Leeds, probably the finest referee I've had the pleasure to work with, and (see above) Joan Wrigley for her help and support.