

NEWSLETTER

A review of the past month, a preview of the coming month
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Julie Fuller Trophy in Disarray

We have major problems with this year's Julie Fuller Trophy competition following the withdrawal of nine teams and the expulsion of two other teams who failed to meet the qualifying criteria for participating bowlers in a Preliminary Round tie.

So that means that 11 of the 25 teams eligible to compete are not doing. Although the rules haven't changed this year it seems to be more difficult for teams to field a team of fully qualified bowlers than last year when just four teams were withdrawn for similar reasons.

The teams to withdraw so far are Golcar Lib, Skel Windmill, Netherton Con, Lindley BC, Holmfirth, Greenhead Park, Brockholes A, Crosland Moor and Milnsbridge.

In addition Almondbury Lib and Oakfield have been excluded from the competition after both included two non-qualified bowlers for their Preliminary Round match.

There are two qualifying rules that are causing the problem:-

1. Bowlers must have played a minimum of three 6-Man League matches to be able to bowl in the Julie Fuller Trophy.
2. Any bowler that has played a 10-Man League match this season cannot play in the competition.

Both these rules have been around for years and are designed to stop teams fielding non-6-man bowlers just in the KO competition.

So what to do about it? Well undoubtedly the Management Committee will be offering rule changes later in the year to address this imbalance but any change must also protect the competition's integrity. It seems that major surgery, not tinkering, is required to galvanise this, the only, knock-out competition for our 6-man teams.

That being the case it seems inevitable that one or more of the two bowler qualifying rules will be drastically changed. That could see the deletion of one or both of these rules but then the danger is that some clubs will take advantage of the change to field strengthened teams in pursuit of honours. It is a balancing act which at present is out of kilter with the needs of clubs to be able to field teams at all. Change seems inevitable to get this competition back on track.

First Aid Training

The second Everyday First Aid training session is arranged for the morning of Wednesday 31 May at Paddock I&C and there are still vacancies for anyone interested in attending. Starting at 10am this could be the most valuable two-hours you have spent this year as it will provide you with a range of first aid skills including how to react and save a life in the event of someone having a heart attack. The sessions are completely free of charge and were established following the actions of a Canalside bowling club member in saving the life of a fellow bowler who suffered a heart attack just prior to a Veteran's League match starting. Could you respond similarly in such circumstances? Full details of what the session involves and how to book your place are on our website at www.hdvba.co.uk

2017 K.O. PRIZE FUND

(to be confirmed)

Rose Bowl - £440

Over-70's - £280

Over-80's - £180

Pairs KO - £300

LD Trophy - £115

TOTAL = £1,315

It's Knock-Out Time Again

Entries for our final two individual knock-out competitions close on 27 May. We don't yet have entry numbers for the Rose Bowl and Lower Division Trophy but we do have them for the three competitions with earlier closing dates. The Over-70s and the Over-80s have maintained the increased level of entries reached last year but the Pairs KO entries are down from 64 in 2016 to 55 this year. The draws for the early rounds of these competitions have been made and published on our website.

Inter-District Slow Start

The Inter-District season has started with two games in May and our representative team is still awaiting a first win of the campaign. An opening day 28-28 draw with last year's bottom team from Wakefield was disappointing and was then followed up two weeks later with a 27-29 defeat at the hands of Halifax. Skipton are our next opponents on 2 June.

The BCGBA has introduced a change to its dress code for affiliated competitions which sees a change to the colour of trousers allowed to be worn by bowlers. Previously bowlers had the choice of wearing black or grey trousers. That has now been restricted to just black being permitted. That caught out some opposing bowlers in the first Inter-District match of the season and the decision has been taken that Huddersfield teams will be enforcing the new ruling on its opponents in future matches.

Fantasy League KO Time

The 2017 Fantasy league season has got off to a cracking start with a weekly change in leadership although David Morrison has settled in to that position for the last couple of weeks after finishing in fourth place last year. The first of the two Individual Knock-Out competitions has just started as well which sees members matched against each other on a straight knock-out basis. Plenty happening and plenty more still to happen in this unique competition with great prizes on offer.

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Club Reps Corner

All clubs are reminded that it is their responsibility to check the rules around qualifying criteria for bowlers in our knock-out competitions and ensure that only eligible bowlers play in their teams in these competitions.

Three teams have been caught out in the Julie Fuller Trophy by fielding bowlers that were not qualified to bowl. The qualifying criteria is different for each competition and clubs need to be aware of these because the League will be monitoring and taking action against any club that ignores our rules.

The Management Committee received a review of its Starred Bowlers and decided to make six changes to the current list of bowlers not allowed to play for any team other than their club's senior side. All the clubs involved have been informed of the changes and a further review will be undertaken later in the season. The changes were necessary as they involved previously identified Starred Bowlers who had not played a game this season so nullifying the reason for nominating them in the first place.

Two clubs have been fined for breaking League rules. A late Result Card submission cost the Holmfirth 6-Man team £5 and Linthwaite Hall were fined the same sum for not providing access to facilities for visiting teams when acting as a neutral green for a Sub-Team KO encounter.

There are still three vacancies on the Management Committee so any club wishing to nominate someone should forward such nominations to the General Secretary.

A club asked the League to allow the double registration of a bowler so he would be registered to bowl with two clubs in the same competition. Clubs are reminded that this is not allowed although bowlers are now permitted to bowl for one 10-Man club and can also play for a different 6-Man club as long as they are not Starred Bowlers. The impact such practice has on the availability of bowlers for KO competitions should be noted.

Clubs are also reminded about bowler eligibility for the Team KO and Sub-Team KO competitions. Once a bowler has bowled in the Team KO they become ineligible for the Sub-Team KO. It is permissible for a bowler to play in the Sub-Team KO first and then step up to Team KO level but they cannot do the reverse switch. The Bistro is a completely separate competition with no such restrictions on eligibility although you can only play for one team in this competition.

Some clubs are being unhelpful in making their green available as a neutral green for our Team and Individual KO competitions. Whilst appreciating that clubs do have other commitments especially on days other than current league fixture days it is known that some use that as a blanket excuse when the green is really free. This is discourteous to other clubs who readily make their facilities available on such occasions.

JULY NEWSLETTER

If you have registered to receive the monthly Newsletter then the July 2017 issue should be arriving in your email inbox by

THURSDAY 29th JUNE

[Register on www.hdvba.co.uk](http://www.hdvba.co.uk)

The Season So Far

The bowling season is now well underway and the Sections are starting to form some sort of order as the teams find their own levels and players' form improves or deteriorates.

In the 10-Man League the big surprise is in Section 1 where Champions Lockwood Con have had a slow start to the new campaign and have allowed Milnsbridge to build up a lead and open up a gap to the chasing pack of teams jockeying for position. Lockwood Con are one of probably five teams who could challenge our early leaders which makes it very interesting to observers in watching the threats emerge from the pack.

A very open competition in Section 1 then this year and the same can be said of Section 2 where the top eight are all in contention for honours whilst the bottom six are all part of the early relegation fear brigade. Thongsbridge A and Brockholes A seem to be alternating top place between themselves although there are plenty of other contenders well positioned to move in at any notice.

Section 3 being the one competition where we have a clear leader as Almondbury Lib have opened up quite a gap already to justify their favourite tag. Only a few points separate the other 11 teams so we can expect some tight games for a while yet and every point becomes precious. Marsden Park and Golcar Lib B have just started to prise open a gap between themselves and the rest of the Section 4 teams but there is no certainty that they will be able to maintain that with a string of strong B teams yapping at their heels.

Outlane and Denby Dale appear to be emerging as the two main contenders for Section 5 honours and they have a lead over a group of four which includes a resurgent New Mill A who seem to have got over their 2016 plight of finishing bottom.

Our two perpetual leaders in the 6-Man Section A are there again and the title appears to once again to be between Longwood and Lockwood Con. Whereas in Section B nothing is clear at all as many teams still have promotion hopes including new boys Lindley BC.

June Diary

Thurs 1 st	Over-70s KO (down to 16)
Fri 2 nd	Inter-District v Skipton
Thurs 8 th	Rose Bowl (down to 16)
Fri 9 th	Julie Fuller Round 1
Thurs 15 th	Bistro Round 2
Fri 16 th	Inter-District v Castleford
Thurs 22 nd	Pairs KO (down to 8)
Fri 23 rd	Over-80s (down to 8)
Thurs 29 th	Team KO Round 2
Fri 30 th	Lower Division Trophy (down to 16)
Fri 30 th	Inter-District v Bradford