

NEWSLETTER

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

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Canalside To Lose Back Green

Huddersfield Town attaining Premier League football may have been a wonderful highlight for the town but the reality of that success is now being felt by the local bowling community. An early June announcement declared that the back green at the PPG Canalside complex would be closed with effect from the end of the month giving just three weeks notice. There has been a subsequent easing of the timescales with an end of July date now being declared. Various reasons being cited for the need for the change including additional space required for extra Town administrative staff, improved security and a clear objective to create a Public and Private divide on the site.

There isn't the capacity to move all teams to the front green and already plans are well advanced to move the club's Brighthouse League teams to Bradley & Colne for the remainder of the season. The majority of Veteran's League fixtures can be accommodated on the front green but four fixtures have been identified that will require alternative arrangements. That means an 11:00am start on the front green for those matches with an improved refreshment package provided as the games will run through the lunchtime period. No plans have yet been discussed regarding the longer term solution to the problem of too many teams for the one green and this will need addressing before the start of next season.

It isn't just the bowlers who have been penalised for this promotion as the croquet lawn is also to disappear and the club has also announced that three of the snooker tables will be withdrawn as part of a development to provide better facilities for players in the form of an extended Player's Lounge. It appears that a survey of all Premier League clubs shows that none allow public access to their training complexes. So how long before the whole of Canalside becomes a public-free zone then? Town say that there are no plans to do this and they relish their unique open relationship between the players and public on the complex. More to follow no doubt.

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Inside: A PRESIDENT'S LIFE

HDVBA President Alan Sharpe responded to an invitation to provide an article for the Newsletter by looking back on his life - both bowling and personal - and this is included in this issue of your monthly newsletter.

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Club Reps Corner

It is no secret that we have had problems with the Julie Fuller Trophy competition this season with no less than 17 of the 25 six-man teams originally entered in to the competition having to withdraw or be excluded due to having insufficient qualified bowlers to field full teams. That left just eight teams to fight it out amongst themselves and only six are now still in the competition as we reach the quarter-final stage.

The Management Committee revisited the rules around this competition this month and have confirmed that they are being interpreted correctly but that they are no longer fit-for-purpose and will be reviewed at the end of the season. Those clubs still in the competition are reminded that the rules will continue to be enforced to be fair to those teams that have already been excluded and the prime criteria for qualifying bowlers is:

1. Starred Bowlers are not allowed to play in the competition.
2. Players must have played a minimum of five 6-man league games to qualify to play.
3. Any bowler who has played a 10-man game this season is not eligible to bowl in the Julie Fuller Trophy.

I have had two requests in the past month from clubs wishing to rearrange fixtures due to players not being available resulting in difficulties in fielding full teams. All clubs are reminded that the League only allows matches to be rearranged for exceptional circumstances such as the green not being playable or a club member's funeral. Insufficient team members is not regarded as an exceptional reason to justify the postponement of a match.

Thank you to all the six-man teams for their co-operation in moving the Spring Bank Holiday fixture programme to Monday 2 October due to the clash with Town's appearance in the Championship Play-Off Final at Wembley on the same day.

The change of match start times appears to have gone down well with bowlers if the online poll is any indication. With 74% of the 117 votes received in favour of the 1:30pm start time it has clearly been well received by the majority of bowlers.

The Annual Club raffle was drawn at the Management Committee meeting on 12 June with the following outcome.

1. £100 No.934 Thongsbridge
2. £50 No.675 Marsden Park
3. £25 No.924 Thongsbridge

It is intended in future years to draw the Club Raffle at the February AGM when all clubs are represented.

We still have three vacancies on the League's Management Committee for anyone interested in overseeing the running of all our League and Knock-Out competitions. Register your interest with any current Committee member who will take your name forward to the next meeting which is 17 July.



A Presidents Life

by Alan Sharpe

My life outside bowling would be so boring that people wouldn't want to read it. My life at the moment revolves round bowling matches and administration, I even have to pick the days that Mary and I can get away together, but our main holidays are taken when bowling has finished.

My main love is driving, I do between 10 and 12,000 miles a year of which 2,000 may be for our holidays the other 10,000 is following Yorkshire County Side Men, Ladies, Juniors all around the country I also follow each competition at various venues, I have been to Cheshire 3 times, Merseyside and due to go to North Midlands, Derby with the Vets, and the East Coast for the 2nd time for the men's Inter-District.

Anyway going back to my likes and dislikes my time is taken up with telephoning/ banking/posting and asking my wife to use the computer as she is doing now while I dictate this summary, which takes up most mornings. You would not believe this but I am a poor watcher and get really frustrated not being able to play.

My history is as most people are aware I come from Northampton and still support the Cobblers and Northampton Saints. I moved to Huddersfield in 1970 to work for Yorkshire Water as a main layer and plumber, I stayed there for 5 years before moving on to Tetley's Brewery as a Relief-Manager that lasted 3 years, before I moved on to driving a vehicle delivering milk to all the hospitals in Sheffield, after a further 2 years I became a postman where I remained for the rest of my working life.

I then became a carer for my late wife. Twelve years ago I met Mary and we have been married now for 9 years. She will admit she isn't a great fan of bowling but she does enjoy the traveling and the different places she visits. In October last year I was admitted to The Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield for an operation on my spine as I had lost the ability to walk. This was a difficult time for all the family travelling back and forward to Sheffield, a vote of thanks to the our friends who are veteran bowlers for visiting me.

I have had 3 daughters, sadly losing 2 of them, one at 2 years and the other at 36 years and my other daughter Kelly is now 43 years old and has produced 4 grandchildren, Alycia 27 years, Luke 25 years, Alex 16 years and William 3 years. The eldest two have given me four great grandchildren making me a great granddad at 62 years, thankfully all the children are in good health.

In finishing, my health is improving and now I am able to walk 20 steps unaided, any further I have to use a 3 wheeled trike or a Mobility Scooter and hopefully this will carry on and I can enjoy the rest of the bowling season.

Alan Sharpe

Inter-District Team Revive Title Bid

Our Inter-District team has recovered from a slow start to the 2017 season to record a second successive win with an emphatic 48-8 score-line over Castleford being the latest result. That result moves our side to within one point of leaders Halifax with third placed Bradford next up. The current top of the table looks like this:

		P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Pts
1	HALIFAX	4	4	0	0	136	88	136
2	HUDDERSFIELD	4	2	1	1	135	89	135
3=	WEST RIDING	4	3	0	1	132	92	132
3=	BRADFORD	4	3	0	1	132	92	132

Fantasy League Update

The destiny of the Fantasy league KO1 title and prize is still in the balance as we go to press. Kenneth Broadbant and Frank Greenwood are our two finalists and we still await some match results before we can declare the winner. In the season-long League competition David Morrison continues to lead the way but he has failed to establish a decisive lead and there is a large pack of predators trailing him now. That lead is down to six points and when you remember that up to 58 points are available to each contestant each week then you realise how fragile and attainable that top target is.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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

SATURDAY 29th JULY

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

First Aid Training

The second Everyday First Aid training session was held last month and no more are planned during the playing season. It is hoped to stage a third session in October and anyone interested in adding their name to the list can do so on our HDVBA website. The Management Committee was pleased to make a donation of £75 to the British Red Cross in recognition of them providing the sessions. A further £25 was given to Paddock I&C for allowing the sessions to be held on their premises, however Paddock decided to waive the fee and ask that it be donated to the Red Cross as well.

July Diary

Thurs 6 th	Julie Fuller Trophy Round 2
Fri 7 th	Rose Bowl (down to 8)
Thurs 13 th	Bistro Round 3
Fri 14 th	Hickson Trophy (in Leeds)
Thurs 20 th	Team KO Round 3
Fri 21 st	Over-80's KO (down to 4)
Thurs 27 th	ROSE BOWL FINAL
Fri 28 th	Inter-District v Leeds