

NEWSLETTER

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

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First Silverware of 2017

Some of our Knock-Out competitions have already reached their climax including our top individual bowler prize event of the Rose Bowl which this year has been won by a bowler from Section 2 of the 10-Man League. Congratulations to Tony Clegg of Crosland Moor who beat three Section 1 bowlers, club-mate Derek Frost and me, on his way to the title. He beat two Inter-District bowlers from Lockwood Con on Finals Day and this surprise result showed that there are good bowlers playing outside the top Section.

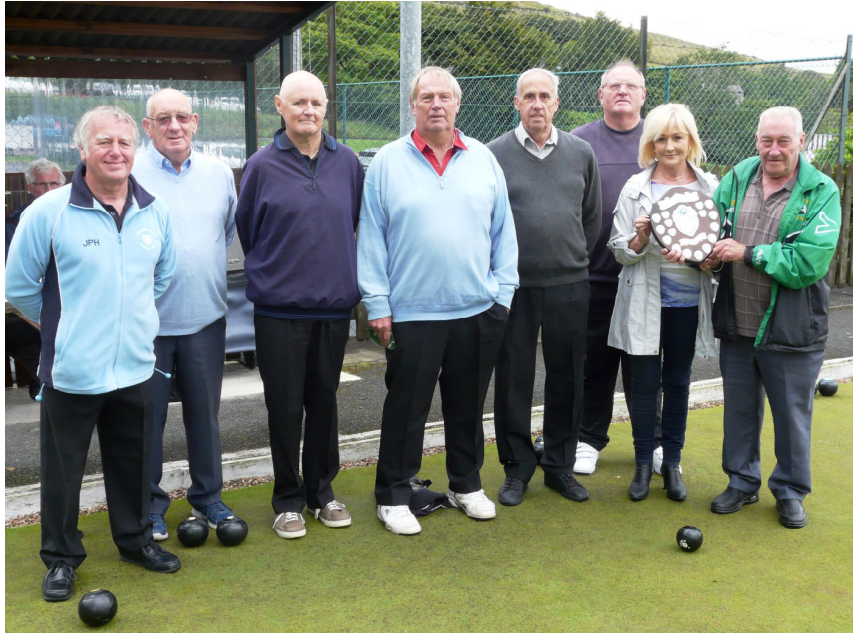


On Over-80's Finals Day the threatened thunderstorm never really emerged from over the hills at Hemplow but Eddie Hine served up his own lightning performance as he stormed to a first individual title. After dispatching reigning Champion, Denis Iredale 21-16, in the semi-final the Kirkheaton C&BC bowler went on to provide a masterclass of long mark bowling to beat Geoff Rollinson from Holmfirth 21-7 in the Final. Geoff had eliminated last year's beaten finalist, Bill Blackburn from Lindley BC, in the other semi-final to ensure that there was going to be no rerun of last year's Final line-up.

The first team KO competition to be completed this season was the Six-Man's Julie Fuller Trophy which was being contested for the 17th consecutive season, we are very fortunate in having such a supportive and long-standing sponsor. We also have a long-standing winner as well as Longwood (picture overpage) collected the title for the fourth consecutive season when beating Clayton West 63-28 in the Final at Hemplow.

Roll of Honour 2017

We've started compiling the 2017 Roll of Honour and to add to the two individual winners portrayed on the front page of this newsletter we are delighted to add a photograph of the Julie Fuller Trophy winners from Longwood along with our competition sponsor and David Sykes the HDVBA Competition Secretary.



Still lots to play for of course and the list below shows which competitions will be decided when and where. The Final line-ups for the Team KO and Sub-Team KO have been completed and Waterloo B will play Golcar Lib B in the Sub-Team Final at Brockholes before the Team KO is played the following week when the top Section A teams from Netherton Con and Lindley Lib go head-to-head at Broad Oak. Lindley Lib have won this trophy eight times which is more than any other team the last time being in 2004 but it is 35 years since Netherton won this competition for the only time.

COMPETITION	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
Team KO	<i>7 September</i>	<i>At Broad Oak</i>
Sub-Team KO	<i>1 September</i>	<i>At Brockholes</i>
Bistro	<i>14 September</i>	<i>Venue to be decided</i>
Julie Fuller Trophy	LONGWOOD	CLAYTON WEST
Rose Bowl	TONY CLEGG (Crosland Moor)	MICK COX (Lockwood Con)
Over-70's KO	<i>8 September</i>	<i>At Lockwood Con</i>
Over-80's KO	EDDIE HINE (Kirkheaton C&BC)	GEOFF ROLLINSON (Holmfirth)
Lower Divisions	<i>25 August</i>	<i>At Lindley Lib</i>
Pairs KO	<i>31 August</i>	<i>At Almondbury Lib</i>

DID YOU KNOW THAT in the 47-year history of the Huddersfield & District Veteran's Bowling Association no club has won the Six-Man League and the 10-Man League in the same season? Could this be the year that Lockwood Con create that new record?

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Club Reps Corner

When I was 17 years old I helped form a football team for me and my mates and we entered the local open age league and I took on the role of secretary. We did quite well but got hit by the League for playing an ineligible player in a cup semi-final. Talking to my dad about the problem I pleaded ignorance about the League Rules. He laid in to me telling me that 'as secretary it is your f***ing job to know the rules'.

Ever since then I have taken the rule book of whichever club or League I have been involved with in all sports and spent an hour at the beginning of a new season reading the rules and with red pen highlighting those important ones which are going to get my teams fined and/or thrown out of competitions or lose us league points.

I was reminded of all this recently with the spate of ineligible players in our KO competitions and expulsion or withdrawal of teams due to playing ineligible or unqualified bowlers. Even in the later stages of these competitions we are still finding teams playing bowlers who are not qualified to bowl in these teams.

Three ineligible bowlers in the semi-finals of the Sub-Team KO being the latest transgression of the rules. No-one is suggesting that these are deliberate, in all probability they are ignorance of the rules. These are your rules gentlemen, if you don't like them then change them but don't moan when the League enforces the rules that you have voted in.

An hour making yourself familiar with those rules could save you a lot of embarrassment in front of your club members explaining about how you didn't know the rules when your team has been excluded from a competition. Learn the lesson I learnt as a 17 year-old and in the words of my dad - 'it is your f***ing job to know the rules!'

It is coming around to the time that we review all our League rules and in October we meet to decide any changes that will be made for the start of the 2018 season. Before then clubs have every opportunity to consult on proposed changes with their own members, some clubs choose not to do so. Does yours?

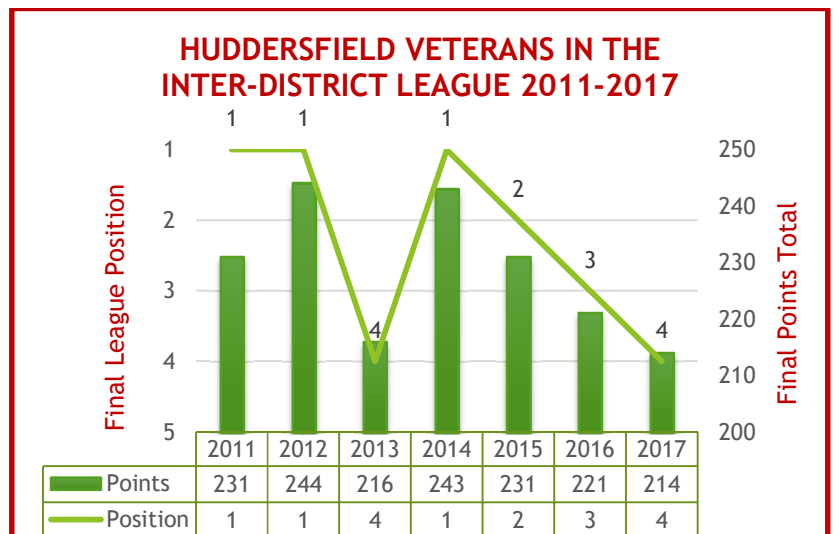
The first pass of proposed changes will be sent to each club by 11 September. Any amendments then have to be received by the General Secretary by 18 September and the formal list of changes to be voted on will then be sent to all clubs by 2 October. Clubs are then expected to consult internally and receive guidance on voting preferences before the Half-Year Meeting which will be held on 16 October.

One of the perpetual proposals to be tabled again this year is the reduction of the bowler qualifying age to 60 from the current 62 years. So what do you think, and equally important, what do your club members think about this proposal?

Inter-District 2017

Our representative team has ended the 2017 season in fourth position of eight teams in the Yorkshire Veteran's League after the final fixture last month. A disappointing end to a campaign where the team was in touch of greater things for most of the season and continues a drop in fortunes over recent years as is shown in the graph below.

On a happier note the same team performed very well to reach the Final of the one-day Hickson Cup tournament held in Leeds this year where they lost out to Bradford who completed a double when lifting the Grouse Trophy for winning the league competition as well. Well done to Bradford, deserving winners.



Competition Secretary's Day

Competition Secretary, David Sykes, has the unenviable task in finding truly neutral greens for our Knock-Out competitions, not only team matches but Individual competitions as well. Normally for team games he has to take in to account location, availability, travelling distance, sponsor's preference and frequency of involved team visits as well as having regard for the last time each team played on that green.

A new consideration has to be included for the Sub-Team KO this year as the sponsors from Croft Care Homes want to bring some of their residents to enjoy the Final so wheelchair access, disabled toilets, cover from the elements and flat routes to the green all have to be added in to the selection process. So next time you have a moan about the neutral green allocated to your game just take a minute to think about the thought that has gone into the decision and take a moment to wonder if you could have done better.

With all that factored in to his thinking, David has gone on to name Brockholes as the venue for the Sub-Team KO on 1 September and that will be followed on 7 September with the Team KO to be held at Broad Oak.

Are we a Male-Only League?

There is nothing in our rules which states that the HDVBA is a male-only competition. But we are, but should we be? That was the question posed in a website based online poll run in early August. Of the 93 votes cast 60 (65%) were in favour of retaining the current male-only status whilst 33 votes (35%) supported the idea of opening up the competition to the ladies as well. That indication is to be further tested next month at the Club's Half-Year Meeting when a proposed rule change will look to insert a new rule stating that the HDVBA is a male-only league.

Photobox

It is getting to the time of the season when teams and individuals are winning competitions and these events are recorded with the usual set of photographs. We manage to include some of these on our HDVBA website but many more are not used but are added to our online Photobox Album. This collection goes back almost four years now so is always interesting viewing. You can also buy authentic copies of each photograph from as little as 5p to have your own copy of that special day in your bowling career. Links to Photobox are available from our website.



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

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

Fantasy League Update

Just a few weeks to go until we can announce the winner of the £60 first prize in our unique Fantasy League season-long competition and it would seem harsh to want David Morrison to relinquish his lead at this stage of the season as he continues to defy all-comers. The latest opponent to launch a challenge is David Singleton but the gap is still 13 points and we have seen challengers come and go already this season. The Knock-Out 2 competition is also well on its way so still plenty to play for, lots of points still to be won and the destination of all our Well Bowled sponsored prizes still to be determined.

Website Visitor Record

We have just passed our record for the number of visitors in a day to our HDVBA website (www.hdvba.co.uk). On 25 July we had a total of 431 visitors in the 24 hours which passed our previous record (5 July 2016) of 427. During July we averaged 343 visitors per day which is the best monthly figure of this year to date. We are grateful for the continuing support of our readers and we continue to work on updating the site daily to make it worth your while visiting regularly.

September Diary

Fri 1st	Sub-Team KO FINAL
Thurs 7th	Team KO FINAL
Fri 8th	Over-70's FINAL
Thurs 14th	Bistro FINAL
Tues 26th	Last day of 10-man season
Mon 2nd Oct	Last day of 6-man season