

# NEWSLETTER

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

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## How Should We Celebrate Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary?

The Association will be 50 years old in 2020 and the League's Management Committee are keen to mark the milestone date in some form. What that form is, is very much up for discussion with a number of early suggestions coming forward.

When the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was reached a Celebration Dinner was held and that is one of the options likely to be on the table for consideration again this time around. However there are other suggestions as well including the introduction of a new Anniversary Cup to be competed for by teams or individuals; free entry to individual competitions; a commemorative award to be introduced; a memento (e.g. League pin) to be presented to all League bowlers; the production of a commemorative book covering the history of the League and it's clubs or something that is yet to be proposed. It doesn't have to be restricted to a single event or gesture.

It would be good to ensure that all bowlers have the opportunity to be involved in marking the Anniversary in some form and that is a real challenge in identifying something that appeals to all, is affordable and fitting as a worthy commemoration.

The Management Committee has identified some funding to help deliver whatever proposals are eventually decided upon but whether that will be sufficient to cover the full costs remains to be seen. If not there are alternative ways of generating additional funding but that can only be started once the ideas for marking the Anniversary are developed further.

It is intended to form a small Sub-Committee to lead this programme and nominations to get involved are now invited. It is hoped that one representative from each of the League's seven Sections will come forward to ensure wide representation of all levels. We need people with ideas, enthusiasm and common sense - so that's another challenge! You can contact any member of the Management Committee to put your name forward to join in this work. Or is no-one interested and we should just carry on doing what we have always been doing and ignore this milestone date and when our successors ask how did we commemorate our 50th we just say that we couldn't be bothered?

Great anniversaries deserve that recognition and we need to find something fitting and worthwhile to put before the membership so that everyone will want to be involved and be part of the celebrations that will mark a most notable achievement.

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## Achievement Award for Frankie Sykes

Each year the Association marks the achievement of any of our bowlers who are still playing in our competitions upon reaching their 90th birthday. One bowler qualified this year and that was Frankie Sykes of Paddock I&C. Frankie is a colourful character as can be seen by his outfit below, whilst still conforming with the black trousers requirement, when he reached Finals Day in this year's Lower Divisions Trophy.



Frankie progressed to the semi-finals before being beaten 21-16 by the eventual winner Derek Sykes (no relation). Congratulations to Frankie, still enjoying his bowling. If your club has a bowler turning 90 over the next 12 months please let us know so that their achievement can be marked in the proper manner in the presence of all the clubs at next year's Half-Year Meeting.

## Julie Fuller Trophy Update

The Clubs' Half-Year Meeting turned its attention to addressing the rules around the Julie Fuller Trophy competition which had resulted in the debacle that developed over the past season with more teams dropping out of the competition than actually playing.

The Clubs' Half-Year Meeting supported a proposal from the Management Committee to reduce the number of qualifying League games that bowlers must have played from five to two. Hopefully that will help a number of clubs for next season.

In addition a proposal at that meeting to change the rules around all Knock-Out competitions involving teams was withdrawn after valid concerns were made specifically about the relationship between the Team KO and Sub-Team KO competitions. It is likely that this proposal will be reworked and presented again to a future meeting of all clubs.

## Bowlsnet Upgraded

There is a new version of Bowlsnet which has been developed and loaded up by the developer in anticipation of the 2018 season. There are a number of changes but all the old favourite functionality remains intact. It may look different for a while but once the new season starts I am confident that everyone will soon find their way around it.

### FEEL FREE ....

to forward this emailed copy of the newsletter to other team members or print a copy off and pin to your Club notice board.

## Clubs Vote to Keep Bowler Qualifying Age at 62

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The Club's Half-Year Meeting held on 16 October voted on the sensitive issue of the qualifying age for bowlers to compete in our League. The motion to reduce the qualifying to 60 had been proposed for the second consecutive year by the Management Committee and for the second time it failed to gain sufficient support to pass into the League Rules. A vote of 19-18 in favour of the proposal fell well short of the two-thirds majority required to be accepted so bowlers will still have to reach the age of 62 before being eligible to compete in our League.

Arguments put forward from both sides of the proposal with the prime reason it was proposed is to help clubs struggling to field full teams and an age reduction is regarded as one means of helping clubs with that problem. That is undermined to a degree by less games in 2017 being affected by a shortfall of bowlers than the previous year (down 18%).

The main argument against appears to be the concern of some clubs that elderly bowlers will be out-muscled by even younger opponents especially on days when conditions favour a bowler able to bowl long marks. Good arguments from both sides but maybe it is time that people started considering the long term future of the League rather than their own immediate bowling competitiveness although that is never easy to do.

The stance that the BCGBA sets the target age at 65 for Veteran's bowling has long since lost its value as we have ignored that guidance for many years. The swing may have started as the vote to change was stronger than last year although still well short of the required numbers to facilitate its introduction. Maybe next year?

A number of other changes were voted through including formalising the fact that our competition is only open to male bowlers. One new rule was also accepted which it is intended to again ease the bowler availability factor to support clubs to raise full teams regularly. This opens up the opportunity for bowlers to play for two clubs in our Leagues. If your 10-man team doesn't have a 6-man team you can now play for another 6-man team. This has been a practice for a number of years for a small group of bowlers but this new rule ensures that such practices do not damage the parent 10-man club as well as encouraging bowlers to play for more teams.

Another gap plugged with an accepted rule change to state that a single bowler cannot represent their team in a pairs match. The current gap in our rules regarding the number of bowlers allowed to play in a Pairs match was addressed with a requirement that a Pairs match must consist of two bowlers from each team. This stops a single bowler representing a team in a Pairs match which happened a couple of times last season.

A full proposal-by-proposal record of all the proposed rule changes and the outcome of each vote is on our HDVBA website.

## October Transfers

The Transfer Window is open now until the first day of the 2018 season and we have already completed four transfers of bowlers moving clubs for the new season as listed below.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>NEW CLUB</u>	<u>OLD CLUB</u>
06/10/2017	Geoff Haigh	New Mill	Thongsbridge
10/10/2017	Hugh Wilson	Almondbury Lib	Greenhead Park
18/10/2017	John Hodgson	Waterloo	Shepley
21/10/2017	Ken Atkinson	Elland C&BC	Lindley BC

Transfers in or out need to be registered with the League Secretary. We don't have transfer forms but details of the bowler's BCGBA number and date of birth should be sent to the League Secretary along with the club they are being transferred from. The League Secretary will then contact the bowler's former club to make sure that there is no reason that the transfer can't go ahead (normally only delayed by any money still outstanding to the club) and to ensure that the former club are aware of the bowler's transfer. Any club wishing to add a new bowler to their ranks for the 2018 season should put that request in writing to the League Secretary at anytime

## Annual General Meeting

The 2018 HDVBA Annual General Meeting will be held at 2pm on Monday 19 February 2018. All clubs should be represented.

## New Team for 2018?

Looking ahead to next season and the first deadline to be aware of is the second Monday in January when any new teams applying for membership should put that application in writing (email is fine) to the League Secretary. That application should include a list of team members so that the Management Committee can place your team in the most appropriate Section for the 2018 season. Similarly any team withdrawals for 2018 should be notified to the League Secretary by the same deadline so that the composition of all the Sections can be finalised and the 2018 Fixture List be compiled. If you are continuing with the same number of teams for next season then you needn't do anything at all as your membership will just roll-forward.

## Newsletter Sponsorship

The monthly newsletter is, for the first time, open to sponsorship with individuals or commercial organisations invited to pay the £25 fee that gets your name headlining an issue and includes your full page advertisement (if required). That could help businesses as part of a bigger promotion drive over a special offer or at a certain time of year. Please feel free to approach businesses you know or consider making an individual donation to support funds that could go to financing 50th Anniversary events. With over 150 people on our circulation list the coverage is good and many more access copies once it is placed on our HDVBA website as well. Contact the Editor to make that gesture. Thank you.

### DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

**THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER**

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