

# HECKINGTON & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

*Providing facilities to promote the game of lawn bowls*



## NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 11 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2008

### THE PRE-SEASON MEETING

Will be held at the Sports and Social Club Function Room on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April commencing at 7.30 pm. The bar will be open from 7pm and annual subscriptions can be paid before 7.25 or after the meeting has closed. (Playing members £28 each; Social members £6 each).

Payment by cheque made payable to Heckington Bowls Club is preferred. If you are coming by car, the entrance drive to the playing fields is in Howell Road, immediately on the northern perimeter of the primary school, and there is ample parking by the clubhouse. There is pedestrian access also through the footpaths at the eastern end of Houlden Way and the northern end of Christopher Close.

Please remember this is an “Open” meeting so please do bring interested relatives and/or friends along as prospective members if you can. Full details of all in-house and open competitions for the coming season will be found in your handbooks, which will be issued as receipts for your subscriptions. **The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed with this Newsletter.**

### COMMUNICATION – THE NAME OF THE GAME

This year the entire unabridged minutes of all general and committee meetings will be posted to the website which has undergone complete renovation during the winter. In addition to the minutes of meetings, you can find details of all fixture lists, competitions and social events. You can access the site very easily by searching for “heckingtonbowlsclub.co.uk” and then following the links to the information pages you want. If you do not have access to the Internet the Newsletter will carry a copy of the minutes so everyone will get the same information. Of course, these may be a month or so old – but, essentially, you will have quality information that you can trust!

## MENTORING

In line with the policy of clear and transparent communication throughout the club the mentoring programme will be rolled out this year. Roger has been hard at work during the close season to prepare an excellent system to ensure that all newcomers to the club will have access to all the information they will need. In short, the newcomer will be allocated to a mentor volunteer who will follow a comprehensive set of guidelines to make sure that the newcomer knows about the rules, routines and running of the club. Roger will outline full details of the scheme at the pre-season meeting.

## THE BOWLING DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The initial sessions of the scheme were held on each Monday in February and were attended by up to 25 members. Feedback has been very encouraging with praise for the organisation of the sessions and general agreement that the content has been of great personal value to the participants. A hands-on training session (“Novices Day”) will be held from 11 am to 3pm with a break at 1 o’clock for complementary tea/coffee and biscuits on **Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April**. Everyone is welcome to attend, novice or not! The event is an extension of the sessions held indoors during February. This is an opportunity to practice, to revise the basics and to iron out problems. This will hopefully pave the way to encourage constructive practice during the coming weeks and months.

## YOU’VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

The new lottery game has got off to a good start with just one number left unsold. Please contact Sheila on 461 106 to seize your chance of joining the happy band of winners!

Winners to date: 16<sup>th</sup> Feb: Jean Cox (22); 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – Bill Scott (37); 1<sup>st</sup> Mar – Tricia Reynolds (4); 8<sup>th</sup> Mar – Val Morrison (9); 15<sup>th</sup> Mar – John Copley (29)

## SOCIAL EVENTS

The following events have been scheduled – please do give them your full support:

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Apr – Progressive Dinner – Lewis 461560

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jun: Pizza and Rummikub - Clubhouse – Eva 461872

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug; 4pm. Buffet afternoon with fun and Games – joint event with Methodist Church.– Sandra and Tricia - 460199

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug: Buffet Lunch – 3 Beech Close Eva & Dave 461872

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Sep: Quiz Night – Lewis - 461560

Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Nov Thursford Spectacular – Trevor R. - 461406

## SO WHAT IS A PROGRESSIVE DINNER?

It's a 4-course meal with a difference -an ideal "ice-breaker" just prior to the coming season. It's a fun way to share a meal full of surprises where you will have a starter, main course and dessert – finishing up with coffee and chocolates –all at 4 different locations. The price per person is a very reasonable £8 – and there will be nominal expenses paid to all those who are providing the various courses.

Every participating couple will be allocated a secret ID Number during the afternoon preceding the meal. You should not divulge your code to anyone else to avoid compromising the great element of surprise which will follow right through the evening. Accordingly, those couples providing the various courses should not let anyone else know in advance that they are hosting a course. This might be difficult because those couples will have to know in advance what course they will be preparing. Please do keep "Mum", however, to preserve the element of surprise.

You will find out where you will go for your starter around half-an-hour before it is served.

Once you have had your starter your "starter hosts" will give you sealed details of the location where you will have your main course. Please wait until you have said your good-byes to your hosts before you open up your envelopes! You will have about 5 to 10 minutes to travel to your main course address. Once you have left for the next course your "starter course" hosts will open their sealed details of the location for their main course.

"Main Course Hosts" are not asked to provide wine. Take your own if you like (in a screw top bottle) but remember you might be using your car during the evening. Once you have had your main course your "main course hosts" will give you sealed details of the location where your dessert will be served. You will have about 5 to 10 minutes to travel to your dessert address.

Once you have finished dessert your "dessert hosts" will give you sealed details of the location for coffee and chocolates. You will have about 5 to 10 minutes to travel to that address

Everyone will end up together at the coffee & chocolate location.

So you will see that the evening will be a constant round of surprises and fun for everyone. You will not know until shortly before each course where you will be dining – and your hosts will not know who they will be entertaining until their guests arrive for that particular course.

Needless to say this kind of event needs meticulous planning to ensure the evening runs smoothly – it is important, for instance, to ensure that you will meet new people at each course without any duplication throughout the entire meal. The only time you will meet up again with whom you have already shared a course, will be when we all meet up for coffee and chocolates.

The ideal numbers for the meal is 36 persons (usually 18 couples – but singles and other configurations will be accommodated of course!)

A booking form is enclosed with this Newsletter and in view of the need for intricate planning please return to Lewis no later than Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> April.

## **SOME SALIENT POINTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

The complete transcript of the meeting is attached to this Newsletter but some of the issues are listed here:

**CLUB COMPETITIONS:** Although the challenger (the first named player in each match) will bear the responsibility of booking the rink the actual rink on which the match will be played will be by a random card draw in the presence of the Marker. The draw will take due regard of any “closed-for-maintenance” rinks on the day.

**THE NEW PATHWAY:** The slippery grass verge has now been replaced with paving slabs thus alleviating the risk of serious injury to players when going on or leaving the green.

**NEW FURNITURE FOR OLD:** We are going to dispose of the ancient armchairs in the clubhouse – these are not merely knackered but are unsightly and may even be a health risk. We have bought 10 new high back stacking chairs to replace the discarded benches and are considering buying more of these if we need additional chairs in the clubhouse

### **INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES!**

How would you like to take the opportunity to get a tax-free return of 12.5% on your investment? This is how. On April 7<sup>th</sup> 2nd class postage rates rise from 24p to 27p (a 12.5% increase) and 1st class rates rise from 34p to 36p (a hike of 5.9%). Stamps marked “1st” or “2nd” can be used at any time so you could buy as many as you like before April 7<sup>th</sup> to save money. All this of course depends on how much letter-writing you do!

Or, would you be interested in joining a lottery syndicate? Syndication offers much greater chances of big prizes in the National Lottery. All players will run the syndicate on strict legalised agreements. Please call Lewis on 461560 for details.

Sadly, Andy Elliott died on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 following a long illness. Andy was a club member for two seasons 2005/6 and played for the club in the Lincoln League.