

Oyster Bowls Club Newsletter

September 2024

Oh my, already in to September – days are getting shorter – and chillier...Christmas cards are on sale in Clintons Card shop. We have had a great deal of sunshine just lately so hope you have been able to enjoy. Week 19 of the summer season “calendar” is upon us.

First and foremost, it is hoped, as always, that all are keeping well, however, sincere best wishes go out to those who are poorly or recuperating from operations etc – as always, we wish you all a **speedy** recovery. Our thoughts and good wishes go out to those who experiencing really difficult times.

We will shortly be welcoming the outdoor bowlers back – hope you all had a good one!

We will also welcome our new President and Vic President – Roger Benneworth and Caroline Jordan. Best wishes to you both in your first year. Please look out for the President v President matches – and support accordingly. Our outgoing President Jan Turner was delighted and honoured to have “her” matches so well supported. Her sincere gratitude to the ladies as well the Club as a whole.

1. **Indoor Leagues** are moving along well, round 18 being completed this week (week ending 6th Sept). There are less than 5 to go now so hope all team leaders are organising outstanding games – **especially** Wednesday pairs.

Please be advised that the winter season will start week commencing 7th October. Registrations forms **MUST** be in by, please, 20 SEPTEMBER. The League Secretary is urging all team leaders to submit their teams as soon as possible.

Please remember that all payments for Winter leagues **must be paid by card**. Cheques are no longer acceptable thanks to our bank charging us for each one they deal with. We hope you understand and will assist us handle the financial side of the Club with ease.

Novice League – after the huge success in the 2023 =24 for this League it will, regrettably, not run for the 2024- 5 season. ***** Therefore, please note a 4321 league** will run instead (open to **ALL**) – Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. Please submit your teams as soon as possible please or phone the League Secretary Jan Turner 01227 361889. It will be necessary to have 36 players to make up 6 teams but can manage it with 5.

2 Winter 2024 – 5 The new season team registration form must soon be coming in. so please; it is urgently requested that forms are submitted as soon as possible ensuring you have the correct form. Any queries phone Jan Turner. **PLEASE** do not leave it to the last minute: it is extremely hard to “slot” team (s) in once the schedules are issued. This has happened before and it really creates a great deal of work to put it right so will not be able to do this in future.

3. Dates for the diary

Finals Day Sunday 22 September – times to be notified

AGM – Friday 27th September 7.30pm START

Presentation Evening (& buffet) Sunday 29th September 7.00pm START

Winter Leagues start Monday 7th October 12 noon **NB** – this is an unrestricted league.

4. Summer Competitions - Please remember that once you know you are in a semi-final please ensure you are available for the final. Club shirts must be worn for the finals. Congratulations to those who will appear in the finals – good luck to you all.

5. The Bowls Club website – hope you are enjoying exploring our new site.

<https://oysterindoorbowls.co.uk>

It is hoped that businesses etc will come forward to sponsor the Club in one form or another – advertising will be possible via the new TV and scoring system. It is a great way to seek a financial income from such a venture.

6. Maintenance – Obviously the scaffolding has long gone so we all hope that the matter has been resolved. With such a large roof it is impossible to predict the future for further maintenance but a good job has been done in the here and now.

7a) As previously mentioned, costs for the Club to keep going on a day to day, week to week etc are immense so hope all members understand that whatever happens difficult decisions must be taken – should anyone wish to comment about the running of the Club the Directors would be pleased to hear from you.

7b) Staff – A reminder that three are present during the morning sessions – Monday to Friday. They are available talk to anyone about anything between 9 and 12noon.

7c) Bar – this is a particularly difficult issue – Emma cannot run the bar on her own. There is only so much that she and the current volunteers can do – thank you all for your continuing loyalty to keep the bar running (especially on match days).

With the busy winter season coming up it is sincerely hoped that the bar will be open as many times as is possible but this can only be done with the support from those members who kindly volunteer their time. An appeal went out to you all in the June newsletter asking for more support to manage this vital part of the Club (**including** match day meals). Sadly, the response was minimal. If there isn't enough volunteer cover then the bar shutters will stay down – leading to reduced revenue all round.

8. Membership cards and parking permits

These have been issued by Dave and Emma for May 24 to April 25 – now yellow. Please keep the membership cards on you at the club for administrative purposes.

Several appeals have gone out in the past for **parking permits** to be displayed on vehicle windscreens – this is still being overlooked. If Oyster vehicles aren't identifiable then public "infiltrators" (especially in the summer months) will get away with parking in member's bays. Please use your permits.

9. Markers – for those who enter Singles competitions a marker will be required. A markers course is being organised who wish to become qualified in this role. This will enable them to be called upon to assist in this specific competition. If anyone is interested in taking this course, please let our Head Coach (Carol Field) know. **as soon as possible. It will be an all-day course (POSSIBLY Saturday 23 November) with a free buffet lunch – this date to be confirmed.**

10. Christmas Draw – yes, the "festive season" will soon be upon us. For the Club to be successful, a lot of work is going on behind the scenes -especially by Adrian Judd. He has acquired some fantastic prizes for this year's Christmas Drive – raffle tickets will go on sale in due course – it is sincerely hoped that everyone will support the raffle. It will be a stunning prize bonanza.

11. Social Committee - For some time now we, most regrettably, have not had a Social Committee. We are now in the process of trying to put this right. Mike Real has very kindly stepped up and has agreed to take on a lead role. A poster was put up inviting people to come to a meeting on Tuesday 3rd September to pool ideas and work out the way forward. It was incredibly disappointing that only 3 other members attended to lend support to Mike – with a membership equalling 409 that is barely a 1% turnout. Here now, in this format, it is urgently requested that you give this topic more thought. It is suggested that many of you (in the 99% left) must have some ideas to enhance a social event calendar for the benefit of all members. Please give Mike Real a call – he will be delighted to hear from you. (07769272617)

From the discussions that were had, it is hoped to rekindle the **Games Night** event. (This was a popular event that used to be held at the Club. A fun evening of for e.g. Whist, dominoes, Scrabble, Rummikub or even Uno will hopefully go ahead on **Saturday 9th November**. The success or failure of this event will be in the hands of the members. Look out for the poster for more details. Other events will be a Quiz Night – hugely popular (thank you Lee Holland). Maybe a Race Night – really good fun. Hoy Bingo was also incredibly popular – thank you Shelia and Les Bartholomew and Pete Field not forgetting the other members of the previous Committee.

One event that Mike hopes will be a success – he is currently seeking member's interest in a party, here at the Club, to celebrate the New Year – a poster is displayed on the Social Committee board by rink 3. To clarify the date (some have asked) – this event would take place on New Years Eve – **Tuesday 31st December**. It is most encouraging to see that there are a few names who have declared an interest in such an event. WATCH this SPACE!!

NB Any posters for the notice Board by Rink 3 must be agreed by Dave Turner (Centre manager) before being placed there.

In summary - The Board and PMC members and Social Committee are united in their resolve to do their best for the Club. These members can only do so much – it cannot be emphasised enough just how much they need support from all of YOU – the members – often referred to as the “life blood” of this Club.

Wishing everyone all the best as we go forward.

Board of Directors /Playing Management Committee

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