Spring is upon us!!

Oyster Newsletter - April 2026

Greetings one and all, already four months into the new year – where did January, February and March go?? So, here comes a news update from the Club but first, we must take a moment to think of those who are experiencing difficult times for whatever reason – sending best wishes to them, in our thoughts.

1. **Indoor Leagues** – we are now well and truly on the home run. Seven out of 10 leagues have winners already identified (well done). The remaining 3 outcomes could go down to the last games. Whether winners or runners up, thanks go to all Team Leaders and teams for powering on regardless of scores – our Leagues are so, so important to our Club.

2. **Club Dress Code** Another reminder for our **dress code** – there are a few times when members haven't followed the code – odd coloured jumpers, tops. Please do remember what is required as it is difficult for officers of the Club to "have a conversation."

Another reminder is to do with bags, sometimes shoes / clothing (other than bowls bags and clothing) is, on occasions, being brought into the playing areas of seating. There have been incidents where members have tripped over such items causing injury – these are avoidable if such items are left in the changing rooms.

Bowls / bowls carriers **only** please.

3. Competitions – Our Finals are on:

Saturday 11th April (9.30am start - two sessions)

Sunday 12th April. (9.30 am start - one session)

Saturday 18th April. (1pm start - one session).

Please do come along and watch these finals, make the occasion one to remember for all involved. Good luck to all finalists.

4. Nationals – Oyster has done exceptionally well with these competitions – culminating in a trip to Nottingham where the finals are played. The Oyster Top Club team lost out to an Egham team in the semifinals. Well done to all involved – you did the club proud, as did Sian Honnor who got through to the singles final on the 2nd April – runner up is a magnificent feat. Jolly well done. The Men's Fours were unlucky to lose out in their competition. There are more finals to be played between the 12th and 14th April involving our men and ladies, details on our website.

We send sincere good wishes to all involved – GOOD LUCK.

4/ **Classical Cream Tea with bowling -** event takes place at the Club on **Sunday 19th April** – "a game of bowls with classical music playlist" - and, yes, a cream tea! Check the board by Rink 4 for availability.

5/ **Annual General Meeting (Playing Management Committee)** - this will be held at the Club on **Friday 24th April – 7pm.** Flyers for the event have been circulating for a while now so hope to see a really good attendance.

**The nominations sheets are on the notice board by the stairs - check it out if you feel you would like to put yourself forward for Committee roles.

6/ Presentation Evening – due to changes to the early notifications of club events, this important date in the calendar has been changed. This is now on **Sunday 26th April at 7pm.** There will be a buffet at the "end of the business part." Will all team leaders please let their teams know that their team was either top or runner up. It is only right and proper that they receive their rightful applause from the spectators as they collect their certificates and monetary prize.

7/ **Social events** – there have been some very successful events held this year with great response from members. There are more to come as fresh ideas are being explored by the Social Committee. Notices/appeals have been put up around the Committees meeting dates inviting members to come along to bring ideas that you may have – with only 5 on the current committee a few more would be very welcome indeed. Contact Mike Real 07769272617. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th April at the Club bar at 9.30am.

Other events in the pipeline – look out for details –

1. Sunday 3rd May Quiz Night 7pm for 7.30pm prompt start
2. Sunday 21 June - The Longest Day quiz. (7.00pm prompt start)
3. Saturday 1st August – Lingfield Races with an ABBA tribute act in the evening

   More information to follow as soon as possible for early bookings. If there are 10+ then the cost is reduced…. watch this space.

   **Other ideas involve a River Medway boat trip and, possibly, even curling…..

8. Subscriptions – these are now upon us again due to be paid from 1st May till the 30th of June. Late payment after that will incur a 10% fee so please, do assist with this considerable admin task by paying promptly. The Board of Directors have decided that, for the second year running, these fees will remain the same (£115) as will rink fees (£4.00pp) **Lockers** – NB – the £10 fee for the changing room lockers will also be due. Thank you in advance for "on time" payments.

9. Summer Leagues & Competitions

The team registration forms are now available – Jan (League Secretary) is hoping for a bumper number of teams to make up the available leagues – always a reduced number during the summer months. The new league timetable starts on the Monday 4th May 7.30pm). NB there is a new league proposal for 9.30am on Saturday mornings – a league open to ALL players. Teams will be drawn. Again, Jan hopes that this can be successful going forward.

Last date for registration will be FRIDAY 17th April

There is a 7.30pm league for ladies on Thursday evenings – to make it a good league 6 teams each of 6 ladies (36) would be ideal. 5 teams (30) of 6 would just about work with one team having a bye during the season. Ladies, please do come forward to submit teams – *frankly the future of the league is in your hands*…..

Jan (League Sec) requests that, should anyone have a query in relation to the leagues, please contact her directly – 01227 361889. If any game has to be rescheduled, please notify her as well – e.g. details of the new date.

Club Competitions. Registration forms now available. £4 per competition entered. Closing date for these applications is 17 May.

10. New Bowlers evening – was held at the Club on the 6th March. Representatives from the Playing Management Committee (PMC) put together a package of information to pass on to new bowlers. Only 20 plus turned up out of a possible 85. It was delightful to see and meet them. Best wishes and good luck to you all.

NB ***remember the PMC Officers are on hand to assist with any query that anyone may have. Please don't "sit on it" – tell us so action can be taken. This includes any inappropriate behaviour by members – this must be reported to the PMC.

11. **Water Machine** – this is another reminder to members to only draw water from the machine that you will consume. There is a continuing trend to just leave it – half full for example. This is such a waste. It is also requested that the glasses provided are used NOT the ones that are specifically needed for hot drinks only. There is a cost implication.

12. Photographic Competition – Closing date is 11 April. The judging of the entries for this will take place on the 14th April at noon. Check with Dave Bartlett for submitting your entry if still interested.

Easter is upon us – hope all have enjoyed an Easter egg or hot cross bun....

In conclusion we wish you a peaceful, healthy and an enjoyable summer whether you are playing indoors or outdoors.

On behalf Board of Directors and Playing Management Committee.

April 2026