

CBC NEWS

APRIL 2017

Dear Member

Welcome to the latest edition of the CBC News.

Let the fun commence – but if your'e not in it you can't win it: Our opening day heralds the start of another seasons fun and bowling challenges. As ever Bernie Callaghan will also be keeping us up to date by email and on the notice boards with all the fixtures for the club in the week ahead and some highlights of the previous week's successes. However, you will not be part of the action if you do not make your availability known and if you do not add your name to the wealth of internal and external competitions that will appear over the course of this year's bowling season. Please keep a close eye on the various competition boards outside the ladies' and gents' locker rooms. Make sure your name is down if you wish to compete and make sure you take careful note of your opponent and crucially when you must play your game by. If you are not sick of bowling by the end of the season, it's your own fault!

Shruburbia: Those of us who attend the opening day can only be impressed by the neat and tidy green surroundings we now have. Charlie Sweeney and Tom Mitchell have also greatly enhanced the new flower borders with their own take on shrub-land. Our new pathway has intentionally left little room for high maintenance borders and the boys have dug it, sifted it, harrowed and hoed it to remove all the unwanted growth and have replaced it with low maintenance shrubs. They have also given the flower tubs a much needed makeover and left the place looking very superbia. The flower tubs were presented to the club in 2011 by the ladies who were celebrating their Golden Jubilee year. We are very grateful to Ian Sutherland who has nurtured the beautiful roses that bloomed in them each year but has now decided to hang up his trowel.

Brexit bar increases?: It seems that Brexit gets blamed for everything these days but in truth we have only one person to blame for having no bar increases over the last few years and that is our ever so efficient bar convener Jim Connor. However, even he cannot shield us for ever and some modest increases are now upon us. That said, I still doubt if you will find a cheaper watering hole in town and you certainly won't find one as well managed as ours. New price list is clearly on display in the bar area.

Ladies Coffee morning: Many thanks to all those who turned out for the ladies coffee morning and to all those who took the trouble to bake cakes or provide raffle prizes. Judging by the buzz in the club-house and the smiling faces, the feast of buns, scones and piping hot coffee was just the ticket to enhance a lovely spring morning with no April showers. Ladies' Captain, Anne Douglas is delighted to confirm that the a total of £334.00 was raised.

Cost of social events: There has been some concern expressed over the cost of the opening night cabaret. Unfortunately we have found it necessary to raise the cost of tickets because recent events have teetered on the brink of running at a loss. The cost of sandwiches etc have been steadily rising and some events such as the in house music nights incur costs for sound equipment etc that we cannot cover if we do not raise some prices. It is our intention that tickets for the most popular events i.e opening night, closing night and Xmas cabaret will sit at £10. Other events will still be cheap as chips or free. The social committee will keep this under review and will do their best to keep prices as low as possible. Any surplus of course is merged with club funds for the benefit of all club members.

Your club. Your facilities. Your choice: It is pleasing to note that more and more people are choosing to use our clubhouse for that very special occasion. Anniversaries, birthdays, club fund raisers, christening parties and family gatherings are just some of the recent events in the clubhouse and very successful they have been for all concerned. The facilities are there for you to take advantage of and the management team are keen to support any reasonable request to use the clubhouse during or outwith the bowling season. If you have a special occasion to celebrate and are looking for a venue, have a chat with any of the management team and we will be happy to help.

Winter games give way to the hat: Monday the 10th saw the end of a very successful winter season of fierce but friendly competition on the pool table, the dart board and dominos. The last evening was particularly boisterous with a kind of end of term feeling. Our thanks to the main organizers Jim Connor, Jim Vaughan and Ron Clark and of course to those who regularly turn up to keep the place buzzing. Winners for the competitions were Jim Connor who dominated the dominos, Ian Fraser who blooted everyone on the pool table and John MacPhail who hit the dart board more often than others. Main results are displayed in the bar area.

On the Bench: The work on our mono block pathways took a lot longer than anticipated and consequently it was not practical to spruce up the park benches before we set them out around the green. Because we have sheltered the benches in the club house over the winter they seem to be in good nick. However, we do have wood stain and brushes in the green hut if you have sponsored a bench and wish to do some work in the summer sunshine. It would be a little unfortunate if someone became too attached to a newly painted bench so please leave a note to warn people off any wet areas.

Significant Birthdays: This month we have a goodly number of members celebrating a significant birthday. Many happy returns to Gladys Christie, Anne Douglas, Alan Mather Snr, John McLinden, Colin Stenhouse, and me, myself personally.

CYCC: It is good to see work has at last commenced on the unsightly remains of the CYCC building. The building work is only on the privately owned part of the building however and as we understand it the work will provide two new flats or apartments as they seem to be called now. We are also pleased to say that work on clearing out the remains of the rest of the building where the new CYCC will be located is expected to commence shortly.

And Finally - Card skool charity donation: In the dimly lit corner table, the final showdown had begun. The table creaked and groaned as the card school's accumulated wealth from a winter's toil at the table was piled in the centre for one last ginormous kitty. Some say there were more 2Ps there than in a wig factory. Beads of sweat dripped from the collective brows as Ricky "the blacksmith" Stevens shuffled the pack. With consummate skill he deftly threw the cards in heaps beside each player. Gordon "wrong" Wright was the first to break the silence. He fanned out his hand and bellowed softly "hoo hoo", and an even louder "ho, ho"! Winning hand or not, Gordon was not keeping quiet about it. But then he settled back as he exposed his last card and a wave of self doubt enveloped his whole being.

After the elimination rounds only Ally "the post" Gibson, Angus "the teacher" McGarry and Ricky "the blacksmith" Stevens were left in the game. Ally "the post" was first to stamp his authority as he slowly rose to his feet casting an enormous shadow over one of the cards. Punctuating the pregnant air with a defiant first post, "a Queen" he shrieked. Les "the beast" Brown, not one to mince his words, agreed with Billy Greig's "Aww Naww!" Just out of sight "Smokey" Joe Haughian stood beside Jimmy "small person" Vaughan and enthusiastically

watched agog with disinterest and indifference. Angus “the teacher” slid a King to the fore and grinned furtively. This was surely the winner?

From afar, Clint Cassidy started eyeing the proceedings as he rolled his cheroot across his lips. He climbed down from his chair and adjusted his Smith and Western Colt 45 pencil so it hung loose and ready for a quick draw. However Ricky “the blacksmith” kept everyone welded in their places as he slowly exposed his hand - and the ace up his sleeve – “Aces High” he whinnied, proving once again that he really is the organ grinder!

It was all a wee bit fun, of course, and heartiest congratulations to the boys in the card school who donated their season's kitty of £53.20, 25 Euro cents and 2 US cents, to the Lady Captain's charity, British Heart Foundation. Thanks also to Jim Connor who stayed up all night counting it!

Any suggestions?: CBC news is produced for your information and use. Any suggestions or articles for the news would be very welcome. Please have a word with me at any time or send an email to jandjmacp@gmail.com

Dates for the Diary

CBC opening day:	Saturday 15th April – 1,30pm
Opening day Cabaret:	Saturday 15th April – 7.30pm
Gents Tour meeting:	Sunday 23rd April at 8 pm
Disc-a-gin:	Friday 12th May at 7.30 pm
Saturday Mixed Hat:	Saturday 13th May 6.30 for 7pm

***John MacPhail,
Editor***