



## CBC NEWS

### April 2019

Dear Member

**Opening Days.** In brilliant sunshine last Saturday, President Ricky Stevens opened the 2019 Bowling Season. Some 58 members were on the Green to hear Ricky thanking all the volunteers who have worked very hard over the past couple of months to ensure that the Club was in sparkling condition, both inside and out. He welcomed our new Members and then called for a minutes silence in memory of past members deceased over the last year. That wonderful lady and Honorary Member, Nan Stirling, then unfurled the flag, followed by Lady Captain Faye Stevens delivering the first jack and bowl with David Morrison correctly guessing how close she would get. There followed chaos on the Green as 58 bowls careered towards a solitary jack in the centre of the Green and when the dust had settled, Doug Baillie's bowl was lying closest to the jack. Over the next 2 hours, the President's Team managed to see off Vice President Les Brown's Team in a fun-filled afternoon in front of a good number of spectators, where colourful gin cocktails seemed to be much in evidence, but more of that later. Pies for all followed with some Members staying well into the evening. Now back to the cocktails - my Gin expert (she knows who she is) had asked if I could get large goblet style Gin glasses and some frozen fruit so it was nice to see a few ladies around the Green drinking pink gin cocktails and fruit out of these 'goldfish bowls'. But it was very strange later that evening to see Clint Cassidy, John Cowe and Kenny Orr drinking them also. It all added to a fun night and kept the hardworking bar volunteers very busy.

**On Easter Monday**, it was glorious weather again for the Ladies Official Opening which attracted 28 ladies playing and 5 invited guests. Joan Mitchell won 'the spider' and President Ricky delivered the first bowl to 3ft 4ins from the Jack. Three people correctly guessed the distance - Tom Mitchell, Bobby Brown and Moyra Ferrier, the names were put in a hat and Moyra came out the winner. Tea and sandwiches followed with perhaps a few drinks also. It was a beautiful day with lots of spectators.

**Pre-Opening Day Events.** Faye Stevens would like to thank everyone for coming to the Coffee Morning on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, especially as it was such a cold, miserable day. The Grand National Sweepstakes were won by John Cowe and Ian Fraser, with Ellen Hay and Ronnie McLaren second. The Ladies raised £460 on the day so well done to everyone.

This was the second year we have had the Opening Cabaret and Opening Day on separate days and it proved successful once more (it lets members stay on after Opening Day if they wish and not feel pressurised into leave early if there is a Cabaret on). Anyway, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Trina Milne treated a full house to 'The Little Miss Diva Show' and it was enjoyed by all those present. Normally, the speakers are at the far end of the Lounge and it can be difficult for those at the bar end to hear everything. On this occasion, the Act set up an additional speaker at the bar end but it didn't quite work out as there was difficulty hearing orders at the bar plus some people at that end prefer it to be slightly quieter. However, it was turned down a bit in the second half and all was okay.

The Games Night finished on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and it is congratulations to the following who won the disciplines :- Dominoes - Alan Mather Snr., Pool - Ricky Stevens, Darts - Angus McGarry who was also the overall winner for the highest points total. Why not come along next winter and give it a try - open to everyone.

As has been the custom for the last couple of years, the Card School Gents donate all their 'kitties' to the Lady Captain's Charity which this year is **Make a Wish**. The money (coppers, 5p's etc.) half-filled a bucket which the Treasurer Sandy Mackay lodged with the Bank. Currently, there is a sweep doing the rounds to guess the amount and the nearest will win 2 bottles of wine. Sweep money will also go to the Charity and the winner will be announced at Hat Night on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A big thanks to all the Card Players for their generosity.

**Sponsors.** You will notice in the Club booklet that Specsavers Corstorphine has sponsored the Club. They have paid for all the printing costs of the booklet. They will also give a further 10% discount over and above any other promotion in place, on production of the booklet at the shop.

**Congratulations** to Bob Page for being elected President of the Top 10 Association which runs a competition involving 10 players from each Club (well almost all) in Edinburgh playing in a knockout format. In the first round we

play Blackhall on 2<sup>nd</sup> July with the final here on the 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Around the Green** - our Greenkeeper, Scott Powrie, has asked me to pass on his thanks to Gordon Munro for all his efforts over the past few years. There is still a bit of moss on the Green which will disappear with a bit heat and growth. Look out for a new piece of equipment arriving soon – it's a polisher or mini roller which someone will sit on to help iron out some of the bumps on the Green.

**Coaching.** Bob Page has again offered to provide some coaching sessions on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May. The session on Sat.4th at 10:00 is for those new to the sport and will take the form of a video and discussions. Come along if you want to know a bit more about the basics of bowls. The sessions on the 5<sup>th</sup> will be 30 minute slots and will be one to one coaching with Bob. There are sheets on the white board near the entrance to the Green and the slots are filling up fast. I'm sure Bob will arrange further sessions if the interest is there.

**Try Bowls.** This is an initiative from Bowls Scotland to try to get more people to take up the sport and we have signed up to this. We will be holding a session on the 4<sup>th</sup> May between 12 noon and 3pm. Hopefully we can attract members of the Public to come in but if you are aware of any friends/neighbours who may be interested, please get them to come along. We are fortunate in this Club that we have a healthy membership but we need to continue to try to bring new members in especially women and young people. The time to get new members is now when we have sizeable numbers which in turn provides opportunity to play competitive bowls and hopefully improve the skills of the membership. It is amazing how many Clubs have not taken up this initiative and how many Clubs are struggling for Members. A number of Clubs have pulled out of Team games this season, the most I have known. Some examples, Coltbridge have withdrawn from the Gents N&W Seniors league and the Ladies Heather league; Beechwood have withdrawn from the Senior Gents Water of Leith and the Ladies from the Heather League; Stenhouse and Juniper Green have withdrawn from the Ladies Water of Leith, although Juniper Green have been able to put a smaller team into the Heather League. In the Ladies Monday night Edinburgh Bowling League, Parkside and Whitehouse & Grange have pulled out. I have also recently found out that Postal BC only have 8 Ladies and their section will probably finish up at the end of the 2020 season. To quote one of their members "no one wants to join a group of Ladies who are aged from 75 to 93 - the Club should have been trying to do something about it years ago"

The big Clubs will survive but I'm afraid some well-known Clubs will disappear in the next few years. We have to make sure that we are one of the big Clubs by taking every opportunity to recruit new members.

**One for the Diary** - Alex "Tattie" Marshall, Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist, will be running a Road Show at the Club on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June from 1 to 4pm. He is the UK Distributor for Aerobowls and will have a range of products on display. I'm sure he'll have a wee game as well.

**Team Shirts.** Still awaiting size samples so it's looking like July now before new shirts will be available.

**Scottish Deaf Bowling Association.** I mentioned last month that our Andrew Aitken was in the final of the mixed pairs and men's fours. Unfortunately Andrew was runner up in both but well done in getting to the finals Andrew.

**Social Scene.** The next Social on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May is 'Old School Party' and may have had some of you running for the hills at the thought of trying to dig out a school uniform which if you are like me was 6 stone ago. But fear not, although a few may turn up with a uniform please come along as most will just be in normal wear. It should be a fun night with games at each table as well as musical chairs. A well-known Magician has been hired and in addition to performing his Act, he will be coming round each table demonstrating his skills close up. The stage will be in the middle of the Lounge so that everyone has a good view, so please come along.

**Congratulations** to James Roberts and Alistair Shields who have significant birthdays this month

**Any items for sale or wanted?** Looking for Bowls or to sell something. Give me a shout.