



## CBC NEWS

### July 2019

Dear Member

Well, what a month this has been with record temperatures followed by tropical downpours.

First item this month must be the Bowls Scotland National Championship finals at Ayr where we were represented by Rebecca Rutherford in the Junior Singles and Chris Bentley in two disciplines, the Ladies Singles and the over 55 Singles. Unfortunately both Rebecca's and Chris' first match started at the same time although on adjoining Greens but I managed to get a place in the stands so I could see both matches. The wind seemed to play a big part especially in Rebecca's match playing into it at one end and a following wind at the other. It was a struggle for both Ladies and I thought on a couple of occasions that Rebecca was going to go on a run but in the end she just missed out. Still, a great experience for Rebecca and I am sure she will be at Ayr again. Chris on the other hand mastered the conditions better than her opponent while at the same time playing some great bowls and had a comfortable victory. On the Tuesday, Chris came up against Margaret Letham, a medal winner at four World Championships, Commonwealth Games Gold medallist and the current National over 55 Champion. It was a great match with Chris eventually narrowly missing out. On the Thursday which was the opening day of the Ladies Singles, Chris was again drawn against Margaret Letham. Chris played some fantastic bowls and built up a big lead forcing her opponent to call on all her reserves of experience before edging Chris out 21-19. What a game. Margaret Letham then went on to win the National title. Chris, I am sure, feels very disappointed at having victory over the Champion within her grasp but she will come back more determined than ever to be at Ayr again. Well done to both of our Ladies for helping to make Ayr a most enjoyable week.

Back to the beginning of July when we had what is now our annual Bowls and Barbecue which also includes our Singles competition. This was an idea suggested by Scott Mitchell about 5 years ago. Scott organises the Singles competition, his wife Rachel and sister Lisa prepare bacon rolls, salads etc. whilst his brother Jamie handles the BBQ. It was a tremendous success once more. A great day, great food and very well organised. Thanks to Scott, Rachel, Lisa and Jamie. Bobby Brown won the competition beating Bernie Callaghan in the final and at the end of the day Scott presented our Lady Captain, Faye Stevens with £300 towards her Charity "Make a Wish".

The following Saturday saw our Rotary Pairs resurrected in a new format (3 bowls instead of 2). It was a competition that years ago was played over 2 days and restricted to the first 160 pairs. Even when I started there were over 50 pairs playing at Coltbridge, Carrick Knowe and Corstorphine with the Clubs taking it in turn to host the finals. A disappointing 22 pairs took part this year (all at Corstorphine) with catering supplied throughout the day by Pat Reid, Joan McBain, Ronnie McLaren and Beryl Sutherland (sorry if I have missed anyone). The game was played in Sections with the winners going forward to the semis and final. Biggest cheer of the day went to Joan Mitchell and her partner Liz Aitken handsomely beating Tom Mitchell and Bobby Brown in their semi-final. (Retribution for eating Joan's bar of chocolate, Tom.) Unfortunately their form then deserted them and Bernie Callaghan and his partner John Burns deservedly won the trophy. Question - was this the first time a Ladies pair had taken part in the final? The next day was our annual Strawberry Fayre. Frank Ross as usual prepared the strawberries and brought in Luca's ice cream. Some 50-60 people attended in glorious weather. There was great fun on the Green with a good number of young children taking part.

With the leagues nearing completion, the Teams have had a mixed season. The Ladies are still in with a chance of winning the Water of Leith but require a couple of results to go against the current Leaders, Carrick Knowe. The EBL (Edinburgh Bowling League) ladies have finished a creditable mid table position in their league and have an Edinburgh Cup Final to look forward to. The Gents first XVI have slipped from second top to third bottom of their division so the last match on 7<sup>th</sup> August becomes very crucial. The second XVI have moved up one place with a number of good results and 4 points from their last match should guarantee safety. The third Team could yet get second place with a good result in their final match. The North & West Senior Teams are sitting around mid-table but they still have 6 matches to play so anything can happen. The RMBA Teams met in a round of the Top 10 with both teams having 2 victories, the "A" Team won by 2 shots, a very close match. Team "A" will probably finish second in their league and Team "B" are hot favourites to win their league.

**Two big finals are coming up**. Dougie Wilson plays Clint Cassidy in the Gents final on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 6:30 and Theresa Blair plays Rebecca Rutherford at 2pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August. Good luck to all the players and try to get along and give them your support in what should be two great games.

The moss has disappeared from the Green and fertiliser has been applied to encourage growth in the areas previously

covered by the moss with significant success. The down side of all the wet weather has seen the re-appearance of "Chips" appearing due to the soft condition of the rinks. If possible, please move the mat up beyond the damaged areas. The stories keep coming in of people leaving jackets, shoes etc. at visiting Clubs and not all of them are Seniors. What about the first XVI player who turned up for a game with 2 different shoes, one a size 9 and the other a 10. Fortunately they were a Left and a Right and mainly white but different designs. Only last week someone finished a match and then went on to a BBQ only to discover he still had his bowling shoes on! I was asked why there were no stories of women leaving things but there is an easy explanation: - have you seen the size of the cases they take around with them. They must take the whole contents of the locker with them.

I was laid low for a couple of days last week and was watching a repeat of Last of the Summer Wine, about a group of old mates who go on adventures around the countryside. A thought struck me that we have our own Compo, Clegg and Foggy in the Club. I won't tell you who they are but Foggy can be found in the Club most Sunday mornings counting the money and Compo and Clegg can be seen tidying up the borders around the Green. Well, a couple of weeks ago the old mates decided to stay in a caravan up North for a few days, let's say Anstruther area and they decided to try out Archery. William Tell springs to mind. Well Foggy had a go and then went to retrieve his arrow from the target. As he bent down he received a nasty scratch on his head from another arrow. Compo and Clegg deny responsibility. Later on they went to a Pub on a lovely summer's evening in their shirt sleeves but its Scotland and as they left the heavens opened and they were left with a mile and a half walk back to the caravan. The sight of the 3 of them standing in the caravan, stripped of the soaked clothes could permanently scar your mind!!

**On the Social scene**, Leona Rae makes a welcome return to the Club on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August but so far numbers are once again very low. Please try to come along as I fear we are in danger of not having Cabarets in future.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, our own band, The Chancers, is back after a successful tour of the Bowling Greens around the Blackhall area where they were well received. I attach a note from John Macphail and take no responsibility for the numerous puns:-

#### **Return of the CBC Chancers**

*In The Summertime - 7<sup>th</sup> Sept - whether Your Sixteen or All You (I) Have to Do is Dream you will not have to Knock Three Times to get into the latest gig from your in-house band The CBC Chancers who have just returned from their acclaimed tour. You could be A Good Hearted Woman, A Believer or just a Daydream Believer but you can listen to the Rhythm of My Heart for a mere pittance on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 7pm for 7.30 start. This time round they are mainly into 70s songs and hopefully it will be a Beautiful Noise. There will be a Song Sung Blue and you can wash it all down with a Cracklin' Rosie. So come along be My Coo Ca Choo and just Dance the Night Away*

**Congratulations** to the following who have significant birthdays in July:- John Simpson, Ricky Stevens, Bobby Brown, Brian Curlewis, Gordon Birnie (still the fastest mover over 30 yards) and a special welcome to Ian Sutherland in becoming the latest member of the nonagenarian Club.

**Classified Ads:** still waiting on a small offer for Faye Stevens James Bond books (£10 will secure) and Jean Meiklejohn's championship winning bowls (dark blue size 4) are still on offer at £80.

**Bowls Update** Although the Ladies were unsuccessful in the Edinburgh Cup final, they have just won the Edinburgh Womens Bowling Association Top 10 against Carrick Knowe. Well done to all.

Jim Connor [james773@btinternet.com](mailto:james773@btinternet.com)

