



CBC NEWS

August / Sept. 2019

Dear Member

Well, the strange weather continued into August with numerous ties being cancelled due to heavy downpours. Perhaps the worst was the complete cancellation of the final matches in the Edinburgh Bowling League on the 7th and all had to be played on the following Monday, resulting in the cancellation of our own Monday Hat Night. The Gents Championship on the 9th was in doubt for most of the day due to flooding on the Green but the rain stopped allowing the Green to drain quickly and the final went ahead between Dougie Wilson and Clint Cassidy. The heavy conditions clearly had an effect on the game and after initial sparring Clint went on a run which saw him run out as a comfortable winner. Well done Clint and hard lines to Dougie. Your time will come if your great play in the earlier rounds is anything to go by.

What a difference a day makes. On Saturday 10th, in glorious sunshine Theresa Blair and Rebecca Rutherford met in the Ladies final. In one of the best games I have seen both Ladies played really well and it took two great pressure shots from Theresa to clinch the Championship. A well deserved victory for Theresa but Rebecca showed once again that her time will come soon. Theresa went on to play great bowls in the rounds of the Steel Trophy (Champions of All the Edinburgh Clubs) before losing in the semi final to the eventual winner, Ann Blake from Balerno. In the Gents equivalent (the Tait Trophy) Clint too lost out to the eventual winner, Richard Tough from Carrick Knowe.

All of the Leagues are now complete with mixed results for the Club. The Ladies narrowly lost out in the Water of Leith to Carrick Knowe. In the Gents the 1st XVI had an up and down season (almost literally) before finishing 4th. The 3rd Team finished a creditable third, and there was a very interesting story with the 2nd XVI. With two matches to go they were in the relegation places and faced Queensberry at Corstorphine who were confident of getting a comfortable victory and a free bar when they returned to Queensberry as Champions. However our guys had other ideas and won 5-4, denying them their free bar. So on they moved to Carrick Knowe for the last match and Carrick Knowe were also confident that a victory would win them the Championship. Our guys done it again winning 5-4 and it went down to the last shot of the game with Richard Bryce drawing in for a 65-64 victory which confirmed that we had avoided relegation and that Carrick Knowe had lost the League by 1 shot. There were great celebrations at Queensberry when they heard our result.

In the North & West Seniors, Team A finished second from bottom and Team B were mid table although final positions have still to be published. In the RMBA, Team A finished second and Team B gained promotion to the first Division. There will be a few tasty matches between A and B next year.

I always thought the Ladies Heather League was dying as so few matches took place during the season. However, last week our Ladies hosted the Heather League prize giving and Annual Dinner and judging from the numbers attending and the hilarity that went on, it is alive and well.

The other significant event over the month was the final of the Top10 which we hosted as Bob Page was this year's President. With all the adverse weather and damage to the Green, after much testing, we somehow managed to find 4 rinks to the satisfaction of the competing Teams, Craigentenny and Sighthill. Craigentenny won a great final in front of a good crowd who all enjoyed a very successful day.

Now there are certain dates in history that people always remember, the day when Kennedy was assassinated, the day when Neil Armstrong landed on the moon etc.. How about a glorious Sunday 25th August 2019 at around 4:30pm??

Well that was the day history was made in the Club, when for the first time the Ladies won the annual match against the Gents. And it was not just a victory, Bernie Callaghan, "your boys took one hell of a beating " as a Norwegian Sports Journalist once broadcast when Norway beat England at football. I think Bernie will want this fixture to revert back to a cold Thursday evening in future. Joking apart, it's just another example of how well the Ladies have played this year. There are still a few Team matches to play in the next two weeks so please put your name up on the lists if you can manage. Ladies v Carrick Knowe (away) on Sept 13 at 2pm, President's Select v Past Presidents (mixed) on Sept 14 at 2pm, Ladies v Senior Gents on Sept 18 at 2pm. And Gents Seniors v Carrick Knowe (away) on Sept 20 at 2pm. Buffet afterwards. As of 10th Sept, we still need another 9 Seniors for this one.

There are many finals taking place over the next couple of weeks. Have a look at the weekly Events sheet and if you can manage, come along and watch some great bowls.

Change of Green Contractor. Scott Powrie has advised that after 20 plus years, he will not be renewing his contract at the end of September. My personal thanks to Scott for all his work over the years as I have seen him working around the Green many hours before the start of play. Bob Page put the contract out to tender, met two contractors and we have engaged Brian Dickson, Fine Turf Consultant, to take on our maintenance contract from 1st October. Brian has a staff of seven who look after 20 plus Greens including Bainfield and Carrick Knowe. Deep scarifying and de-thatching is also planned. Up to 7 tonnes of top dressing will be applied using a 4 metre levelling lute to level the Green. The edges will be raised and corrected and will replace the wooden support boards.(this will be a one off cost). Another concern is the worn heads. Brian Dickson believes this is due to the heads being re-sown and the young grass not getting enough time to strengthen before the bowling season. The heads will be dug up and replaced with established grass from elsewhere on the Green. The role of Green Ranger will also change significantly and will be the Club's link to the Contractor. He/she will not be involved in any hands-on work on the Green.

Specsavers Corstorphine. Following a few problems in getting the agreed discount, Richard Bryce met Adam Gordon, Manager at Corstorphine. Remember to take your Club booklet. The following was clarified :-
If the member opts for Specsavers best offer which is 2 for 1 there would be an additional 10% discount. So in effect opting for say 2 pairs valued at £120 each would cost £120, less 10% or a net cost of £108. If the member decided to take only one pair at say £120 they would qualify for what Specsavers refer to as the Golden ticket which attracts a 50% discount on presentation of the fixture book. So buying one pair at £120 would cost £120 less 50% or a net cost £60. If there are any issues receiving these additional discounts then please make reference to them having been agreed between Richard Bryce and Adam Gordon

Xmas already? With the nights drawing in and nearing the end of the season, its time to tun our minds to the Senior's Xmas Lunch, yes that time already. Date / Time Friday 20th December at 12:30. Cost - £20. This is always a very popular occasion, with Lunch and some wine, followed by entertainment. The list is up on the Senior's Notice Board and is restricted to the first 78. Bar will be open from 12 noon through to normal closing time. Don't delay as the list will quickly fill up.

On the Bar. At the moment takings are some £4,000 down on last year. Fewer people seem to be using the facilities, even after ties, there seems to be a growing tendency to leave rather than spend sometime socialising with your opponent. Two weeks ago we had a member making a round trip of 25 miles to staff the bar only to take £12, clearly a waste of everyone's time and energy. Bar takings are used to refurbish the Club and surroundings and the Treasurer is drawing up plans for future development, but if the place is empty, there seems little point. During the close season we shall again be closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with the likelihood of opening later on Saturdays and Sundays. At present, only Mondays and the early part of Fridays are profitable. We would like your views on the future of the bar (even if you don't use it) and a group will be formed to try to determine the way forward. As I have said before, please use the bar or lose it - we are now close to losing it.

On the Social scene, we have had two functions since the last newsletter; Leona Rae is a well known singer and most of those who came along thoroughly enjoyed her but lack of numbers meant a loss of atmosphere, not to mention bar income. And our own Chancers entertained us with music of the 70's which was a most enjoyable night. The next function is Closing Night Cabaret ,Red Hot Rhythm ,a very talented duo and indications are pointing to a full house. The list is up in the Club. Some 42 Gents are away to Spain from 4th -11th October and a **Ladies Night has been organised for Saturday 5th October** . So Ladies , come along and bring your family and friends for what will be a good night.,

Club Tops - following adverse comments about the quality and fit of the Henselite samples we had, we have sourced another supplier, Fusion Sportswear, from Ayr. Bowls Scotland and Goldenacre BC currently use them. A bit dearer but the quality is definitely better. Samples of sizes are available for you to try and then order.

Congratulations:- go to Joan McBain, Bobby Sinclair, Jimmy Vaughan, and AlexMcCowan who have significant birthdays in August and September and a very special birthday wish to Bill Stewart, the latest member of the nonagenarian club(90)

Classified Ads: The James Bond books have gone. Jean Meiklejohn's championship winning bowls (dark blue size 4) are still on offer at £80.

The next CBC News will be towards the end of October when hopefully I will have details of all the competition winners.

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