

CBC NEWS

May 2017

Dear Member

Welcome to the latest edition of the CBC News.

Security: I make no apology for making a moan the first item in this month's newsletter. Unfortunately, there have been occasions recently when the club has been left unattended and insecure after members have been to the club-house. In fact the back fire door leading on to the green has been left wide open, the alarm unset and the gate leading into the green unlocked. I doubt if any of us would leave our home in such an insecure state. As you all know, there have been a fair number of house burglaries in our area over the past few months and it is very obvious that there are people in our community watching for any opportunity to steal whatever they can get their hands on. We have a lot of valuable stock and equipment in the club-house and sheds. If we are burgled our insurance will not cover us for the losses if we have left the premises insecure. An open door is an open invitation to those whose inclination is to steal from us and on many occasions they have been known to trash what they cannot steal. On your own behalf and on behalf of fellow members PLEASE, PLEASE LOCK UP and **set the alarm** if you are the last one to leave the building.

How should CBC be: In the March edition of CBC news I mentioned that a questionnaire would be sent to all CBC members asking their views about the club and our facilities. This has now been issued and the committee hopes that you will take the time to return a completed copy to Hon sec David Sutherland. It is **very** important that you tell the committee what you think and in particular to outline what you like and dislike about your club. You do not need to identify yourself on the returned form if you do not wish to but it does help to at least know what your age group and gender is. Like every other club these days, CBC needs to provide what the members want or we will lose members and fail to attract new ones. Fortunately, we are not struggling for members at the moment as many other club and social activity organizations are. However, the committee are very conscious that we must not be complacent and we must continue to provide what people want if we are to maintain healthy membership numbers. It only takes a matter of minutes to fill in the form so please play your part and let us know what you think. If you cannot download the form hard copies are at the bar. The committee will be providing feedback from the survey in due course.

Gala Friendly – when did it start? This year it was CBCs turn to host the Gala Friendly and a great day was had by all who participated. Unfortunately the cup went back to Galashiels as they emerged victorious – again! They are either very good bowlers or they can hold their drink better than we can. As ever, the ladies provided an excellent meal for our visitors and there was much light hearted banter between the courses and the toasts. There is a great deal of mystery surrounding the origins of this game however and nobody could say when the friendly matches started or what the connection was between CBC and Gala Abbotsford BC. One of the players on my rink said he has been coming to CBC for 60 years so it started before 1957. If anyone can help with more information I would be glad to hear from them.

Try Bowls: If you have friends or family who may wish to try bowling, please let them know there will be a friendly open day for them to try bowls at CBC on Saturday June the 10th from 12 noon to 3pm. All are welcome and shoes/bowls will be provided together with some fun on the green and professional tuition from our club coaches. Tea and coffee will be available and all visitors will be entitled to a free drink from the bar. No obligation and no charge, simply turn up and enjoy. Oh! I nearly forgot, any club member who wishes to assist with the visitors would be very welcome.

Meetings, meetings, meetings: Another day, another meeting, reams of paper to take with us and Hon Sec David Sutherland waiting to greet us with another mini forest of paper beside him. Fortunately, he deals with most of the stuff without us needing to be involved. Sometimes I think I have PTSD because I have the occasional flash backs and break out in a cold sweat when I remember what it was like before I retired. What I do remember however is the support I received from various secretaries I worked with. Without doubt a good secretary is worth their weight in gold and in truth the whole edifice would come crashing down without their sterling work. We are lucky that we have a willing volunteer in the shape of David Sutherland who has carried that mantle for us over the past few years. From club rules to meeting agendas/minutes, setting up interviews, drafting letters of displeasure to suppliers of faulty tining machines, dealing with mail or ensuring someone else does, falls to the Hon Sec. Plus of course, a million more things such as sending out correspondence like this news, the weekly fixtures lists and printing score sheets for our Monday games nights etc. And, I am typing this just after returning from the club where I was having a wee practice, and I can confirm that the Hon Sec was not doing paper work at that point. He was fixing the fire door which has been difficult to close recently! So in case you have not been thanked recently David for all the work you do for us....Many thanks.

Flag no longer at half-mast: Talking of fixing things, some of the more observant among us may have noticed that the club flag has been flying at half-mast recently and like my cats it stayed out overnight. A malfunction of the gubbins at the top of the mast was to blame, jamming the rope so we could neither raise it nor lower it down. Engineer-in-chief, Bill Cumming and his merry band of helpers have spent many hours of work and invented many ingenious contraptions to free it off, most of which failed. I am pleased to report they have now succeeded, the problem was resolved and a new rope has been attached. So flag setters please note that you are now free to raise and lower the flag as and when required but be warned that if you jam it again you will be required to shin up the pole and fix it!

The flag pole has seen many years of loyal service since Jock Fairbairn made it by welding 4 sections of steel pipe together. Bill is concerned that after so many years use the weight of our new flag may be too much for it in a stiff breeze. Consequently the committee have agreed that we should purchase a new one and also that we should site it in a more convenient place.

A fairway investment: There are a fair number of bowlers in the club who also get teed off when they have to rough it a bit on the golf course. You or indeed any non-golfing members of the club are invited to consider if you wish to partake in a once-in-a-lifetime investment opperchancity associated with your other sporting hobby. Ellen Hay has kindly donated £200 worth of £5 notes issued by RBS in 2003 commemorating the feats of one Jack Nicklaus. These were originally purchased by Alistair Paterson. A collector's item of the future? If you would like any of these notes make an offer to our Treasurer Sandy Mackay, he would be delighted to hear from you. All proceeds will go to club funds.

Gordie's new burd: I can confirm that Gordon Munro does not expect to catch any fish on the rod he set over rink 6 before he went off on holiday. But that said I do know that our Green Ranger is all a twitter with his latest wee toy. You may have seen a strange looking bird hovering round the green sheds in recent weeks and although it never seems to go very far I can confirm it is not a homing pigeon. It is the latest attempt to scare away the green gobbling crows that seem to like burrowing into our nice rinks. Gordon's bird is supposed to be a hawk of some kind but it frequently crashed to the ground when the wings fell off. It isn't real of course and it dangles from an old fishing rod but it keeps Gordon happy. Strangely enough we have not seen any crows on the green recently - perhaps they died laughing.

Quizessential couple ready for you: Deep furrows in Ian's brow and a mischievous glint in Marcia's eye can mean only one thing. They have put together another dastardly dose of devilish questions for our next ever-popular quiz night on Saturday 10th June. If you are up for a challenge or simply want to have some fun and blethers please put your name on the list at the bar. Single, paired or quadrupled please come along and we will make up teams where necessary. Quality prizes are possible and the questions are not impossible.

Welcome to new members: The committee has recently interviewed two people who have applied to join our happy bowling community. It is our pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to Paul Allan and Tom Hogg.

Significant Birthdays: This month we have a number of members celebrating a significant birthday. Many happy returns to Eddie Edmond, Marion Haswell, Dougie Ritchie, Sandy Ritchie and Gordon Wright.

Congratulations: CBC members will wish to note that the new Lord Provost for Edinburgh is our very own Frank Ross. Hearty congratulations to Frank and we wish him every success in his new role.

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:

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| Mixed Hat | Saturday 3 rd June | 6,30 pm |
| Try Bowls | Saturday 10 th June | 12 noon to 3 pm |
| Quiz Night | Saturday 10 th June | 7 for 7.30 pm –quizmasters Marcia and Ian |
| Mixed Hat | Saturday 17 th June | 6.30 pm |
| Wine tasting and nibbles | Saturday 24 th June | 7 for 7.30 pm |
| Quiz night | Saturday 8 th July | 7 for 7.30pm – quizmasters Joan and Pat |

**John MacPhail,
Editor**