

# COVE BOWLING CLUB NEWSLETTER (February 2011)



Well another month closer to the start of the season ....

First of all I hope everyone will join me in wishing Congratulations to **Ray and Irene** who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Friday 4th March. Just think ..... 50 years with Ray ..... Well done Irene!

Following our renewal morning we now have a total of 91 Full Bowling members and 48 Social members which is similar to last season. There are a number of Social members who have not rejoined so if you are one, and haven't let Terry Burton know yet, please let him know as soon as possible.

Following the plea in the first newsletter we have also now added Terry Kennedy to the Social Committee but we will still be pleased to hear from any more volunteers for any roles and especially for the Bar where we are still a few short.

Last request – if you haven't yet put your name down for a Tea duty then please arrange this as soon as possible. The response has been good so far – thank you! – but there are still a few gaps that need filling.

One other change to let you all know about and that is that John Guerin has stepped down as the Club Child Protection Officer and replaced by Ian Taylor.

## **Ladies Spring Meeting**

There is to be the usual Ladies' pre-season meeting and this has been arranged for 10:00am on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March. This is to sort out the catering for the Captain's Day at the start of the season, Ladies' Day in June, Blackwater Valley and finally the opportunity to enter the North Hampshire Competitions.

Talking of Competitions ..... all the Ladies County Competition draws have been received and are in the hanging folders.

Carl helped Mike Doran do the Men's County draw this week so they should all be typed up and ready in the next few weeks.

We will also have the 2011 Fixture Cards ready to distribute in early March as well and once these, and the Rink Booking Sheets are ready, we will let you know so that you can collect them from the Clubhouse

## **Moreton Trophy**

Another game, another win in the Moreton Plate for the two rinks of Daniel, Grahame T, Ian, Carl and Ray, Nick, David L, Glenn.

In the Quarter final of the Moreton Plate they beat Romsey BC very comfortably by 51 shots to 19 and now face Old Basing BC in the semi final at Longmeadow IBC on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Only two more wins needed to retain the trophy so good luck!

## **Club Jackets**

The new order of the different types of Club Jackets has now been made and hopefully should be received by the start of the new season.

## **Bowls Hampshire**

As you all know the two old Men's and Ladies County Bowling Associations have now unified to form the new Bowls Hampshire which came into existence with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January.

There will be no major changes to the way either Fixtures or Competitions etc are played although a new County badge will be introduced.

In the meantime you might all like to see the new County website where there are some very good photographs of both our Ladies as Top Club Champions and the Men as County Club Northern Division Winners.

The website is [www.bowlshampshire.com](http://www.bowlshampshire.com)

Let's hope there will be more success for Cove players and teams in 2011 and therefore more photographs for us to add!

## **Social Events**

Thank you to all the members who continue to support the Club through the winter months.

March is the last full month of our Winter programme so make sure you don't miss out on the following:

5<sup>th</sup> – Bingo Night

19<sup>th</sup> – Quiz Night

26<sup>th</sup> – Race Night

## Bar

Now what else is important to Bowlers .....? oh yes I remember ..... the Club Bar! As you know Bernie has taken over as Bar Manager and I have asked him to give the following update on what he has been up to:

“The culmination of discussions, thoughts and trying to save money for the Club has brought about the following changes to the Bar.....

➤ After complaints about the flat beer (Courage Best) I have investigated the alternatives. At the same cost, our Suppliers now provide John Smiths Smooth, offering a ‘smooth tap’ and a ‘less smooth’ if people don't like the smooth/creamy head. It is proving very popular on Darts nights!

➤ The Syrup dispensing System has been stripped out - and stored in the shed in case somebody wants it. In the end it was only providing Soda Water as the supply of syrups ceased. I have replaced the system with a ‘help yourself’ Soda Syphon, on the Bar, together with a backup supply of bottled Soda Water.

➤ Daniel wore the old Ice maker out and it has packed up. Not even Malcolm has been able to repair it so he recommended buying a new one. A few conversations later, after he reported that the machine had been black inside from use and failure, we quickly came to the conclusion that we would be better off with a Table top Freezer.

Terry V and I altered the Bar shelving and as from last week we are now able to provide Ice again. A new Insulated Ice Bucket has also been provided with Tongs and this will be on the bar to be filled as and when needed.

➤ Savings /Running Costs have been achieved by the introduction of the following measures:

(i) The Gas for the Lager and Beer Kegs, which are dissimilar, has now been reduced to 2 Bottles (one of each) from 4 originally. These are on Rent from BOC.

When the John Smiths was re-piped new Pressure Gauges were installed which now indicate how much gas remains in each bottle. Therefore it is no longer ‘hit and miss’ and we should be able to order new Gas at the last minute quite accurately thereby reducing the rent.

(ii) The Cooler in the Bar Store has been switched off for weeks now as the Cold Weather enables the Store to remain at a cool enough temperature to keep the products stable.

The intention is to install a Timeswitch for its' operation in the Summer since the Line Cooler is oversized and easily copes with the Beer and Lager pipe cooling.

The saving in Electricity has already pleased our illustrious Treasurer .... not an easy task in itself!

(iii) Lighting use in the bar has also been reduced by leaving the middle row of lights off (marked for Bar Staff) as the levels are more than enough without them being on all the time.

(iv) The new Freezer will not only be more hygienic but also more efficient and reliable and avoid having to buy bags of ice from Bookers

➤ I have yet to finally decide which lines can be stopped and which will continue. For a Bowls Club we stock too many different lines some of which sit in the Coolers for ages before expiring and being thrown away. Obviously the Bar needs to operate efficiently and make money for the Club and I hope this reappraisal of what we need to stock will help sales. Compared to most other Bowls Clubs our Bar has always been of a very high standard and this will not change.

➤ During March the Bar Committee will meet to not only adjust the proposed stock lines but also review our prices. You will all be only too aware of the recent rise in VAT which has increased our costs and whilst we have held our prices for 2 years we will clearly have to increase them this year. However rest assured we will not be looking to drive people away by being greedy.

➤ Finally, if anyone has any ideas as to how we can improve the Bar, or its service, then please let me know.

Anyone who wishes to help by working behind the Bar during the year will be very welcome so again please let me know. It is a crucial part of the Club fundraising so please do help if you can.

Have a good season of Bowls, Drink sensibly, and enjoy your Club Bar and Socialising”

Bernie

### **And finally .....**

The Selection sheets for the first few games and League matches will be up in the Clubhouse in the next couple of weeks.

Details of the pre-season Social evening and the New Member's meeting will follow in the next Newsletter.

Donna