East Bergholt Bowls Club Newsletter June 2025

CHAIR'S REPORT

Hi to all the members

Hope this newsletter finds you well.

Well after a delayed start it appears the bowls is going from strength to strength and so far, I've kept dry, although this statement might put the mockers on it.

The whole season is turning out to be a very busy as we are lucky enough to be chosen to host 4 county games. This means quite a lot of work as they all need feeding, but it proves the county think our green is one of the best in the area. The most prestigious of all is 26th July when we host the League semi-finals. This will be an all-day event so if you can find the time to watch or help, please come up to the green don't wait to be asked.

The 10th August is our annual John Furnish Day, one of our biggest fund raisers. Jenny Furnish is always available to present the prizes and is always really pleased we continue with this event in memory of her late husband. Later on, I will be asking for raffle prizes and cakes so be prepared.

We had about 15/20 people turn up at the green for the Big Bowls Day not sure if this will generate any new members, but we can only try. We did have several lovely comments about the green and the surrounds, one lady said walking through the gate was like walking into an oasis so I would like to thank all who give up their time to make it so.

Mic Lomax Day is also a good day and Mick's daughter has again agreed to present the prizes. Each year I send her a photo of the memorial roses which this year are exceptional.

I also need to mention The Bowlers Arms, the clubhouse bar if you didn't know its name. This is going really well and manned by Rex it has made the clubhouse a more social place not only for members but for visitors too.

Lastly, I would like to thank the committee for their support, couldn't do it without you. Also, my heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has given up their time to make the club what it is today, long may it continue.

My best wishes to you all, Terri Catchpole

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It only seems a couple of months ago that I did my last report on the end of the season. So many things have moved on ranging from our AGM last November to the accolade of hosting three inter county competitions

Much of what I was intending to say has been covered by Terri in her report. We started the season in our new kit and the squads look good with the new shirts and name badges. The performance of the teams has been mixed but during the league matches there is an overwhelming sense of enjoyment playing the game with determination to prove ourselves.

As secretary I am always surprised how things change in the blink of an eye and just when I think things are all settled, I get that dreaded phone call informing me that plans need to change, teams cannot make fixtures, dates need to be rearranged or contact names have changed.

As a club we have moved into the 21st Century with our web site getting hundreds of hits every month with people contacting me through the web site. We have a cashless bar despite a few teething problems which Vic and Rex have faced with determination to see it work successfully, many thanks to the members who supported this innovation.

Whilst writing the report I was conscious of the fact that Jenny and Reg were busy getting the treasure hunt ready for the 22 June and good luck to all the teams. I am always surprised in just how the club members are so willing to step up and help with activities ranging from supporting the range of social activities to stepping in at a moment's notice to ensure plans are realised and the club can go move on.

I suppose my biggest disappointment was the fact that we had to dip out of a few competitions as the captains were unable to get sufficient players. Whilst this can often be the situation it doesn't show the club in a good light. When I entered all the competitions, after agreeing to them at the AGM, the competition organisers spend a lot of time and effort sorting out the draws only to find a team's dipped out. This can be very sole destroying on the part of the organisers.

David Ford

Congratulations to Alec Gardner who won the Richard Worn Bowls competition, the Bowl was presented to him by Simon, Richards son.

OUTDOOR CAPTAINS' REPORT

We have got off to a better start this season in all the leagues, with the exception of the Eagles who have struggled with the number of players available.
Despite early concerns our green is bowling (and looking) better than other greens by some distance, so massive thanks to the Green Team for all their efforts.
Equally, I would like to echo Terri's comments in thanking Rex & Vic for their work in constructing and running the Bowlers' Arms which has proved very popular and enhanced the social aspects of the club.

In conclusion, well done to everybody for their efforts so far, hopefully we can maintain our level of performance, concentration and team spirit and get the results we deserve

Geoff Barford & Alan Burstall

TEAM MANAGER'S REPORTS

FALCONS

The Falcons have a relatively short season – only 10 games – and, to date, with one game being postponed we have only played 4. Nonetheless, we have started well with 3 wins and 1 loss – the result of this is that, currently, we stand 2nd in our league table but with a game in hand.

Confidence is high and we look forward to a competitive rest of the season.

The postponed games has been re-scheduled for 21st July – at that time we will know if we have played well enough to reach the semi-finals.

Enjoy the rest of the season
Brian Cassells

SWALLOWS MID-SEASON REPORT

The Swallows have got off to a good start to the season and seem to be playing well as a team. We were sorry to lose Tony Ryan due to health problems but hope he will be back, in the not too distant future, to take over running the team again.

The League is very up and down and most of the teams in the top half of the table are taking games off each other, and with only 3 rinks and 3 pts for the overall score big wins and big losses are common. Nevertheless, at the midway point we are well placed to push on and compete for the title.

Tony Ryan

HERONS

As from 18th June 2025 the Herons squad have played 5 games and won 4 giving us 23 points. We have 5 games left to play. We have a much stronger squad this year and pushing hard to try and win the league.

It's still difficult trying to rotate the squad having so many members wanting to play so I thank you all for your patience.

Mike Catchpole

Eagles

Our first few games followed last season's fortunes, we lost them and gained no points. Our fortune changed against Felixstowe at home on 11 June with a 4-1 points win. Let's hope we can keep winning –no pressure team!

Our squad has shrunk due to illnesses/ treatments and all our best wishes go to those affected. My thanks to Geoff Barford for his last-minute stepping in, and to my players for helping me to get bowls every day tasks done.

Valerie Ayton

Kestrels

A steady start to the season sees Kestrels in midtable after 6 games, after the first four matches we were riding high in second place but unfortunately back to back defeats has resulted in us slipping down the league slightly. Notwithstanding that despite working with a smaller squad this season I believe our performances have improved on last season and I can see no reason why a top 2 position cannot be secured come the end of the season.

Onwards and upwards!

Alan Burstall

The day the French visitors had a go at bowling at the club. Fortunately none of the woods were thrown.

Magpies

At this point in time, we have played 6 games and have 14 points. At this rate we shall have 35 at the end of the season which is one more than last season BUT we will have played one game more.

To date the big difference is that our opening game v Severalls, we only drew whereas last season we beat them, but it was the first game, and it was evident that several team members were short of outdoor practice as it was played only3 days after the delayed green opening.

On the positive side we have taken some points of every team we have played, and the aggregate difference is not as big as in defeats of last season. In fact, it is noticeable that in many games we have fought back from bad starts to improve the situation, so there is more fight in the side.

Again, I have to think of inviting "guest" players into some of the remaining games against the perceived weaker teams to garner a few more points.

Regards

George Hudson