



East Bergholt Bowls Club Newsletter

Autumn 24

CHAIR'S REPORT

Hello to you all, hopefully this newsletter finds you well.

Well, the outdoor season is now over but what a hectic season it's been, very enjoyable. I don't think many members had time to fit in the Aussie pairs, a shame as it was something new for the club. I think those who did find time to play really enjoyed it perhaps we can all have a go next year. The green team again came up trumps providing us with one of the best greens in the area so thanks to them, also the people on the grass cutting rota, they always seem to go unnoticed, we turn up to bowls and there it is so thanks to you all. We can't forget Jenny and Reg who give up so much time on the surrounds, perhaps next year they could have a bit more help, it's quite a task.

This year I managed to get 16 teams for John Furnish without too much trouble, two or three teams had never been before but after a really good day they were anxious to be included in next year, none more so than the winners who couldn't speak highly enough of the green, the food and the organisation on the day. I'd like to thank Rex and Mike for the bacon rolls and everyone who donated cakes and savouries. I would also like to thank Brian and Tim for their printing and marking skills. After presenting the trophies Jenny Furnish thanked us for keeping the competition going all these years.

Another feather in our cap was hosting the Quintons Bowl. Just to put anyone who didn't know in the picture, we were asked to host the Suffolk finals of the above competition. All we had to do was provide a good bowling green and feed and water them. John Jeffrey's handed the green over to their president and they did the rest. We did such a good job the organisers said they would definitely use our green again for other competitions, they said we did a magnificent job which is a fantastic compliment for our club so thanks to all involved.

I believe Mick Lomax Day wasn't supported very well by players but there seemed to be quite a compliment of supporters, we were lucky enough to have Mick's daughter present the trophy. She commented how well the roses were doing which she had provided in memory of her mum and dad and thanked us.

Finals weekend gained more of an audience than most years which was great. We were all fed with bacon rolls and burgers washed down by a drink from the bar while watching exciting bowling by the finalists, well done to you all. What could be better.

I'll leave all the league results etc. to the captains but I feel we have all had a good season's bowling. On the social side Eastbourne was a great success hopefully to be repeated next year, you never know we

might beat the total bingo winnings, I couldn't believe that a group of 24 people won a total of £991 between them, good going eh.

By the time you read this hopefully those of you who went to Five Lakes will have had a great time (do they have bingo there!) Then there will be Potters in Norfolk so lots of things to look forward to.

The social team are trying to re-start the Saturday coffee mornings in the Lambe School so keep an eye out for the email.

Carpet bowls started at the end of September with a full house in attendance hopefully this will continue.

I have samples of the new shirts which I will bring to the AGM in November, hopefully you'll like them.

I look forward to catching up with you all, take care.

Terri Catchpole

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Memories of the Year



SECRETARY'S REPORT

I was told time speeds by faster when you are enjoying yourself and that is certainly true about this summer. We have had a lot of ups and downs, but I must thank you all for your support that you have given me. We experienced two important changes this season, both of which have raised the profile of the club within the county. The first is the introduction of the bar at the club. Visiting teams engaged far more after matches particularly if the evening was warm and sunny, you would not believe the paperwork Vic had to endure to get the licence. The second was being asked to host the semi-finals and final of a county competition. The Quinton Bowl came to Bergholt and as usual you all embraced the experience so much so that the County Officials, impressed with our organisation and friendliness, stated that they will be using our ground again. We have always said that we have one of the best greens in the county and now we have the proof.



Quinton Bowl Competition

Hopefully there will be another treasure hunt next year.

We also celebrated a rare occurrence in a league game when one rink gets the maximum score on one end. This is known as a Hot Shot and three Magpie members scored a maximum of 9 when playing Mistley & Manningtree in the SMTL.

Many thanks to those who supplied archive material once I have

pulled it together, I will put it onto a DVD for those who would like a copy.

The website is now up and running and you can now use the QR code below to get straight through to it.



Rex, Linda and Nigel
3 Hot Shot Winners

Finally, we have had some excellent internal competitions this year here are some of the winners plus a few other images.

David Ford

Melvyn brought the treasure hunt to East Bergholt this year and we had 9 teams take part trying to solve the clues and answering the questions about the area around the club. At the end of the day, we had a lovely buffet back at the club and chatted into the evening. It was strange that one of the photograph clues was not answered by the resident of the house.

What's the address of this house?





Mick Lomax Winners



100 Up Finalists



Ladies Champion



Singles Champion BE



Knockout Pairs Winners



Men's Singles Finalists EBF



Waldringfield Bowls Club
John Furnish Champions

CARPET CAPTAINS' REPORT

We restarted for the new 2024-25 season on Monday September 23rd at the Constable Hall 7.30 - 10.00pm and the attendance was 21 members which was a record start of season turnout, so well done to all our outdoor members and not to mention a few of our seasonal carpet bowlers. The carpet bowls section takes its place under the umbrella of the Bowls Club and fulfils a void that is left during the winter months when the Lawn Bowls closes from September and reopens again in mid to late April 2025.

Having restarted now we throw ourselves into the new league season with our first game which was away at Clapgate Lane in Ipswich with a close game but lost 6 points to our 4, early days yet so we still need to retune our thinking for the smaller green so to speak. Having said that we also suffered another defeat away at Stutton on Wednesday 9th October but again we are still in the training mode and not deter. I'd like to thank Mike Catchpole who organised the league match fixtures this season and has agreed to manage the team for the coming season so I'm sure under his leadership the only way is going upwards for the future. We are always happy to welcome new members no matter their age background or skill level and anyone curious to find out whether it would be something they are interested in is encouraged to come along, so don't forget every Monday evening from 7.30 until 10.00pm at the Constable Hall but need to check on our league games fixtures as on occasions we may be playing an away team which would mean spectators are welcome on those evenings.

Vic Saunders

Co Outgoing Carpet Captain

OUTDOOR CAPTAINS REPORT

Hard to believe that we are at the end of another outdoor season, it always seems to go so quickly, especially towards the end when the green is bowling at its best. Firstly, a big thank you to the Green Team for all their hard work. The green has bowled really well throughout and has been greatly appreciated by all who played on it. The one-day competitions and in-house tournaments all went well, seemed to be enjoyed and produced some exciting matches, and at times unexpected results. It was slightly disappointing that we were not able to get 32 players for Mick Lomax Day, but it was still a good day's bowling. The John Furnish Day went extremely well and along with our hosting of the Quintons Bowl raised the profile of the Club. Many thanks to all involved. Frustratingly, yet again we seemed to under-perform in the leagues, with the possible exception of the Falcons. Most teams did poorly at the beginning of the season and while there was a general improvement later on it was not sufficient to lift most teams out of the bottom half of their divisions. Team managers and captains have discussed at length why we struggle, at times, to win games. However, without any definite agreement some ideas will be presented at the AGM

The big issue facing the Club is of course recruitment. With the average age of members as it is, without significant recruitment, our viability in the not too distant future is questionable. Whilst we remain hopeful that the new housing may well help we need as an entire membership to focus on bringing in

new blood for next season. We have a well-run club with an excellent green and we need to make this known. Let's all make a real effort to get friends, neighbours and relatives along to try bowling.

Finally, a word of thanks to the bar team. The bar has made a real difference both financially and socially, so particular thanks to Vic and Rex for their efforts. We hope that as many of you as possible will play indoors over the winter as we have several friendly matches after Christmas.

Geoff Barford & Alan Burstall

TEAM MANAGER'S REPORTS

HERONS

This season has been a duplicate of last season. We started poorly losing the first four matches then picked up with a good run towards the end of the season to finish the league in mid table.

It has been difficult at times when I can only pick nine players from a total squad of twenty, trying to keep everyone happy and be competitive at the same time.

Hopefully next season we can start stronger and maintain it through to the end.

Mike Catchpole

EAGLES

A poor start was overcome by a few wins at the last few matches. My thanks to Diane for taking on the captainship whilst I was indisposed following my car accident. Well done and thank you to the squad for your participation. There is nothing nicer than playing bowls in nice weather on Wednesday afternoons, do consider playing for Eagles next Lawn Bowls season.

Valerie Ayton

KESTRELS

It is fair to say that it has been a difficult season for Kestrels which despite our best efforts we couldn't somehow get close matches over the line which could on more than one occasion result in a few more wins than the four we finally ended up with come the end of the season.

It is fair to say that our best set of results came when the weather improved and we proved that on our day we can be a match for most clubs.

As with all the years I have bowled at East Bergholt the bowling surface was second to none and was a pleasure to bowl on, which again my thanks go out to Peter and the team for all their hard work in providing us with a green to be proud of.

Wishing all a good close season and we go again in 2025!

Best regards

Alan Burstall

MAGPIES

First a positive on which to start our “end of season” report and that is we finished third from bottom in our league which is an improvement on the 2023 season.

Of our 13 games we won 4, drew 1 and lost 8. Our aggregate was 529 for and 725 against which seems to indicate that we tend to ship a lot of high scores against us when we lose.

The team above us in the league, West End, only won 2 and drew 2 BUT they had a positive aggregate and ended up with 4 points more than we did showing the importance of the aggregate score, so I think our aim next season has to be to make each wood count and improve our aggregate.

One notable achievement was that in one match Nigel’s team actually scored the maximum of 9 on one end and we hope they received recognition for that. Having done it once our expectations of repeats are now high. (a quick way to improve the aggregate)

Our initial aim of having more settled regular squads did not work out well due to absences from holidays, illness and injury but we shall try again next year and see if that achieves some benefit.

This season we had an extra team in Manningtree Swans and next year there is a likelihood of a new team from West Mersea so the fixture list will be a little longer.

It is hoped that at the league annual general meeting we can get agreement to an even number of home and away games next year to ease the travel burden.

So, my thanks again to the whole squad for your wholehearted efforts and support for this season and have a good off season and come back refreshed for a new outdoor season next year.

George Hudson

