



# NEWSLETTER



## Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club Limited

February 2018

Editor: David Brown, Tel 01664-566152

### **Proposed New Summer Triples League for 2018 (Amended) - Mick Rawle**

The B.M.C. has proposed that we start a new Summer Triples League on a Tuesday morning at 9.40 am on a Pro-Am basis. It is an opportunity for the really good players to get to know the newer players in their own teams with a view to recruiting them into their Winter teams later as people drop out, whilst giving the newer players an introduction to really competitive play, and teaching them the finer points and rules of the game.

The league would be Open Triples with 6 to 9 players in each team, 3 would have more than five years experience, (the more years the better) and the remainder would have less than five years experience. The time is not dependent on being a member of this club, but years bowling (outdoors plus indoors). Each team on the day would have one experienced player and two less experienced ones who could play in any position. It is hoped that many teams would have a chance of winning this league – it would be a very open League.

I am going to try to collect a list of names of people interested in playing in this League and form them into teams. Please let me know your name in an email to

[mick.rawle@ntlworld.com](mailto:mick.rawle@ntlworld.com), or speak to me, or leave a message for me in the Competition Results box, telling me whether you have more or less than 5 years experience by putting +5 or -5 against your name. I will collect the names and let Chuck Kershaw, our League Manager know if this League can start this year. Chuck is prepared to start this League with a minimum of 4 teams, but we would like more if possible.

### **Junior Club News**

The Junior Club has been very active over the past few months so here is a round-up of some of their activities.

### **EBYDS County Qualifier**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February saw us taking our largest ever number of junior members to this annual event. The senior section saw Alex Warrington and Toby King against Tom Wheeler (Rugby) and Jack Cooper (Leics) in group A. Meanwhile Alexia Agrafioti and Paul Warrington competed against Katherine Bowman (Leics) and Jordan Ward (Rugby) in group B. Alex secured two wins 9-2, 5-4 before losing 4-5 to Tom, while Paul won one match and Alexia and Toby lost all three.

In the junior section, Isabell Pymm faced Rhianna Russell (Egham) and Ailish Sheehan in group 5. Tyler King took on Molly

Fowler (Rugby), Ellie Marie Hamblett (Barwell) and Alice Atkin (C.Gresley). Grace Wade faced Alfie Knight (Rugby) and Edward Higham in group 7. Max Magee faced Kieran Chambers (Leics), Jacob Mills (Rugby) and Joshua Toon (Leics). Isabelle and Grace both won one lost one while Max won one and lost two and Tyler lost all three. Not to be deterred, all went into the skills section in a positive mood with the help of Mowbray Bear. There Toby achieved the highest score (58) of any competitor of the day. With all the scores collated, it was with trepidation they all waited the final results. In the junior section – Isabelle came 7<sup>th</sup>, Grace 8<sup>th</sup>, Max 9<sup>th</sup> and Tyler 14<sup>th</sup>. In the senior section – Alex came 3<sup>rd</sup>, Toby 6<sup>th</sup>, Paul 7<sup>th</sup> and Alexia 8<sup>th</sup>. The winner in each section will go through to the regional finals on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Melton. Those are Alfie Knight and Jordan Ward of Rugby. However we are awaiting confirmation that Alex Warrington will also be in the regional finals.

### **U18 Midlands Junior League**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January saw Melton away to Barwell where they secured a win 38-25. Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January saw a very tense home match against Leicester. Melton secured the win with one rink still to finish 32-31. This leaves Melton top of the table with two matches remaining. These matches will be played on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March (Leicester-away) and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March (Barwell-home).



### **U16 Open Singles**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February saw Mowbray Bear out in force again with the six Melton junior club members competing for the U16 title. Grace Wade in group 3 beat Grace Smith 8-5 but lost to both Robyn Hall and Alice Atkin. Max Magee in group 5 beat McKenzie Murray 7-1 but lost to both Oliver Sloan and Lois Woodward. Alex Warrington beat Katherine Bowman 7-5 and Sam Andrew 11-1 before losing to Rebecca Turner 3-7. Group 7 saw Isabelle Pymm beat Toby King 14-0 and Ailish Sheehan 9-2. Group 8 saw Alexia Agrafioti beat Joshua toon 5-3 before losing to Jacob Mills 1-8. Both Isabelle and Alexia were awarded an additional 5 points each for the bye they encountered due to player withdrawals in each group. Both Alex and Isabelle moved into the knockouts where Isabelle met Rhianna Russell but lost on a tie break, and Alex met Alfie Knight and lost. The title was eventually won by Millie Adkins (Bromsgrove) with Fynn Kyser (Carlton) the unfortunate runner-up.



(Pictured from l-r, - Toby, Alex, Isabelle, Grace, Alexia and Mowbray Bear).

### **Leicestershire U18**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February saw the last in the series of friendly games with a match against Lincolnshire U18's at Church Gresley. Melton were well represented with Alex Warrington, Alexia Agrafioti, Grace Wade, Isabelle Pymm, Lewis Metcalf, Max Magee and Toby King all taking their places for Leicestershire with Tyler King standing in for Lincolnshire. The match was full of drama right from the start. Just when Lincolnshire thought they were getting a good lead, Leicestershire were there reminding them it was still all to play for and in doing so, reined them back in. On in went, back and forth with Leicestershire even taking the upper hand if only briefly. All focused on the task in hand but with luck riding with the Lincolnshire team and some untimely gains, it was Leicestershire who eventually had to face defeat losing only on two of their rinks. Easter eggs were presented to Grace and Lewis for Leicestershire's highest winning rink. Tyler also received an egg for his contribution to the Lincolnshire team.

Final score Leicestershire 86 – 104 Lincolnshire

NB: While mainly other counties have had U18 teams for some time, this is Leicestershire's first season. Many clubs in the county do not have junior sections although they may have junior players and so it has become the mission of the few to find all those juniors who are currently missing out on opportunities. While many lessons have been learned during these friendly games and friendships made, there is still a long way to go. Together we can all make a difference if we are all prepared to give a little.

### **National Championship Finals**

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the 2017/18 National Finals begin here at Melton for what, may well be the last time. An offer has been made to the EIBA to stage the event for the three years commencing 2019, but no response had been received by the due date of 1<sup>st</sup> March.

However, we still need to make the event a success, as indeed we have almost every year since 1989, so we need the help of our members in order to provide the necessary Steward cover. This is not an onerous task and it provides the opportunity to be amongst the players and see the play at very close quarters.

If you have helped with this event in the past, we would very much welcome your assistance once again, and if you haven't helped before, you will find the experience very interesting. Training will be provided prior to the event with an opportunity to answer any questions that you might have about being involved.

### **English Short Mat Bowls Finals**

Once again Melton is hosting the Championship Finals of the English Short Mat

Bowls Association (ESMBA) commencing Thursday 12th April through to Sunday 15th.

This is a very different sport to the game that we play, but nevertheless, very exciting. One of the main features is the sheer number of competitors involved, with up to twenty-four games taking place simultaneously on the green. That is 192 players in the fours, so as you can imagine, the green looks fairly crowded.

The games are much shorter than ours in terms of timing, and there is a much greater number of matches during the event when compared to the EIBA finals.

Our stewarding duties for this event are significantly lower than for the EIBA event, but we still need some of our members to help in order to provide a professional event.

If you feel that you are able to help, please add your name to the list of helpers when it goes on to the table at Reception, it will be greatly appreciated.

### **Mission 650**

There are a number of our members who continue to make negative comments about the Mission 650 Team and its activities. It is possible that some members don't understand the important role that this group play within the club's organisation, although some of those making the comments should really know better. I don't propose to name the individuals concerned, but they know who they are.

In order to make clear the role of this group of members, who have worked tirelessly for the past five years, a special edition of the Newsletter has been pro-

duced explaining the facts and the importance of the work that the group undertake.

No other group in the history of the club (and I include the original group of fundraisers back in 1984) has brought more money into the club and done so much to maintain the well being of the business, by recruiting over 400 new members. If one considers the situation when the group was founded, the membership stood at 490 and we were losing about fifty members each year due to a variety of reasons. Had that not been addressed, there is no doubt that the cost of playing bowls here at Melton, would be much higher than it currently is.

And all this success comes at the cost of just £100 per month. That is the total budget that the 650 group has been working with for the past five years. When one considers that each new member recruited brings around £300 each year into the club, through Membership subscription, Rink Fees and drinks at the Bar, that means that the four hundred new members are now contributing around £120,000 each year to the club's income. Not a bad return on £1200 per annum is it.

So I say to those members who complain that this group does no fundraising, or that they are trying to take over the club, or they take rink space unfairly, take a good look at the success we are having, and think about offering some help, rather than continually knocking those who give up their time freely for the benefit of all our members. Without them you would be a lot worse off!

A copy of the Special Newsletter is available at the Reception desk.