



NEWSLETTER



Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club Limited

February 2017

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Our Own World Champion

What a wonderful achievement for a member of OUR club to win a World Title. This is most certainly a first and something to be rightly proud of.

Les Gillett has been bowling at the top level for more than twenty years now, having played for England at senior level on many occasions. But winning a world title is a daunting task, requiring the highest levels of skill and concentration, and whilst many have almost got there, including Les, the final few hurdles are without doubt the most challenging, but with the help of Jason Greenslade they did it! I should mention that Jason has also been playing at the top level for many years as well, and has been representing Wales at International level for about the same time as Les has for England.

I have personally witnessed many of Jason's games over the years, and he is a formidable player, so teaming up with a solid mainly "draw bowler" like Les, was always likely to produce some excellent results.

Throughout the week at Potters, Les continued to perform in the Men's Single Championship, beating some talented players, not least the six times world Champion Alex Marshall MBE. Alex is one of the most consistent players at that level and extremely difficult to beat, but with

perseverance and consistency, Les managed a fantastic win. In the semi-Final, Les came up against Paul Foster, always a difficult player to beat in Singles, and despite a spirited challenge, Les was unable to get over the line and into the Final, for what would have been an all England event.

Despite this, no-one can take away the magnificent performance produced by Les over the whole event, and to come away with a World Title is every players dream, so *Good on Yer Les*.



Les Gillett & Jason Greenslade
World Indoor Bowls Pairs Champions 2017

EIBA National Championships

Just a reminder that the next staging of the EIBA Finals begins on Saturday 25th March, and we still need additional volunteer Stewards to make the event a success. If you can spare half a day to help out, please add your name to the list at the Reception Desk. Full training is provided.

This year, the English Short Mat Bowling Association will bring their National Finals to Melton, and this will be a four day event commencing Thursday 6th April.

Unlike the EIBA Finals who bring just the last sixteen in each of the four main events, the ESMBA bring the last sixty-four, so there will be lots of action across the green. In order to accommodate this number of players, each event, the singles, pairs, triples & fours, will be played from the last 64 to a finish in a single day.

Short mat bowls involves playing on a mat which is six feet wide and forty-five feet long, and for each set of first round games, there will be twenty-four mats laid out on our bowling green. So when the fours takes place on Saturday 8th April, there will be 192 players of the green for the first round. This is highest number of people on our green at one time, so it should be quite a spectacle.

This is likely to be a very busy event, with lots of people in attendance. Entry to the event is free to all, so why not come down and watch something that is quite different from the game that we all play and enjoy, but still has the skill and thrill of a competitive sport which is similar to ours.

Club Represented at County Level

(Report from John Robinson)

In a match against Northamptonshire on 29th January last, Chris. Vose, Jordan Butcher, Tim Warrener, and John Robinson, represented Leicestershire and were the only rink to gain a win, 26 shots to 20. Paul Warrington and his Father Mark were also in action in a rink skipped by Roger Cooper, but they lost in a very close-fought game.

In the next scheduled match against Bedfordshire, played at Church Greasley on 5th February, seven Melton players represented Leicestershire. John Robinson's rink of Vose, Butcher and Warrener repeated their previous success, and the rink skipped by Roger Cooper this time including Mark & Paul Warrington together with Ethan Gibley, also won.

Overall, Leicestershire beat Bedfordshire comprehensively winning five rinks and drawing one.

It is brilliant that so many young players from our club are currently representing the county. It is good for their own experience and also good for the club. In fact it is hoped that the seven will soon become eight, with Louis Parnell possibly joining the squad for the next game against Warwickshire.

It would be even better if we could all encourage more young girls to join our club. If the likes of Spalding IBC can have such a strong girls team, with a number of International players at both Under 25's and Senior level, there is no reason why Melton cannot achieve the same.

Caretaker

In last months Newsletter I reported that the Board of Directors had decided to employ the services of a Caretaker. The position was advertised on the main Notice board, but no applications were received from members of the club.

I can now advise that we have appointed Mr. Ted Smith to that position following an interview procedure and he will be taking up the position in the near future.

His duties cover the maintenance of the playing surface, including vacuuming the carpet twice each week throughout the year. He will be responsible for the main-

tenance of the building, both inside and outside, minor repairs and decorating, and generally keeping the building in good order.

This is a part-time position with some flexibility in the hours and the work as required, and being a new position, both of these elements will develop with time to suit the needs of the business.

Melton Juniors Reach County Final

The Under 16's Pairs County qualifier event was held at Church Gresley bowls club on Sunday 12th February. Representing Melton were Isabelle Pymm(11) and Alex Warrington(13), who, with minimal pairs experience, took on other teams from Leicester, Barwell and Church Gresley.

Their first match against an all-girl team from Barwell got them gradually warmed up, resulting in a 4 – 3 win.

Their second match against a mixed team from Leicester saw them make inroads very early on, but Leicester soon put on the pressure and in the end the match finished with a 9 – 9 draw. This left them, once all other matches taken into account, in a very favourable position going into their final match.

By the time their third match got underway, tensions were running very high. With all the other matches around them concluding, it was dawning on our pairing that only a win would do, a draw just wouldn't be enough. We had seen some excellent bowling from both our young bowlers, when on the 6th end, Alex bowled four exceptional woods giving them a 5 point advantage going into the last end. The tension was unbearable, but with some well-placed woods, it became impossible for their opposition to get the required tally. The match finished : -

Isabelle & Alex (Melton) 8 shots
Joshua & Seren (Church Gresley) 6 shots

The pair having finished second overall will go through to the County Finals in April where they will play Joseph & Alice (Church Gresley) for the title and as you can see the Church Gresley pair are older, so we need to give our pair all the support that we can.



Alex & Isabelle (Melton) with Alice & Joseph (Church Gresley)

Both juniors along with Toby King, will be in action again on the 12th March in the Under 16's Singles County qualifier event at Church Gresley.

English Bowls Youth Development Scheme



Alex Warrington, Toby King & Isabelle Pymm

On Saturday 11th March, three of our juniors Alex Warrington, Isabelle Pymm and Toby King took part in the Warwickshire County qualifying event of the EBYDS scheme.

All three showed Great Spirit throughout the proceedings, especially during the group match stage, but with two of them having no experience on other greens, the results overall were not as good as we had hoped. However, the experience they have gained overall has been invaluable, and all have vowed next year will be different.

Friendly Matches

From Jenny McConnell

We have two late requests for friendly Games from clubs which do not appear in our year Book.

On Thursday March 16th a friendly against Ratcliffe on Trent Bowls Club, which is 4 Rinks - mixed players - greys and a meal after the game.

On Thursday April 27th a friendly against Royal Tunbridge Wells IBC Touring team of 6 rinks - mixed players - greys no meal after the game.

Please support these games and keep Melton on the map.

Membership

Once again, our membership numbers have fallen at the beginning of 2017. Some of this is due to us losing members throughout the year for various reasons and some of it because some members reach an age whereby they no longer feel able to continue playing and thereby finish at the end of the year.

Each year we contact those members who have chosen not to renew their membership so that we can identify the reasons and where possible address them.

This year 52 members chose not to renew, which is only marginally up from the aver-

age for most years, but we are looking into their reasons for not renewing and will address them where possible.

On the good side however, we have, through the activities of our Mission 650 group, managed to recruit 17 new members since 1st January, which is a fantastic achievement, so thank you to all those involved in achieving this.

Coughs & Colds

At this time of year, everyone seems to have either a cough or a cold or both, and in an environment like our club, these can be spread very easily. Even the action of shaking hands with your opponent before and after the game, can spread the germs.

We therefore suggest that using the anti-bacterial foam dispenser located just outside the two changing rooms would be worthwhile, as well as asking people to use handkerchieves if sneezing occurs, as an aid to preventing the spread of germs.

Remember, coughs & sneezes spread diseases.

Also, as most of us are now over the minimum age for the *free Flue Jab*, we strongly recommend that you get yours. It is better to have some degree of protection than none at all.