

# Newsletter – June 2019



Welcome to Gullane Bowling Club's June newsletter. I am delighted to report that the Club is continuing to go from strength to strength. The Committee and I are very grateful to everyone who is contributing to this and building a very positive profile for the Club in the community and beyond.

## Membership

We now have over 200 members! It has been great to welcome everyone who has joined the Club either to play or simply to enjoy the company and friendship. It has been particularly encouraging to see those who wanted to support our initial efforts through social membership converting to playing membership, participating in the coaching sessions and now representing the Club in league matches.

If you have any questions about membership or know of people who may wish to join, please get in touch by emailing [bowlsforgullane@gmail.com](mailto:bowlsforgullane@gmail.com) or messaging us on our Facebook page (Gullane Bowling Club).

## Advertising Boards

We are very grateful to the 12 corporate sponsors who are supporting the Club in this first year. All are local businesses within East Lothian and their sponsorship boards are mounted on the west wall. There is also now a composite sponsors board within the Clubhouse which will feature in presentations and prizegivings.



## The Green

Work continues to ensure we see continued improvement in the surface of the green. Kevin Mitchell has already over seeded the green once and the addition of the new mower means a better cut should help the surface improve. However, we are still advised that the more people that use the green the quicker it will firm up. The one thing we could do with is a fine warm dry spell which would help growth and speed up the playing surface.

## Coaching

Coaching is available for full members, both for beginners and improvers. The first sessions were held earlier this year and proved very popular. As there is no league match on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>, we are suggesting a coaching session with volunteers from the more experienced players – let us know if you can assist! A sign up sheet will be on the board when finalized.

## East Lothian Leagues

We now participate in 3 leagues: Wednesday Ladies, Men's Seniors and Division 4. Details of all matches are on the notice board. Both men and ladies can put their names up for Friday night league games.

As President, I want to thank all who have participated so far, it's a tremendous effort in such a short time to field teams in 3 leagues. I strongly encourage everyone who would like to play to put their names up on the appropriate sheet. Dave Saunders and Irene Cunningham who select the teams are very keen to get as wide a pool of players as possible.

All the teams have also been very grateful to all of you who have come along and supported them. This has been much commented upon by visiting teams – with quite a degree of envy. Thank you to all who have done so and please continue to encourage others to come along, support the team and enjoy the friendly atmosphere in the clubhouse.



Ladies league latest results - Gullane are top leading by 1 point!!

### **Lockers**

There are still several Ladies lockers available and a couple of Gents ones too. We would ask that if you do not take a locker please do not leave your bowls & kit in the clubhouse to help us keep the locker rooms clean & tidy. Thank you!

### **Club Shirts**

Many of you have already purchased our new design club shirts. The purchase price is £15 and are available in small, medium, large, extra-large & 2XL. Pop down during Monday night Hat night to try sizes. Please put your name and details on the appropriate sheet to order.

### **Monday Hat Nights**

These are held normally every Monday evening. It is open to all playing members. You are asked to be at the Clubhouse by 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Visitors are also welcome for a charge of £3. There is an entry fee of £1 & all names will be entered into a draw.



There has been an excellent attendance at these so far this season despite the poor weather and it is a great way to meet members in an informal and friendly bowling session. It's also a good opportunity for social members to enjoy the ambience of the Club.

### **Tuesday Afternoon Bowling**

There is an informal bowling session each Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm. There is no organised competition, rinks will be used as appropriate. If you want to come along you will be most welcome, equally if you want just to play with friends or practise your own game that is what the Tuesday afternoon session is all about.

### **Saturday Morning Bowling**

We have started to run an informal hat game for all abilities on Saturday mornings - come down at 10.15 for a 10.30 am start. It's just 20p to participate with the winners taking the cash!

## Informal Games

The Committee is keen to ensure the green and the Clubhouse are used as much as possible and members get the most from the facility. If you want to arrange a game with friends, all we ask is that you check there are no league games or green maintenance scheduled. **Details of these are available on the website - [gullanebowlingclub.org](http://gullanebowlingclub.org)** where you can click on the calendar to see what's already planned for a particular day.

## Visitors and Members' Guests

Visitors and members' guests are very welcome to use the facilities. The cost per visit is £3. A visitors' book together with an honesty box is on the right-hand side of the entrance. If you see visitors at the Club please make sure they are aware of this and know they are welcome at GBC.

## Refreshments & Snacks

Good use is being made of the coffee machine in the entrance hall as well as the kitchen 'tuck shop' of cans of juice, bottles of water and chocolate bars. Honesty boxes are there for both. This arrangement has proved very popular so far and is a very welcome income stream for the Club.

## Flower Planters

We are absolutely delighted that Gus & Maureen Hunter have provided the wonderful planters now blooming between the benches at the side of the green. Gus built the planters & Maureen



sourced and planted them up. She has offered to maintain the planters for us throughout the season, free of charge, as their way of thanking us for saving of the club for the village!

## Children Welcome

As many of you may know, we have hosted sessions for many of the youth groups in the community. Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows and Beavers have had dedicated time at the Club. The feedback from their leaders has been so positive and we hope we will soon extend these sessions through liaison with Gullane Primary School. We may have to apologise to parents if they got some over excited children back home, having had fun bowling time and enjoyed the juice, crisps etc. afterwards!

The Committee wants to see GBC as a family friendly place. We decided children under 16 should enjoy free membership. Why not suggest friends take out the £10 Adult social membership so that they can come down & watch their children play & use the facilities of the club.

Based on our experience of hosting these groups, we have now submitted an application to the Co-operative Local Community Fund for financial support to buy dedicated equipment for youngsters. We hope this will be successful and you can support this by first of all ensuring you have a Co-op card & secondly, selecting the Bowling Club should we be chosen.

## Forthcoming Events

Dates for your diary:

### **SATURDAY 22nd JUNE – SALWAY TRIPLES (MIXED) 1PM**

Teams are drawn from 3 pots representing different levels of ability or experience, so this is for everyone to take part. It is intended that the format will be a round robin played over 4 or 6 ends with 3 bowls per player. The draw has been done & teams are on the board.

### **MONDAY 24th JUNE – BOWLING POP-UP SHOP 7-9pm**

We are going to have a pop-up bowling shop in the Clubhouse. Rory Macdonald from Leisure Time Sports Haddington is bringing sample bowls for people to try, as well as some jackets, shirts, trousers, shoes and accessories. We hope this will be a practical and timely opportunity for members to test out equipment and bowling wear in the relaxed environment of the Clubhouse.

### **SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY – ALZHEIMER'S WALK 12 noon**

A group of local friends are aiming to raise funds for Alzheimer's UK by undertaking a walk from the Longniddry Inn to the top of North Berwick Law. They start at 10 am in Longniddry and will be coming to our clubhouse at around 12 noon as they pass through Gullane and Caroline Hitchen is organising refreshments (sandwiches, cakes and drinks). If anyone wants to take part in the walk or can help with the catering please contact Caroline at [bowlsforgullane@gmail.com](mailto:bowlsforgullane@gmail.com) or via Facebook.

### **SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JULY – NORTH BERWICK FRIENDLY 2.30pm**

Venue: North Berwick Bowling Club 2.30pm for 3.00pm Start. Name on board please – mixed teams – mens, ladies & juniors.

### **SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JULY – SINGAPORE MIXED 1pm**

Pairs to be drawn, 4 bowls each, format dependent on number of entries (round robin or knockout). This will hopefully appeal to everyone as a fun event and please enter your name down on the notice board at the clubhouse if you wish to take part.

### **MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JULY – GULLANE GAMES 6.30pm**

Normal hat night is off as we are delighted to welcome back the Gullane Games bowling event at the club starting 6.30pm - there will be a £1 entry fee and tuck shop organised by the games committee. We will show folk the basics then hopefully organise a game. *Share this event with any friends and family who are yet to catch the bowling bug. All members/friends/kids welcome to come down.*

### **Finally ...**

Thanks again to all who are making Gullane Bowling Club a friendly place in the heart of the community. Please feel free to contact us on any issues either in person or as below.

*Kevin Thomson - President*

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