



# NEWSLETTER

SURREY COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Spring 2015



## Happy days are here again

The new season approaches and with it the prospect (hopefully) of our season being warm, if not always sunny. President John Tucker, SVP Graham Dawber and I wish you all a great season whether you play competitive bowls or enjoy the camaraderie of a roll up at your club. We would however urge you to support where and when you can the matches arranged for your club. These are the life blood of our sport. Playing at other venues, meeting old friends and indeed meeting those new to our game ensures that the intentions of our forefathers in providing a sport that encompasses the values of fair play with just a touch of competitive edge continues. The important point I raise is that you enjoy your bowls in whatever way we choose to play it.

## Secretaries Get Together Meetings

During the early weeks of March, a series of informal meetings was arranged to enable both new and established Club Secretaries to meet together with Executive members to allow both to explain their views on the way in which the Association was administered. There were of course genuine reasons for some not to attend but it was unfortunate that less than half of the 133 Secretaries may have felt there was nothing to be gained by attending.

## There have been some changes to the Laws

It is surprising how few bowlers actually know the 'Laws'. Many a conversation can be overheard where opinions are put forward on this or that law. The start of this season brings an updated 'Laws of the Sport'. It contains changes that concern every bowler. Next time you are at your club just check the copy of the Laws which are hanging on the nail by your noticeboard! I wouldn't mind betting its an old yellow copy!! Why not treat yourself or even your club to a copy of the nice new red covered book. Still only £2 and at a size easily readable in bed

## A reminder about 'Grandfather Rights' for Chemical Spraying

I am sure that many of you will be saying 'not again', but I make no apology for reminding clubs who carry out their own green maintenance that these rights cease from November 2015. If you are doing your own spraying a certificate is required. This covers the use of sprays for the 'icides' e.g. biocide, fungicide' etc. We all believe that H&S can at times be over the top, but correct use of these products is very important and every club has a duty of care towards its members.

## Membership & Recruitment

David Ganney is the new Development Officer (Tel: 020 8393 8361) email [broadview@btinternet.com](mailto:broadview@btinternet.com). David is available to assist where he can in your efforts in recruitment of new bowlers. REDHILL BC are to be congratulated on their initiative in collaborating with local schools to arrange bowls as an activity within the curriculum.

## Safeguarding

Bowls England's Policy is available to view on their website [[www.bowlsengland.com](http://www.bowlsengland.com)]. It is however important that all club committees take their responsibilities seriously when interviewing prospective new members. It should be stressed during the interview that the club recognizes it has a 'Duty of Care' toward both its existing members and those aspiring to join.

## County Competitions

The competitions this season have in the main seen a decrease in applications. The 2 Wood competition in Areas 2 & 4 will be played on a divisional basis at a nominated venue on a nominated day. This information should already be in the hands of the competitors in those two Areas. This initiative is being tried to see if this is preferred to a play-by-format as with the other disciplines.

## County Top Four Finals 2016

It was agreed at the recent Combined Areas meeting to be flexible about the County Top Four Finals dates from 2016 in order, in particular, to give the County President himself some flexibility in arranging his Tour; free dates are not many in number. The Top Four remains a Club entry which allows substitutes. Clubs will be advised well in advance of the situation so that the relevant year's competition can be arranged accordingly.

## Lastly

The Association exists because volunteers give of their time and energy to ensure that their County and Club members can partake in the sport they love. Whether those volunteers are Executive Officers, Councillors, Club Secretaries or Club Committee members they carry out their duties only for the satisfaction of knowing that whilst they are involved, our game will hopefully thrive. It is not an easy option they choose, but one that needs to be carried on.

## ARE YOU DOING YOUR BIT?

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