

First Edition: Wednesday 4th May 2022

STEVE'S MAT CHAT

The opening of the green was a success with good weather provided. 48 bowlers and many spectators turned up for the Spoon Drive that Peter Pickworth and Judy Eynon organized. They set up 6 rinks. The spider/crab was duly attacked. With the outright winner being Norman Osborne, winning a bottle of whiskey. I think everyone enjoyed their first outing outside on the green. Then to finish the day off Peter & Jane Swinfield provided bacon and sausage butties. With the bar open a great afternoon was concluded. And many thanks to all the helpers in the background to make the day a success.

It is with regret I have to inform you all of a disastrous match played Tuesday the 19th of April. The A Team v The B Team. As usual the A Team won. I might add not without a fight to the finish. The B Team did well to pin them back, with a better looking final score. Here's hoping everyone who played had an enjoyable game of competitive bowls. Hopefully all is well, until next season. When the B Team will try again.

1400 hrs Tuesday the 26th of April. B Team v The E Team. Well what an afternoon. The E Team won on all 3 rinks. I have to own up to some help from the A Team. Bill Silvester, Peter Pickworth and Peter Swinfield. Although Peter played half a game with the B Team, they did us all proud. Many thanks to them and all the E Team. A special mention to Paul Cock and Steve Day playing their first E Team game for the club.

LADIES Pre Season Friendlies

Ladies A v Ryde D. Bembridge won on both rinks.

Ladies A v Shanklin A Bembridge won on 1 rink but lost overall.

Sally (B team captain) laid down the Golden Gauntlet to Gay (A team captain) a super friendly game followed, with the A team coming out the victors. The coveted "trophy" is on display in the trophy cabinet!!!

LADIES EVENING LEAGUE 29/4/22

Bembridge v Camp Hill

Home team win 20 – 14

Away team Draw 18 – 18

Bembridge 5 points Camp Hill 1

MENS A TEAM 30/4/22 First match of the season.

Bembridge A v Ryde A

Bembridge won on all rinks. 10 points gained. Well done to all who played.

The Etiquette of Bowls

It's much nicer to be known
for the courtesy you've shown;
whilst out bowling on the green
and let etiquette be seen.

If a player's "on the mat",
keep your voice down low,
as we know it for a fact
concentration can surely go.

Stand well behind whose turn it is
way out of their eye-line;
then they can focus on the "biz"
with everything just fine.

Never move within the head
when a bowler's about to bowl
as it's not good to have it said
that cheating was your goal.

If you're bowling second last
a good gesture is to learn
to pick the mat up off the grass
once the opponent's had their turn.

Never clap a lucky wood
that's wicked its way to "shot",
as in a match it's understood
that a good shot it was not.

Congratulate a good shot
although it's not your own;
you may not like it a lot
but good sportsmanship you've shown.

If you've lost the match you've played
do not show your despair
and do not let your keenness fade
your next game could be there.

Try and keep these things in mind
on or off the green
then I am sure that you will find
a nicer game it's been.

Etiquette explained

The etiquette of the game of bowls is a combination of good manners, sportsmanship and sociability; these courtesies are best described as the 'unwritten Laws of the Game'.

They are extras and designed to promote social ability and the excellent reputation for friendliness and sportsmanship that the game of bowls has rightly earned.

1. Be conversant with the [Laws of the Game](#); observe them.
2. Respect the decision of the Umpire.
3. Be punctual to commence play at all matches, and come to each game correctly attired.
4. Be quiet and refrain from moving when any player is 'on the mat' - talking behind the mat is very distracting.
5. Stand behind the mat while your opponent is playing.
6. Always stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl - movement at the head is very distracting.
7. As spelled out in the Laws; failure to do so decreases enjoyment of the game.
8. Walk close to the centre-line of the rink, and with minimum delay, when changing ends; you could distract play on the adjacent rink(s) by not doing so.
9. Never step onto the mat to commence delivery of your bowl before the previous bowl has come to rest; you do not yet have 'possession of the rink'.
10. Keep track of play; be ready to bowl when it's your turn.
11. Always pay your skip the respect of waiting for his/her decision and call, prior to delivering your bowl. Do not just step on to the mat and indicate your intentions - await your skip's instructions.
12. Do not delay play; always play your bowl with the minimum delay.
13. Never applaud a 'lucky' bowl; accept it graciously.
14. Never complain about a 'lucky' bowl - luck tends to even itself out over a season.
15. Every player should assist in collecting the bowls when an end has been completed.
16. Respect the playing surface at all times. Always take care to protect and conserve your green.
 - do not drop a bowl onto the green
 - do not stand on the edge of the green
 - do not sit on the bank with your feet on the edge of the green
 - do not stand on the edge of the bank
 - do not walk in the ditch
17. Always inform your opponent if you wish temporarily to leave the green.
18. If you lose, be a good loser; do not blame your loss on other people, the green, the weather conditions, etc.
19. Win or lose, always shake hands with your opponents, and thank them for the game.
20. Offer your opponent a drink/refreshment after the game.
21. When playing singles, be sure to thank the marker, and offer him/her a drink/refreshment. Remember that they have given their time to assist in your game. You should repay them by showing courtesy in return.
22. It is polite also to thank the umpire of the day before leaving the club.
23. Learn how to be a good marker. When offering your services, remember that a marker can make or break a game. Read and learn the 'duties of a marker'.
24. Above all, enjoy the game of bowls for its pleasure and the lasting friendships it provides.

For those of you who do not subscribe or have not seen. Below is a piece written by our glorious President for the Bembridge Parish Magazine.

CENTENARY YEAR

At first glance, there would appear to be very few similarities between the British Broadcasting Corporation and Bembridge Bowling Club other than their shared use of the abbreviation BBC. For one year only, however, they have one significant characteristic in common. This year both organisations will be celebrating their centenaries. No doubt they are celebrating in very different ways, perhaps dictated by their very different budgets but Bembridge bowlers are as proud of their club as the broadcasters of their corporation.

The earliest mention of Bowls in Bembridge dates from the early 1900s when games were played under the auspices of the Conservative Club on the Social Club Green at the junction of Dennett Road and Manna Road. In 1922, the Club was given free use of land in Mitten Road. Four tennis courts and three bowling rinks were laid. One of the members donated a large wooden hut for changing rooms and Bembridge Tennis and Bowling Club was formed. The Parish Council closed both the Tennis Courts and the Green during the Second World War and they were allowed to “return to nature” with animals grazing on them. At the end of the war the men were anxious to get the Club back on its feet and resume competitive bowling with other Island Clubs but the green was in such a state that it was unfit to play on. Thanks to the generosity of other clubs particularly Ryde who allowed Bembridge to use their green, Bembridge were able to compete in County Competitions and did so with great success. By 1950 the Club was back home having raised the funds and found enough willing volunteers to get the green into some sort of order and the number of rinks were increased to six. It wasn't until 1967 that a Ladies section was formed with their own Committee to run their affairs independently. The Ladies quickly established a vigorous social side, introducing a new aspect to the life of the Club and boosting finances while also featuring prominently in County Competitions.

Recent years have seen improvements made to both the clubhouse and the green thanks to a great deal of hard work from members. A new green has been laid by a firm that counts Old Trafford and Lords among its clients and while a specialist contractor continues to provide advice, the weekly care and preparation is done by a dedicated group of members.

The Editors notes.

Steve's Mat Chat title was kindly provided by newbie's Steve & Mary Day. The whole idea of this fortnightly publication was the brainwave of our illustrious President to bring club members up to speed on various topics, news and what's going on within the club. Including team results. Ladies & Men's standings within their respective Leagues. It is also a point of contact, open to all members to put over your points of view, ideas, news, tittle tattle, jokes and anything you may feel is appropriate. So if you have anything to contribute to the next issue please.

Email me: sjeynon@yahoo.co.uk.

This is a plea from the organizer of the Tourist matches. We need all members to sign up to play. Tourist matches play a big part in the club finances. They help to keep your club fees low. The first Tourist Match has been selected and will be posted in the club Monday.

- Important date for your diary

On Monday 6th June we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a mixed drawn Australian Pairs Competition. Bembridge Parish Council are sponsoring the event and have kindly agreed to provide a suitable trophy.

If you wish to play in this event, please email Gerald Rees at geraldhrees@gmail.com

To make the day extra special we intend to provide a cream tea. If you are able to help with this. Please get in touch with Gerald as above.