

WELL BOWLED

A monthly newsletter for members of Northwood Bowling Clubs

Editor: Emmanuel Aharoni

From the Club President

As I pen this message it's about mid-April. The weather is getting warmer, the **grass** is growing and our **green** looks great. What a pity then that we can't bowl and hence there's really very little I can write about. I am therefore stuck with writing an article that will in fact say, almost nothing.

The extension to the men's changing room was coming along, at last, at some pace but not since the middle of March.

The new constitution for the merged club was to have been discussed, voted on and hopefully voted in, at the pre-season meeting. We all know what became of that meeting. It will in due course, be put to the club and as it's been agreed by the previous men's club committee, the previous ladies club committee and the now merged committee, we can see no reason why the whole club will not adopt it in due course.

My thanks go to the members (I trust the very few members) who had been thinking about going to do some unofficial and limited rolling up. They appear to have heeded what I asked in my recent email to the club and they do not appear to have been to the club. Unfortunately now there is simply nothing there for any of us.

You will read in this edition of Well Bowled an article by Paul about the format of a new pairs league he had the idea of introducing. Let's hope it can get off the ground this season.

So, there you are then. That's the end of this first article for the not quite 2020 season and I have successfully drafted no less than 316 words which, as I started off by writing, in fact tells you all almost nothing because there is almost nothing at the moment to tell you. Keep well. Nigel

Welfare Report (Men)

Generally everyone appears to be optimistic and hopeful that we may be playing this season and again enjoying the usual banter. A very worrying side effect of all this hand washing is that we shall all have smaller hands and therefore need a smaller bowl size!! Perhaps we should all buy shares in the bowls makers!!

People who have had recent medical challenges are:

Ted Lintern: Had a heart related issue. He is comfortable in a safe environment. Due to patient confidentiality further information is unavailable. Our thoughts are with Ted for his recovery.

Ron Farmborough who is in his 98th year has difficulties

with his legs and can only move around on sticks. We all wish him better.

Better news is that **David Sandler** has recovered from his recent operations but his sense of humour as they say in his native Welsh Eisteddfod is going from BARD to VERSE (geddit). He thanks us all for the card and get-well messages.

Keith Meerza is mending well after his accident in Singapore and thanks us for the cards and messages and **Richard Graham** is doing well after his episode of gout - extremely painful.

Dave Perry is recovering well from his recent and very painful hamstring injury.

Manny Lester's daughter Lorraine is thankfully

recovering from the corona virus and having been discharged from hospital, is at home. Clive

Welfare Report (Ladies)

Greetings to everyone. I'm very pleased to let you know that as far as I've been able to ascertain all lady members have been keeping relatively well this year, barring a few exceptions, which is very good news bearing in mind the current difficulties we are facing.

Unfortunately, in January **Margaret Turner** fell at home and broke her leg in two places. She's been home from hospital for quite a few weeks

now and her leg has healed well. [Carol Melvin](#) managed to break her wrist and when I last spoke with her she was hoping to have the plaster removed. [Tania Drake](#) had a fall in her new flat and had to have 10 stitches in her head, but when I spoke with her she was very cheerful and had recovered well.

[Helen Brumham](#) has also recently had a fall in the street resulting in a black eye. She's also recovering well. [Jean Gorf](#) is still feeling below par and unfortunately her various hospital tests have had to be put on hold but as usual, she's making the best of things as is [Beryl Cook](#) who is doing her best to remain active after a hip operation but is still having difficulty in walking.

A few other of our lady members have various maladies but are having to wait now as hospital appointments are having to be re-arranged.

Just a reminder that I would appreciate being informed of anyone who is unwell. A card might help to brighten their day. Keep safe.

Joan Whitmee

The President's Charity

Nigel Shock received this letter from Mike Coker, the Chief Executive Officer of Harrow Young Carers:

“On behalf of Harrow Carers’ staff, trustees, our Young Carers and their families, I would like to thank you for your £295 donation. This is very much appreciated and will go a long way towards providing much needed support for young carers in Harrow. We are pleased that you have decided to choose our charity once again.

Thank you for supporting Harrow Young Carers”

From the Ladies' Match Secretary

I hope you're all OK, abiding by the rules and 'staying at home'. This is the only way we'll get through this terrible situation.

We're all hoping that the bowling season will start but when? As soon as we get the OK that it's safe to open the club. When we do, the annual Fixture Booklets will be waiting for you in the Clubhouse.

Please stay safe and hopefully it won't be too long before we

meet on the [green](#).

Miriam Dommett

From the Editor

I tend to put articles into 'Well Bowled' as and when I get them.

Not being brilliant at playing with columns and boxes, it doesn't always get printed in the order that I'd like and when I try to move boxes strange things happen.

After the world gets back to some sort of normality, I'd be delighted if someone could give me a lesson in advanced 'Word'.

Until then, you'll have to put up with it. Emmanuel

The 100 Club

Application forms for the 100 Club were sent to all members in February with their renewal forms. So far some 50+ applications have been received. At the time of distributing them we knew nothing of the present situation and its impact upon club activities. Keith has asked the Committee what should be done with the monies received so far and it's been decided that we should continue to run the draws as usual so at least one activity of the club will be normal.

The format will remain the same as in previous years, i.e. for the sum of £12 you are allocated share(s) which will be entered in the draw regularly from May 2020 – April 2021. You are entitled to as many shares as you wish for yourself and members of your family at £12 per share. The draw will be made by Keith and Carol and the lucky winners notified by post with a cheque for the appropriate amount.

If you haven't submitted your entry it's not too late to do so. Don't worry if you've lost the actual entry form. Just send a note to Keith and Carol saying how many shares you would like, with a cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to NORTHWOOD BOWLING CLUB. Their address is [9 Edinburgh Gate, Denham Garden Village, Denham UB9 5GB](#).

The first draw will take place on 25th May and to ensure that you're entered into the first and subsequent draw, your entry should be received by that date.

Good luck.

Three Wood Pairs Sunday Morning League

The original concept was for the Harrow & District (H&D) pairs teams to play together on a regular basis in a three Wood Pairs Sunday morning league.

There will be eight teams, i.e. 16 bowlers. Each team would play the other teams twice during a normal season, i.e. 14 games.

The game would last for 12 ends or 2 hours, whichever comes first. The scoring is 3 Points for a win, 1 point for a draw, a bonus point of 1 for reaching 10 shots and 2 bonus points for reaching 20 shots.

The games should be played on a Sunday morning but because we don't know when the club will re-open for the season we'll change and adapt the format so that the games will be played during the week.

We could have as many as 16 teams, i.e. 32 bowlers. This would give us the opportunity to play competitive bowls in a shortened season. (There won't be any H&D Vets matches or Bidgood League.)

All those interested, please choose your partner. Teams can be two men, two women or a man and a woman.

Email lewispaul@talktalk.net or phone 01923 835607. We can then work out the schedule and be ready for the club re-opening. The format will be dependent on the number of weeks available and how many of us sign up.

This new competition is being run by Paul Lewis and Roly Paes. We hope that it will appeal to club members and will herald in a new era for the Northwood Bowling Club.

Congratulations

In October last year [Ron Farmborough](#) was invested with the Légion d'honneur. This was bestowed on him by the French government "In recognition of his services in liberating France from enemy occupation". In his Spitfire, Ron assisted in providing air cover for D Day+2 over the Normandy beaches. The October ceremony was held at RAF Northolt and the investiture was conducted by Group Captain Nick Worrall R.A.F.

We congratulate and salute Ron on his honour and he has our sincere thanks for his efforts to help keep us safe from invasion. There is more to read about Ron's R.A.F. service and if possible, we hope to write this in a further 'Well Bowled'

[Richard Joliffe](#) celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year as did Arnold Gee and both gentlemen thank the club members for their felicitations.

[Manny and Jean Lester](#) have a new great grand-daughter, Bella Peggy. We wish them many congratulations.

Please let me know if you have news of any member (good or otherwise).
Clive Abrahams

From the Ladies' Captain

Well how do I start, with really nothing to say? We all find ourselves in this situation trying to find interesting things to say about the bowling season. I'm sure we're all trying to keep an open mind, hoping and willing that the Bowling Club will eventually open. LADIES – being that the hairdressers are closed, we will all have a **different colour** by the end of this, and also a new style, pony-tails!! *Don't know about the men.* It just remains for me to say – **KEEP SAFE, STAY IN DOORS.**

We will all get through this if we abide by the rules.

June Johnson

Club Subscriptions for 2020

A big thank you to all of you who have paid your subscriptions, even though the prospects for bowls over the Summer are somewhat bleak. We really do need this money to avoid the Club going into financial difficulty. We are due to pay a bill of £4,800 for Green Maintenance for the 2019 season (Hillingdon charge this fee a year in arrears). It requires 53 subscriptions to cover this fee alone. We also have to pay rental for the 10 year lease we have on the pavilion and changing room, which is not dependent on whether the property is in use (the current level of this is £1380 per annum) and we also have to insure the property for £920 per annum. Add to this legal fees of £1450 relating the Changing Room extension and you can see why I am asking people to please continue to pay their subscriptions! We do have a Savings Account, and Development Fund reserves, but I want the club to still have these when we re-emerge from the Coronavirus crisis next year.

Some potential good news is that the Government has recognised our plight. As we are rated as a Small Business and receive Small Business Rate Relief we believe we will be eligible for a Small Business Relief Grant of £10,000, though we cannot be sure till the money actually arrives. If we do receive this money your £90 subscriptions will be treated as the subscription for both 2020 and 2021. Any competition entry for 2020 where the competition is cancelled will be refunded (it is useful to have these entries on the renewal form as it helps to determine which competitions to run if we have time available).

Though the majority of members have sent in their subscriptions I am still missing a number of expected subscriptions, and I would like you to send me these please by 7 May. If you do decide not to rejoin you will be treated as a leaver and will receive no further communications from the Club and will need to seek acceptance as a new member next year. If you want to discuss any specific problems or concerns to me, or have lost the form you were sent earlier in the season, please call me on 01923 721323.

Cliff Short Treasurer

Alternative Bowls

Having withdrawal symptoms due to not bowling? Worried about being out of practice when it starts again? Or simply bored with all the spare time you have on your hands? No problem – technology has the solution.

There's a game called "Virtual Lawn Bowls" available for both Android and IOS devices. It's free to download although there are In-App purchases for extra features and equipment (which I've never taken advantage of).

The free version has two modes of play, practice and a short two-woods game needing seven shots to win. Your opponent is 'Blue Robot'.

The games comply with bowls rules in general although there are a few quirks, e.g. when 'Blue Robot' delivers the jack and it goes in the ditch it stays there and you bowl to a marker.

You can vary line and length of your shots in the usual way and there are occasional sound effects for a good shot.

'Blue Robot' is sometimes a great bowler and other times pretty poor, so you won't feel that you're always playing against an unbeatable computer.

On the face of it having just the basic game can be a bit boring but be warned – it can be both frustrating and addictive (just like the real thing!!).

Any of you into gaming might like to try the advanced chargeable features, which seem to include being online against other players. Ivan