



NEWSLETTER



April 2017

Winter news and sightings

The sad news

Brian Clarke remembered by Maureen Alder

After many years of declining health, with his ever faithful loving wife, Beryl, always by his side, he finally lost his battle.

When we first visited Harrow Bowls Club we were given a couple of quick “how it’s done” and advised to come down and get some practice! We nervously went along one afternoon and found 4 nice old boys who took us under their wing. Brian and his three mates taught us all about the game of bowls and, in particular, about Harrow Bowls Club. And how we enjoyed ourselves! Brian and I had many scraps – words and bowls – each enjoying the other’s company. Brian nearly always won but just occasionally I did manage to get the better of him.

Brian was a valued member of our club, enjoying the game with his friends and not seeking cups and plaudits. He was always around when jobs were needed doing and for quite a while he was a very reliable “milk monitor!” Our thoughts are with Beryl and family

Doug Hadland

Doug's daughter said that Doug loved his time at the Club and had declared us the best Club in Harrow. He also wanted us to know that everyone had been so kind to him and made his time with us a joy.

Doug was loved and respected by all who knew him and I'm sure that many of you would wish to add to the following comments from newer and more established members of the club.

Mary Warner said that the men and women of Doug's generation are the reason most of us are here today. His kindness and modesty about his contribution to the War effort was typical of 'The Greatest Generation'. She feels privileged to have known him and mourns one more hero's passing.

F/Lt Doug Hadland 162 and 692 Sqn's Mosquito Veteran



Maureen Alder wrote the following:

“This dignified gentleman has died leaving a hole in our club members. He continued playing bowls in his 90's and continued to live at home until just 10 weeks before he died. He was delighted to be able to come to our last dinner dance where he gave the loyal toast.

Those who were able to attend his funeral heard what an interesting and useful life he had.

He was married to Binks for 71 years and it was with regret that she needed to be cared for by professionals for the last few years (unfortunately she is in a poorly state of health now).

Our thoughts go with his daughter and two sons, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

I feel privileged to have had him as my friend.”

Freda Russell remembered by Pat Austin

Freda was a long standing member of Harrow bowls club, having joined in the early 80's because her husband Harold, who was a smashing bloke, was already a member of the club.

She was also a very committed member, doing lovely food on a Friday night and other countless jobs as well. She helped John to arrange to run the club tour to Felixstowe for a number of years. She was ladies match secretary for a number of years. She also started the ladies two woods triples competition day which was always very popular. Indeed at one time there was a waiting list! She also provided the very nice trophy which is in the trophy cupboard.



Although she loved the club her greatest love was her flower club. In her working life she was a florist** and she did some lovely flower arrangements and table decorations for the captain's supper and the dinner dances. Freda was a lovely and kind lady, a great mate and will be sadly missed.

**Please also see later letter from a Pinner member, Sue Webster.

The glad news



Congratulations to Ann and Peter Sharples who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary during the off season.

Anthony Gray

As we know whenever television companies wish to discuss issues related to retirement, they will illustrate with lawn bowls thereby reinforcing the idea that bowls is a game only for older people. The news that retired people are better off than those in work therefore resulted in a TV interview at Herga. Our own Anthony Gray was interviewed and so received celebratory status!



David Gillan

Our excitement knew no bounds when David was there on our screens in The Tipping Point. He came an honourable second, in line with HBC recent results!



Hint: You can print off the pictures for signing. Might be worth something!



Now we have these celebrities in our midst, we may need to provide extra security.

Work on the clubhouse.

A bright February morning produced a longing for the outdoor season to begin. The closed gate (see above) indicated a need to wait a little longer!

The green team and the clubhouse team have not been idle during the winter months. Whenever possible, cutting and treating the grass and sprucing up the surroundings. A clear out in the clubhouse to make room for more lockers revealed various clothing items from past members.



Work by your committee

So much work has been done in the winter months by various committee members to ensure that we are run efficiently and safely. Despite the danger of missing out individuals I intend to name some of the workers. Leading the way and setting the standard was our President, Mark Snell. He has been instrumental in sorting out many pressing issues. He has worked closely with our new Secretary, Mary Warner who, in addition to many other things has developed a lovely introductory package to be given to new members. Maurice Tate has as ever done the difficult task of arranging the fixtures. Phil Bayley has arranged a better phone contract which includes broadband in the clubhouse. Jai Mahadeo has unfortunately been busy in her role as welfare officer. Geoff Thomas has as ever designed and laminated posters advertising our open day and distributed them to strategic points in the Borough.

Our new website.

Utilising the expertise of a web designer called John Thompson and the input of a small website committee composed of Roland Pettitt, Neil Goodman, Mary Warner and Shelagh Zachariades the new HBC website is now up and running. Do have a look at it (www.harrowbowlsclub.co.uk) and pass on any ideas to any of the committee members.

Who know the answer?

My sharp eyed grandson noticed the following pebbles at a recent visit to the club – something I had not noticed in my 3 years here! Have you spotted it?

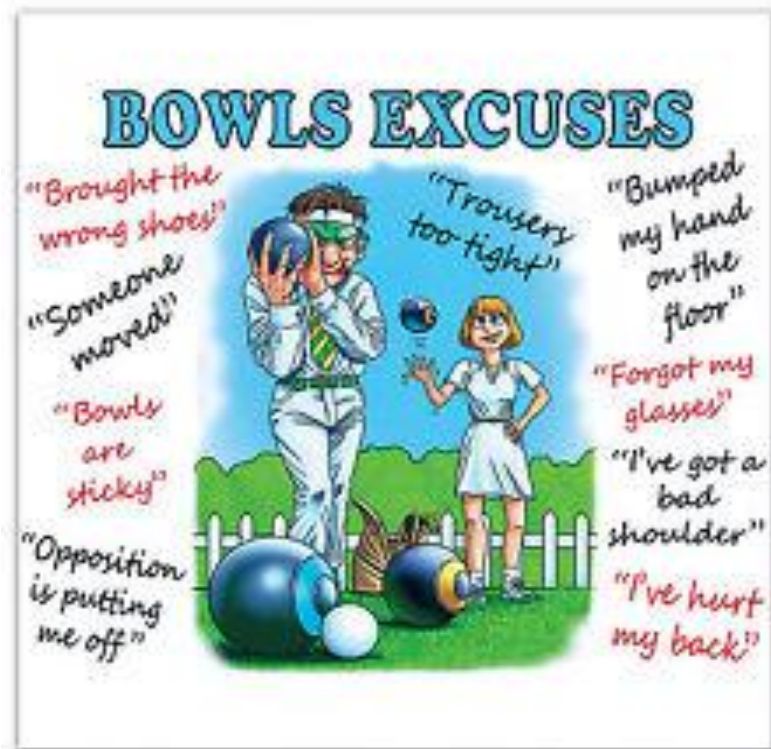


Does this date from the building of the clubhouse? I'm sure someone knows the answer?

The New Season



We need our excuses ready!!



With thanks to Maureen Alder for finding these cartoons.

All contributions to newsletters welcome.

Overheard "We're getting more better"!

It must be the cold affecting the grammar --- or in this case the grandpa!

The extra Friday evening preceding the President's versus Captain's match proved to be a cold evening but 20 hardy players completed 12 enjoyable ends.



Although this was an unofficial Friday so did not contribute to the Friday winner competition, there was a top rink of Fran Pulford, Gerry Musgrave and Mark Snell. Our new vice Captain Andrew Georgiou was welcomed although he was not playing as he was in a Herga final 2 days later.

Thanks went to the green team who have worked tirelessly during the winter. As a result we have been able to have the earliest possible start with 24 players turning up on the previous Wednesday.

New table cloths for the new season!



As can be seen from the photo above, our season started not only with the traditional President's versus Captain's meal and match, but also with new table coverings. These were purchased by Maureen Alder with the proceeds from the New Year social which resulted in a profit of £85. Incredibly the covers cost £84.99. Maureen claims to have put the 1p in her GOSH box!!

Despite the early start to the season we were blessed with a gorgeous sunny day in which to relax and play.



These warm conditions were enjoyed not just by the 2 legged contingent but also by the 4 and 8 legged attendees!



The “Dog and Spider” sounds like a good pub name and appropriately the spider competition was won by Peter Lee (the dog’s master).

44 players were available to play in the match (including a new but experienced player, Paul Adams) so 4 rinks and 2 triples were picked. Unfortunately Betty Carlin has been unwell recently and has been advised to avoid any strenuous activity so for the first time she was unable to play in this opening match. Our best wishes go to her and to Wally Rose whose health is improving and who hopes to be able to compete in some vets A matches this season.

The usual banter between captain and president preceded the match.



At the end of some closely fought matches the captain achieved a win, so closely avenging last year's defeat with a score of 107 - 101!

The Captain's top rink went to Dennis Wood, Elaine Wake and Nick La Femina who achieved a glorious 31 – 8 win.

The President's top rink went to Fay Mortimer, Allan Pulford, Sylvia Colbourne and Maurice Tate.

Secret plans revealed....

only to the readers of HBC newsletter!

Some of you will remember our royal visit in 2016. Surely we will not be honoured again in 2017. Rumours abound that the Queen wishes to remember her Sapphire Jubilee on the 2nd July and has chosen the venue.

Say no more!!





And finally a Pinner Club and Herga member, Sue Webster, has very fond memories of Freda Russell having worked with her for many years. She told me she was going to write something about Freda for Pinner members and I asked if she could give me a copy for our newsletter.

A Celebration of Freda

22.7.1926--18.3.2017

Long standing members of Pinner Bowling club may remember Freda Russell who was a member of Harrow Bowls club. Freda has been a good friend of mine for over thirty years, since we met as florists working for Mansi in Pinner.

Freda grew up on a farm in Newport Pagnell. One day in conversation I asked Freda how long she had been driving, she told me that driving had been no problem for her as she had grown up driving tractors on the farm. She was delighted when a few years ago the Mayor of Harrow invited her to attend a ceremony of remembrance at Westminster Abbey. She had been part of the Land Army during the war and this ceremony was a celebration of thanks to all those who had been part of this.

Freda moved to Harrow when her husband Harold worked for the newspapers and was based near Wealdstone. He was the first to join Harrow Bowls club and when Freda saw how much time he spent there, decided she should join as well. I think that may sound familiar to a few people! Over the years Freda did her best to get Bob and I to join the bowls club, arranging for us to have a lesson at Harrow. Sadly, it never worked till much later.

Freda also belonged to the Mothers Union, The Allotment Society, St Albans Church and NAFAS (the flower arrangers society). Her wonderful garden was raided by on many occasions for the lovely foliage she grew, when I needed them for weddings and competitions. A great organizer, Freda taught City and Guild floristry at Weald College and when she had to retire, ensured that I replaced her. Together we have enjoyed many flower related events over the years, and she was so pleased that we had finally joined a bowls club!

About three years ago when she found it difficult to manage on her own, Freda moved to Woodbridge in Suffolk to be nearer her daughter, grandchildren, and great grandchildren who all cared for her so well.

A wonderful lady of whom I have many happy memories.

Sue Webster.



