



June 2023



The better late than never edition!

President v Captain

We were all wondering whether it would go ahead or not as the rain had fallen regularly in April, and news of Pinner's green being waterlogged reached us.

Nevertheless preparations continued unabated with Liz and Jeanette preparing for the ploughman's, the green team continuing their great work in difficult conditions and Peter Lee on his knees in the ladies toilets!!!....tiling the newly refurbished toilet area – phew!



Miraculously the day dawned sunny with the promise of a dry day in Harrow. We were blessed with a perfect day for the first match between our new Captain Grant Rickells and our new President Roy Wake.



The all important choice!



Clearly the captain chose well as his team won 102 shots to 88.

Captain's top rink was Alan Goodall, Polly Lee, Liz Mitchell and Grant Rickells

The President's top rink was John Southgate, Ollie Mazzitelli, Mary Hughes and Jim Hughes.

Liz and Peter Mitchell and their team provided a splendid ploughman's.

The last 6 months

So what has happened since the last newsletter which covered the October bowls holiday to Portugal?

Mary Warner organised a fun bowls holiday to Dorset Bowls club. Very well priced and lovely accommodation and food.



The lodges were ideal for the Swaffields, Mitchells and Liddles and for Anne and Mark Snell, Barry Rudolph and their friends from Amersham.

The hotel rooms were also really good, for those less sociable members (such as us!)

We had some success in the games as indicated in the following pictures but some clubs took it rather seriously.



There was plenty to do in the surrounding area although match times caused a problem with these visits.



The intrepid crew!

But not early birds it would seem!



A full complement for dinner





I can't remember why these presentations happened!



Naturally Alice was requested at the evening entertainment.



Peter and Polly had a competitive snooker game....



But there were no opportunities to discover their artistic talents
unlike Marios at Potters!



Indoor match

Harrow v Herga in February lost 121 to 76.

Top rink Jeanette Swaffield, Marios Zach, Jim Waller.

Quite a number of our players were non indoor bowlers so that is our excuse!!

However there were a number of successes in Herga competitions which should be celebrated. Naturally Brian Elbourn excelled yet again getting through to 9 finals! He had to pull out of 3 of them as he could only play 3 matches a day over the finals weekend!



At the other stage of his bowls career was Pradip Tailor, who reached a final in his first season at Herga... Unfortunately I didn't take his picture. Sorry Pradip!

Mary seemed to be up on the green regularly and will have her name on the Honours Board.



Mary deserted by her triples team (Tony Ret and Peter Lee) got a sub for the picture!

Meanwhile back at the ranch (well, HBC clubhouse), short mat was played throughout the winter and winners were proclaimed.



Triples team



Familiar pair!

HARROW BOWLS CLUB SOCIAL EVENT



Wednesday 1st February 2023

You are cordially invited to a

**POST CHRISTMAS
LUNCH GET-TOGETHER
AT THE CLUB HOUSE**

12 for 12.30pm

BRING FOOD TO SHARE
(HOT OR COLD, SWEET OR SAVOURY)

THERE WILL BE A SMALL CHARGE OF

£2.00

PER PERSON TO COVER HEATING, TEA/COFFEE

We were away for this but I understand it was very successful.

Shelagh's tour of Medical Gallery at the Science Museum was very well attended and ended up at Santa Mediocina.



Hopefully I have not missed any key event during the off season. If I have please let me know and I will correct any omission in the next newsletter which should follow fairly soon now A level exams have finished!

To end on a sad note:

Two members of HBC sadly died during the winter season.

Michael Toher joined relatively recently in 2019 and was a valued member of the Green Team. He can be seen below wearing his green shirt.



John Austin who died in April was one of the long standing members of the HBC.

In 2021 John and Pat earned the rare distinction of the award of The Certificate of Long Service for 30 years club membership.



Mike Rosenthal wrote the following obituary which was emailed to members:

John Austin, along with his wife Pat, joined HBC in 1991 as experienced bowlers from North Greenford and he earned the reputation of being a loyal and popular member of the club. Although his name does not appear too often on the Honours Board, he was winner in 2001 and 2006 of the over 65 singles and in 2006 the men's 2 woods.

John was a good enough bowler to represent the club at all levels and among others competitions was member of the winning team H&DBA Fours in 2014 and 2015.

Runners up in the Centurion Cup in 2016



He celebrated his 90th birthday on 9th February this year and he treated members to a celebratory drink.

John was always a willing volunteer for the club and for many years performed the important function of assistant bar manager to Mike Rosenthal. For the last few years, despite health issues, John was a regular visitor at club nights and other social functions. He will be greatly missed.

We have been delighted to see Pat back at the club recently and would love to see her out on the green soon.

This poem which completes the first newsletter of 2023 was read out at John's funeral.

POEM

Roll Up

by Norm Murray

read by James Macleod (grandson)

Sir Francis Drake knew what to do
When the Armada loomed:
He finished off his game of bowls
- England was never doomed.

By his example we all know
(Without a trace of bias)
The roll up's the important thing,
Whatever else may try us.

In pairs or fours, and triples too,
Our days are measured out -
To drive, or draw to either hand
Is what life's all about.

Our green and rink, in dazzling white,
To our best game we're true;
So when your bowls are in our way
We "weight" to follow through.

In sun or breeze we're on the mat
- Enjoyment is our aim -
And if the weather's not too hot
We'll never skip a game.

So while in life we're all obliged
To play so many roles,
I'd like to spend eternity
With others - playing bowls.

