



be-news

Your electronic update from Bowls England - December 2008

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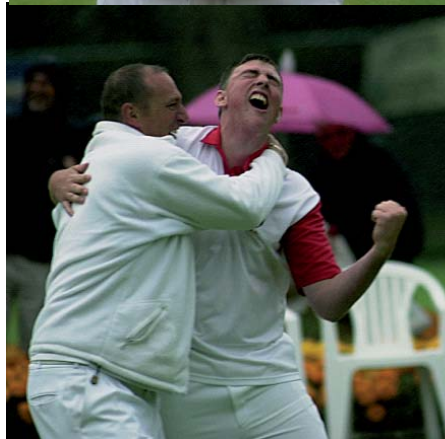
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For the latest news and updates from Bowls England, visit the website:

www.bowlsengland.com

Save water, save money for your club

THE Water Regulator OFWAT is encouraging water companies to alter the way in which non-domestic customers are charged for drainage services.

Most companies currently charge according to rateable value, but the Central Council for Public Recreation (CCPR) is aware that Northumbrian Water and United Utilities now charge sports clubs according to site area. OFWAT is requesting all companies to move to 'site area charging' by 2010.



Bowls England has been working with the CCPR to assess the impact on bowls clubs, so that the CCPR can raise the issue on behalf of all sports with OFWAT and other bodies. Two examples of the increased cost of the site area drainage models for bowls clubs are given below, and as can be seen the cost increase is significant:

Club	Water company	Previous cost per annum	Current cost per annum	Percentage increase
Redcar Borough Park Bowling Club	Northumbrian Water	£1,000	£1,432	43%
Dalston Bowling Club, Carlisle	United Utilities	£648	£1,248	93%

How to reduce costs

Site area charging is based on the non-permeable surface area of a premises, on the assumption that all water falling on these areas will enter the drainage system. As the water companies do not check the accuracy of this assumption before making a charge, the bill received may be artificially high.

To reduce your drainage bill clubs need to demonstrate to the water company that less water enters the drainage system than what they are charged for. For instance, if water runs into a nearby stream or canal, then this should not be charged. Many clubs will however need to take measures to reduce the amount of water entering the drainage system.

Actions include:

- capturing water running off roofs in water butts, and using this for maintaining permeable areas (this could have the added benefit of reducing the cost of water used)
- digging soak-aways so that water does not enter the drainage system

Once you have taken this action you need to contact your water company either to register a formal appeal against your bill or to request a rebate claim form. If the company refuses to negotiate then please inform the CCPR - just e-mail: research@ccpr.org.uk

What else is happening?

CCPR believes this new system, which charges sports clubs as if they are businesses, fails to take into account the benefit sports clubs bring to their communities. CCPR is therefore working with other representative bodies to raise the profile of this issue, and to negotiate a solution with OFWAT.

For more information go to: www.ofwat.gov.uk

Edna and Jamie-Lea claim 'Bowler of the Year' awards

SOMERSET'S Edna Bessell and Warwickshire's Jamie-Lea Winch took the honours when the 'Bowler of the Year' awards were handed out at the Women's Annual Dinner on Friday 21st November.

Bessell capped off a season of triumph by being named as the first 'The Times/Henselite' Bowls England Woman Bowler of the Year.

The award followed a season of triumph for the Yeovil Bowls Club player, who retained the Four-Wood Singles and won the Two-Wood Singles at the Women's National Championships, then led her county colleagues to victory in the Walker Cup.

David Rhys Jones, who presented the award on behalf of the bowls press, said: "Edna is a remarkable woman and despite the claims of others, her inspirational efforts meant there could only be one winner this year."

18-year-old Jamie-Lea from Bilton Bowls Club was then named Bowls International/Bowls England 'Young Woman Bowler of the Year' in recognition of her achievements over the past 12 months – including victories in both the National Junior Singles outdoor and the World Junior Singles indoors.

David Rhys Jones explained: "Jamie-Lea has had an exceptional 12 months and is now a force to be reckoned with at both junior and senior level."



Rachel is named youngest qualified umpire

CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel Proctor from the Benfield Bowling Club in Northumberland - who has become the youngest qualified umpire in England at the age of just 16.

Rachel has been fully supported by funding from Bowls North of the Tyne - an initiative that gained 'Awards for All' funding to help promote the sport of bowls in Northumberland. Rachel's umpires kit and the main items of her umpires uniform will be funded by Bowls North of the Tyne.

Rachel, who began bowling nine years ago said: "I'm simply addicted to bowls. Two years ago I became the youngest level two coach and then I was asked to consider becoming an umpire. Now I fully understand the rules and regulations of bowls game and feel I can enjoy the game much more knowing that I'm playing it the right way - I'd strongly advise people of all ages to take part in this."

Benfield Bowls Cub is the School of Excellence for Youth Development in Northumberland - running weekly sessions throughout the summer for young bowlers in Northumberland. Rachel is pictured receiving her umpires kit from Brian Critchlow of the English Bowls Umpires Association.



Top tourism award for Bowls England

BOWLS England has won a top regional tourism award for its work in promoting Worthing as a holiday destination.

The organisation, which has its headquarters in the town, won the 'Tourism & Leisure Category' in this year's Worthing Business Awards – beating off stiff competition from 'International Birdman' and 'Ice Prince' to take the honours.

The award was made in recognition of Bowls England's organisation of the Men's National Championships that are held each August at Worthing's Beach House Park – attracting thousands of players and spectators to the town.

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, said: "The Men's National Championships are one of the highlights of the summer season, both for players and spectators.

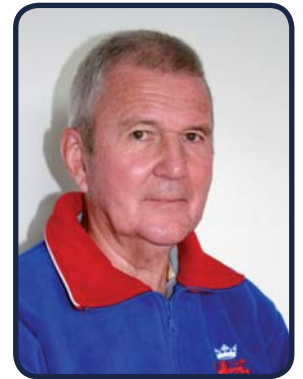
"The finals have been held in Worthing since 1974, and continue to provide a much-needed boost to the local economy with visitors filling up the town's hotels, pubs, restaurants and shops during the fortnight.

"We work closely with Worthing Borough Council and Continental Landscapes throughout the year to ensure the Championships are a success, and I'd like to thank them for the part they have played in helping us to win this award."

New Manager for Men's Senior Team

BOWLS England has announced the appointment named Devon's John Smerdon as Men's Senior Team Manager for the next two years.

John has represented England both indoors and outdoors, and has been a selector since 2000. He was also instrumental in the development of an outstanding crop of young players in his own county as Manager of Devon's Under 25 team from 1987-2003.



John Smerdon

John replaces Cumbria's John Bell, who was recently appointed Performance Co-ordinator for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

On his appointment, John said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been named as the England Senior Team Manager, it really is 'the icing on the cake'. We should always be proud to represent our country – whether playing on the green or in an administrative position – and it will come as no surprise to anyone that I hope to bring my own style to this very important post. The International Selectors and I aim to ensure a win in Ireland next year and on home soil at Worthing in 2010."

John will stand down from his current position as a Selector to take on the role of Team Manager.

Update on bowls and the Olympics

BOWLS England has received a lot of enquiries to ask why bowls is not an Olympic sport, and what is being done to address this, especially with London being hosts in 2012.

A lot of work needs to be done to gain Olympic recognition, and it is a long process. Firstly it must be played throughout all Olympic areas, including the Caribbean where lawn bowls is not currently played. To address this World Bowls is currently investigating the possibility of introducing the sport into the Caribbean with the Commonwealth Games Federation.

World Bowls is also a Member of the Confédération Mondiale des Sports de Boules (CMSB), which is a Recognised International Federation for all bowls type sports. It is felt this will bolster the lobbying powers for lawn bowls to be included in the Olympic Games in the future.

The IOC continues to review the sports programme for the Summer Games. The shortlist for inclusion in 2016, from which two will be chosen, features rugby, baseball, softball, karate, squash, golf and roller sports. A decision will be made in October 2009.

Bowls England will continue to support all efforts made by World Bowls to achieve Olympic recognition for our sport.

Ware BC, Hertfordshire, win Bowls England 'Club of the Year'

WARE Bowls Club in Hertfordshire has been named as Bowls England's first 'Club of the Year'.

They beat off stiff opposition from Putney Town (Surrey) to win the prestigious competition, which is generously sponsored by Drakes Pride.

Ware BC will receive a number of prizes including six sets of bowls from Drakes Pride, the Tony Allcock Trophy (to be kept for one year) and the 'Club of the Year' flag. Putney Town BC will receive four sets of Drakes Pride Bowls and the D'Arcy Drayton Cup (to be kept for one year).



Other clubs highly commended by the judging panel were Syston (Leicestershire), Horsham Park (Sussex) and Prittlewell (Essex).

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, said: "I am delighted to announce Ware BC as the first winners of the Club of the Year title under the Bowls England banner. I would like to congratulate all those clubs who reached the final stages and thank Drakes Pride for their continuing support of this competition, which really does highlight the great work that is going on in clubs across the country."

Ware Bowls Club was formed more than 80 years ago, and now has 110 members with ages ranging from 11 to 92. Desiree Stockwell said: "We are really pleased to have won the Club of the Year title. Over the last 12 months we have done a lot to attract new members, including a gala for local Scouts and Guides. We also added new changing facilities and worked hard to maintain the high standards of our green and surrounding areas. We also have a strong social side with events arranged through the year for members to enjoy, including quiz nights, card games and bingo."

As winners, Ware BC will receive six sets of Drakes Pride bowls, The Tony Allcock Trophy (to be kept for one year), two free Tickets to the Bowls England Annual Dinner and Presentation of Prizes, Bowls England Pennant and the Club of the Year Flag.

Details on the 2009 Club of the Year competition will be released ahead of the new season - watch this space for details.

Concern over 'straight' bowls raised with World Governing Body

BOWLS England is calling on World Bowls to review the minimum bias of the current 'master bowl' after receiving increased complaints about the use of 'straight' bowls from Members.

Tony Allcock has written to the Chief Executive of World Bowls, Gary Smith, asking the Board of World Bowls to look at the existing minimum standards for the bias of flat green bowls.

Tony Allcock said: "Whilst it is accepted that there is a process in place to test the bias of bowls, our Members are very unhappy with the manufacture of bowls which are perceived as 'straight' and feel that their introduction has been detrimental to the art of bowls, particularly in this country. Bowls England is concerned about this very point and has to support the views of many members. To that end we have written to World Bowls to ask its Board to reconsider the implications of the accepted minimum bias of the current 'master bowl', and to take the appropriate action."



Advice on 'moveable groundsheets' to clubs

BOWLS England is warning clubs against the use of 'moveable groundsheets' after advice from World Bowls and insurance experts.

Groundsheets are often used by clubs to protect the green. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Edition) state that groundsheets, when used, will be placed in the same position for the duration of the game and should be securely fastened to the surface.

However Bowls England was contacted by a number of clubs asking it to approve the use of portable groundsheets, which clubs put down before each end on different parts of the green.

In light of the advice received, the Bowls England Competitions Committee decided 'moveable groundsheets' would not be recognised by Bowls England as it is not possible to assess the risks associated with their use.

Tony Allcock explained: "There is no single type of 'moveable' groundsheet, making it impossible for Bowls England to carry out a risk assessment on them. Therefore, having considered the issue carefully, we do not endorse 'moveable' groundsheets and they should not be used in National or County competitions. Those clubs wishing to use them for all other matches, including club friendlies and leagues, must be aware of the views of Bowls England and Bowls England's insurance advisers Perkins Slade. Clubs may however continue to use fixed groundsheets in line with Law 19.1.5 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls."

New unified body for bowls in Cornwall

BOWLS Cornwall, the new unified body for outdoor bowls in Cornwall, was officially formed on 15th November following a merger of the Cornwall County Bowling Association and the Cornwall County Women's Bowling Association.

Bowls Cornwall will manage the bowling activities of the 47 clubs and approximately 3,000 players in Cornwall.

It will be managed by an Executive Board that will look to improve services and promote the sport to prospective new members.

David Parr, Chairman of Bowls Cornwall, said: "Bowlers have nothing to fear from Bowls Cornwall and much to gain. They will notice virtually no changes to the competitions, matches and leagues that they currently play in, the major changes are in how we administer the sport at county level.

"I would like to pay tribute to the two former associations and thank everyone who worked so hard to get us to this stage."

In a further development, David has joined the Board of Cornwall Sports Partnership. The Cornwall Sports Partnership, one of 49 across England, is a partnership of organisations working together to make sport a part of everyday life in the area and includes representatives from health, education, local government, sport, police and local businesses.



David Parr

Presentation to Honorary Member

NORMA Willis, English Women's Bowling Association President in 1979, is pictured receiving her Bowls England Honorary Member Certificate and Medal at the Hertfordshire AGM from Peter Lundy (President of Herts BC).



Dates for your Diary - 2009

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st February: Closing date for National Competitions

Saturday 21st: Bowls England AGM & Men's Dinner - New Connaught Rooms, London

Sunday 22nd (to Sunday 1st March): European Championships - Cyprus

MARCH

Friday 27th (to Saturday 4th April): World Junior Cup - Australia

APRIL

Wednesday 1st: Bowls England Annual Conference - Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa

MAY

Monday 4th to Saturday 16th: Atlantic Rim Championships

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th: Women's International Trials - New Lount BC, Leicestershire

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th: Men's International Trials - Norgren BC, Warwickshire

JUNE

Sunday 14th to Thursday 18th: Women's British Isles Championships and International Series - Jersey

Thursday 24th to Sunday 28th: Men's British Isles Championships and International Series, Ireland

JULY

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th: Women's British Isles Junior International Series - Ireland.

Saturday 25th (to Sunday 9th August): Women's National Championships - Royal Leamington Spa

AUGUST

Saturday 8th (to Saturday 22nd): Men's National Championships - Worthing

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th: Men's Junior International Series - Wales

Saturday 12th to Sunday 13th: TLH National Top Club Championship - Torquay

Saturday 19th to Sunday 20th: National Mixed Pairs - Goodwood BC, Leicestershire.

NOVEMBER

Friday 20th: Women's Dinner and Prize Presentation - Walkers Stadium, Leicester

Saturday 21st: Bowls England EGM - Leicestershire (venue TBC)

Commonwealth Games 2010 - Initial Squad

JOHN Bell, England's Performance Director for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, has announced a shortlist of 24 players. The squad includes several new faces including the young Devon trio of Natalie Melmore, Sian Gordon and Sam Tolchard. There is also a return to the international fold for Somerset's Edna Bessell, the women's national singles championship winner for the past two years.

They will now go through a series of matches and assessments before the final team of 12 for the Games, consisting of six men and six women, is named in September 2009.

The full line-up is:

WOMEN: Edna Bessell (Somerset); Jayne Christie (Bedfordshire); Sue Davies (Worcestershire); Ellen Falkner (Cambridgeshire); Sian Gordon (Devon); Sandy Hazell (Kent); Wendy King (Kent); Natalie Melmore (Devon); Amy Monkhouse (Lincolnshire); Catherine Popple (Huntingdonshire); Pat Reynolds (Huntingdonshire); Lynne Whitehead (Derbyshire);

MEN: Stuart Airey (Cumbria); Mark Bantock (Buckinghamshire); Craig Docherty (Cumbria); Lee Haywood (Devon); Neil Hope (Leicestershire); Mervyn King (Norfolk); John McGuinness (Buckinghamshire); Robert Newman (Berkshire); Graham Shadwell (Wiltshire); Simon Skelton (Derbyshire); Sam Tolchard (Devon); Mark Walton (Yorkshire)



European Team Championships 2009

Bowls England Supporters Package

SPORTING Highlights, sponsors of the Bowls England National Mixed Fours, is offering a 10 night package to Cyprus for the 2009 European Team Championships from 20th February to 2nd March.

Packages start from £745 per person - giving you the opportunity to see the England team in action and enjoy some winter sunshine at the same time.

All packages include scheduled flights with British Airways, bed and breakfast accommodation at Athena Beach hotel, airport transfers, social events and island sightseeing, ensuring you make the most of your time on this beautiful island.



Sporting Highlights is a trading name of Sporting Destinations Ltd and is a member of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA No W9311) and a fully bonded licence holder with the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL No 9206), ensuring both high standards of professionalism and financial security.

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When booking any holiday ensure your agent is fully licensed by ABTA and ATOL, your travel plans and financial security could be at risk.

Bowls England Special Offer - Book now and save £80!

Sporting Highlights is offering a discount of £80 per person for all bookings received from Bowls England Members before Tuesday 23rd December.

More information:

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