



Surrey County Bowling Association



Who can believe that this season has seen the best weather for 6 years!! Some rain but sun all the way, and yet.....probably one of the worst season's in recent times for cancelled games, reduction in the number of rinks and reduction from 'Fours' to 'Triples' in many club fixtures. WHY? I do not have an answer; if you think you have, then please let me know. A contributing factor may be cost; cost of petrol, cost of meals, cost of after match drinks, whatever it is let's hope that it does not continue into both the Indoor season and the 2014 Outdoor season.

New County Strip

The 2014 season will be ushered in with a new County Shirt and Jacket. I am aware that the acquisition of a sponsor namely 'the co-operative funeralcare' is not everyone's cup of tea, but our sport needs to go where the money is, and at the present time its with the biggest sponsor of bowls in the British Isles. Many of you may not be aware that the deal with the 'co-op' is a countywide one involving all four codes. This is a first in the sponsorship of a County as one entity, and the sub-committee that worked on this should be applauded. I have heard members criticise the amount of money on offer (£20,000) over 5 years, but I would point out that the money is not the whole point. The money initially has been put to acquiring a set of 'Surrey' colours common to all four codes. Those who play for Surrey, whether we play our sport in the open or under a roof are now able to be identified as a 'County', not unified but aligned. This sponsorship should not be viewed as job completed, but hopefully it may lead to further backing which will assist all codes in their efforts to make our sport more attractive to new and indeed current players.

Requiem for the 'Home of Bowls'

The last National Finals were played at Worthing this season, from 2014 all Nationals will be played at Leamington.

What to some has become an annual holiday by the sea will be but a memory, however visitors can still get their feet wet by visiting the spa.



This years finals were not as successful as some for our County, but we did have success with the U25 squad reaching the White Rose Final and Duncan Heard from Woodbridge Hill a Finalist in the Champion of Champions. Congratulations to them and a well done to all our players who actually got to the 'last Worthing'.

The picture above does not typify the weather during the Championships, but it could be used to depict the weather at some events in past years. A single keen supporter sits alone in the stand under his umbrella waiting patiently for the rain to ease and play to begin. Joe Stevens has played and attended Worthing many times, let's hope we see him at the 'New Home of Bowls'.

Recruitment

Erling Hansen the County Development Officer has been working with all Areas this season advising on methods of recruitment and retention of members. It will be interesting to see the figures returned from clubs. It is hoped we have continued to build on the success of last season.

For your Diary

The County Finals this season were played on a Sunday as an experiment. This seems to have been a success and will be repeated next season with a change of date to avoid both the Surrey Cycle event and the change of date of the Middleton Cup Final. Put the date in your diary NOW.

SUNDAY 27th JULY 2014

County Men's 2 Wood Singles

It is appreciated that the trial of a play-by date basis this season was not wholeheartedly welcomed by players. A meeting to decide on next season's format will be held in September. It is possible that a system incorporating rounds played on a single day at Divisional venues may be tried in an effort to reduce travelling time and cost to a more economic basis.

DON'T FORGET

County Dinner 2nd November

AGM 9th November

@ Reigate Manor Hotel , Reigate

Details from Secretary