

HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT VETERANS BOWLING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Number 24
December 2018

A review of the past month, a preview of the coming month and more

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR READERS**



to

**Tommy Lynes
of Brockholes BC**
for sponsoring this
issue of the newsletter

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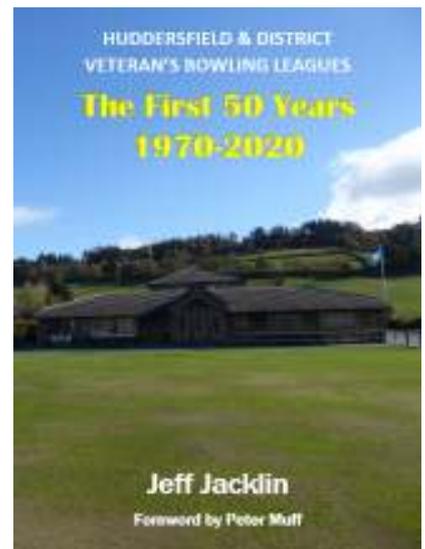
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THE FIRST 50 YEARS

In about 12 months from now a new book recording the first 50 years of Veteran's League bowling in Huddersfield will be published to coincide with our 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee celebrations. With extracts from the Association's official records over the time period from 1970 to present day, with special reference to the League's formation and first year in existence, the book will provide a comprehensive history of both our Leagues.

The book will also contain profiles of every one of our clubs competing in the 2019 season which will include photographs, honours listings and much more about all our member clubs in a unique 2019 snapshot of bowling in Huddersfield.

Peter Muff, former Chief Sports Writer for The Huddersfield Examiner and former Veteran's League bowler with Slaithwaite C&BC, has kindly written the Foreword to the book.



There will also be stories on some of our clubs and bowlers over the last 50 years, some of which have already appeared in this newsletter but some new articles as well. With over 200 pages all about Veterans League bowling to fill I am now appealing for clubs and individuals to inundate me with photographs and information about your club and your bowlers, with old and new team photos especially welcome. Use the email address alongside or phone me on 07968 171 197 and help to make the book a really worthwhile record of life in the Veteran's League over the first 50 years.

50th ANNIVERSARY PLANS

The work continues on building a programme of events to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Association in 2020. The Sub-Committee working on this has established an indicative budget and is now looking to supplement this by seeking sponsorship of some of the events. Current focus being on the two major events to kick-start the Anniversary season and then one at the end which will double up as the Presentation Night.

Lots of exciting ideas are being put forward but until the budget is fully established nothing has been confirmed. Anyone interested in sponsoring an event should contact the General Secretary, John Hoyle. It is also hoped to provide some memorabilia that will serve as a lasting memory for bowlers and clubs playing in our League in the 2020 season.

A commitment has been made to share plans with all the clubs at next February's Annual General Meeting and it is expected that by then a full programme will have been drawn up with all the costs identified as well as how those costs will be met. Exciting times and it is only right that this milestone in the Association's history is marked appropriately.

INTER-DISTRICT AGM

The Yorkshire Inter-District League held its Annual General Meeting at PPG Canalside on Friday 3 November. It was agreed that the start times for matches in 2019 will be brought forward to a 1.00pm start. The Chairman and Secretary were re-elected unopposed, namely Norris Briggs (Chair) and Secretary Chris Hassleby. The draw for the first round of matches in the 2019 season was made which will be held on Friday 3 May and is:

Leeds	v	Huddersfield
Wakefield	v	Halifax
Bradford	v	West Riding
Castleford	v	Skipton

We are still looking to finalise the Captain and Manager positions for both the Home and Away Inter-Districts teams and it is hoped to make some progress on this before Christmas. Anyone interested in any of the roles is invited to contact Frank Greenwood or John Hoyle before 10 December.

In addition the first round draw of the one-day Hickson Trophy KO competition was also made. The 2019 competition is being staged in Barnsley and our opening opponents are Leeds. The 2018 Champions, Sheffield, are drawn against the 2018 Inter-District Champions from Halifax so we have done well to avoid that half of the draw. We hope to improve on last season's early exit when we missed out to the hosting Castleford team in the opening round of games. The full 2019 draw being:

Skipton	v	Castleford
Huddersfield	v	Bradford
Sheffield	v	Halifax
Leeds	v	Barnsley

NEW SEASON TRANSFERS

A number of early close-season transfers have already been completed along with some new bowler registrations. Some of these registrations taking advantage of the new lower qualifying age for bowlers which is now just 60 years old.

TRANSFERS FOR 2019 SEASON			
DATE	NAME	FROM	TO
16-10-18	Brian Hamilton	Primrose Hill Lib	Marsh Utd
28-10-18	John Fawcett	Holmfirth	Brockholes
08-11-18	Michael Bell	Brockholes	Ravensknowle Park
08-11-18	John Swallow	Brockholes	Ravensknowle Park
12-11-18	Stuart Greaves	Clayton West	New Mill
20-11-18	Dave Worrall	Netherton Con	Marsh United

NEW REGISTRATIONS FOR 2019 SEASON		
DATE	NAME	CLUB
15-10-18	Harry Redman	Rastrick
15-10-18	John Booker	Marsh United
05-11-18	Rob Allen	Golcar Lib
08-11-18	John Kneeshaw	Ravensknowle Park
11-11-18	Derek Hey	Holmfirth
17-11-18	David Frost	Thorpe Green
17-11-18	Martin Skuse	Thorpe Green
23-11-18	John Wise	Paddock I&C
23-11-18	Peter Brier	Paddock I&C

CLUB REPS CORNER

As you can see by the listing above the transfer season is now upon us and any club wishing to transfer a bowler from another club needs to contact the League Secretary in the first instance. He will then contact that bowler's current club to check that there is no reason that the transfer cannot go ahead, such as any outstanding financial commitment, before finalising the transfer and updating the Bowlsnet system accordingly.

Any club proposing to enter or withdraw a team for the 2019 season needs to do so before the 14 January deadline. Otherwise all league memberships just roll forward, you don't need to register a current league team again.

The League's Annual General Meeting will be held at 2pm on Monday 18 February. Get that date in your new 2019 diary.

A new HDVBA Data Protection Policy has been approved by the Management Committee and is available from the home page of the HDVBA website. This ensures that we fully comply with the new legislation and protect any personal data that you provide us with.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

I am very grateful to **TOMMY LYNES** of **Brockholes Bowling Club** who has generously sponsored this issue of your Newsletter. If you would like to sponsor a future issue then it costs just £20. Full details from the editor.

My Bowling Life
MY FIRST COUNTY GAME
by Allan Dobson - Referee



Equipment check: long tapes, measures, 'fishing line' measures (perfect for longer measures after a strike but difficult to use in windy weather), calipers, feeler gauges (used twice), telescopic measure (ideal for shortish measures if no one to help), start sign, coins, pens.

My first men's senior county appointment, Cheshire v Wales, I'm one of only three (now four) referees in Yorkshire District qualified to referee the top matches - no pressure.

Uniform check: Blazer with name badge and BCGBA referee badge, decline not to wear gold star presented to senior referees in Yorkshire. I spent thirty years wearing uniform in a previous life and I've no wish to look like an Argentinian General. BCGBA referee tie, sun hat (had skin cancer three times, not looking for a fourth), waterproofs, black woolly hat.

Factor 50 sunscreen, banana, bottle of water - matches start at 2pm and end approx 5pm, no break for the match referee. (Hope bladder behaves, had to nip behind privet hedge at Paddock C&BC once during a ladies county match!)

10.30am set off for Knutsford, arrive 12 noon, 1 hour to practice time.

Mug of tea and introduce myself to officials of both sides.

Pre-match checks, walk round the green (any obstructions near the gutters?), check 12 jacks and mats (prefer the ones with circles, better to accurately measure to centre point if long tapes are needed).

Meet appointed measurers (now 'Assistant referees'), brief them ('Watch my back') and check their equipment. 1pm practice commences, home team 15 minutes, 5 minutes break then away team 30 minutes. Brief both teams and captains, must inform me prior

to striking (plenty of spectators around green completely oblivious to what's happening on the green), no stamping/running down the line (they've heard it all before but I go through the motions), finally enjoy the game and play in a good spirit.

1.50pm Loo!

1.59pm After spectators and players are welcomed by the Cheshire President, first players called to the green, shake hands, hand away player jack and mat and away we go.

I was hoping for a quiet uneventful afternoon - how wrong could I be.

The Welsh team had arrived by coach with many of their supporters in full voice carrying crates of lager. Half way through the game one guy fell full length onto the green (how come they never spill a drop?).

As the afternoon continued the decibel level grew louder and a group of young men standing at a corner of the green were clearly becoming troublesome. The Welsh Vice-President tried to intervene but was getting nowhere.

One lad in particular was becoming a right pain and I warned him about coming onto the green. Eventually his behaviour was completely out of order and I asked the two measurers and Cheshire officials to have him removed from the greenside.

On the green things were fairly orderly, the only situation I had to get involved in was when one of the players was insisting to play a mark along the side of the green and wouldn't lead the jack until the mark was available. His opponent made his displeasure known by leaving the green and sitting down on a bench! This was clearly bad sportsmanship, but not specifically covered by the Laws of the Game.

I had a quiet word with the bowler regarding playing to the spirit of the laws and it did some good. A few years later I was an assistant at a Yorkshire versus Warwick and Worcester match at Elland and the same situation occurred. I know plenty of bowlers and referees who think it is entirely acceptable, I'm not sure.

After the match I always thank my measurers/assistants for their work. I verify the match result with the team managers and later phone the chief executive BCGBA with the team scores.

A quick drink and free tea and back home by 7pm. £30 match fee plus 32p per mile mileage.

As a footnote, I received full backing both from Wales and BCGBA for my action and the individual in question was banned from attending county matches for 12 months.

Next month: How did I get into refereeing?