

Jack High



An occasional newsletter of the Greystones Bowling Club Issue 1—2013

2013 Calendar

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

One Off Events

- Thur 21st Mar** Fun Quiz Night
- Sun 7th April** Unfurling at 1.30 sharp followed by Pre Season Friendly Vs Dun Laoghaire at 2.30
- Sat. 13th / Sun. 14th April** Open weekend to attract new members
- May** The John Dunne Trophy
- June** Jim Hayden Trophy
- July/August** BLI Championship Finals
- Mon 5th August** The Festival Trophy
- August** LBLI Championship Finals
- August** Presidents Prize
- Sept** Triples Weekend
- Sat 21st / Sun 22nd Sept** Finals Weekend
- Sun 29th Sept** Closing of Summer Season.
- Thur 24th October** AGM
- Fri 22nd November** Presentation Dinner

Weekly Events

- Sun 14.30** Club Roll Ups
- Mon 14.00** Ladies Practice
- Mon 18.30** Men's Division 5 League Matches
- Wed 14.30** Ladies Division 2 League Matches
- Thurs 11.00** Veterans Matches
- Thur 18.30** Social Roll Up / Coaching
- Sat 11.00** Ladies Saturday League Matches
- Sat 14.30** Mens Division 3 League Matches



We are not far off the start of the new season and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a successful and happy years bowling.

Our club is quite small and if we are to continue it is very important that we encourage New Members to join our Club. We have acquired a few very good recruits over the last two years but it must be a priority for all in the club to continue to build on this.

We will be fielding two Ladies' and three Men's Teams and I would appeal to all our playing members to

give all their support to their Captains during the season and I wish them all every success.

Our Calendar for the year is on this page in order to let the members know when the events are taking place so take a note of these and try to keep the dates free for bowling.

In closing may I thank all our members for their support over the last year and hope that it will continue for the future. *Mike*

CHANGES TO BLI RULES FOR 2013

There was good news and bad news from this year's BLI AGM. The high-lights were

The motions to reduce Division 3 to three rinks was again overwhelmingly defeated.

It was agreed to form a sub committee to format a composite motion re attire and this to be brought to next years AGM.

The Crumlin motion to change the vets start time

from 1.00 to 11.00 was passed. It was agreed that the Gate would play their home matches at 1.00 and Herbert Park at 2.00. The Gate are barred from using the green before 12.00 and in Herbert Park's case parking is free from 2.00 on.

Our motions re changing Division 3, The O'D & Shott cups and championship pairs and fours matches to 18 ends were passed, so we will be

playing 18 ends on Saturdays in future.

Up to this, things were going well, but then came the bad bit. A motion by CYM to reduce Division 5 to 2 rinks despite the opposition of the BLI Officers was passed.

Despite our best efforts to transfer to Division 4 we remain in Division 5 and will play with only 2 rinks this season.



Sally and Kryan

During the last bowling season some of you saw me with a 'guide dog' and expressed an interest in how I came to do this voluntary work. So the following is a short explanation of the work of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind (IGDB) and my involvement with them. IGDB is a national charity dedicated to

ONE GIRL AND HER DOG

helping people who are blind or visually impaired and families of children with autism to achieve improved mobility and independence.

I am a volunteer puppy walker and have been doing this work for the past five years. All the family become involved with the rearing and training of the new pup, which arrives at our home at age seven weeks. During the year the dog spends with us, he learns the basic commands of sit, down, stay and wait and he is socialised in all situations, including public transport, restaurants, shopping centres, hospitals, hair dressers, schools etc.

He learns to sit quietly while I bowl, or play badminton or attend a meeting or Church service. He must also have lots of interaction with young children, who can be boisterous and rough at times.

The care and training of each dog including feeding, veterinary costs, etc, is calculated to be 38,000 euro from birth to retirement at approximately 10 years. 85% of IGDB income is through voluntary contributions.

My last pup Kryan, (who was our fourth pup) became very familiar with Greystones Bowling Club during the past year and has just left us to continue his training in Cork. We were sad to lose him, but hope he will go on to help change a life for the better in the years to come.

Will we get another pup??? Absolutely!!!!!!

Sally Ryan

WHOS WHO IN GREYSTONES BOWLING CLUB

President	Mike Brophy
Treasurer	Ann Barry
Secretary	Aidan Kelly
Captains	Anne Brophy & Tom McGrath
Greens Convenor	Pat Davis
PRO	Sally Ryan
Exec Committee	Sheila Maxwell, Joe O'Brien, Pat Smyth

IF

If you can always roll the jack, right at your skipper's feet,
 If you can always draw the shot, the one that must be beat.
 When asked to play a 'yard on' do you judge it to perfection?
 And when you're called to drive, can you always make correction?
 If you can come up smiling when the other bloke,
 Puts your good shot out of play and treats it as a joke.
 If you're the one who saves the day, I'll say to you my son,
 "You're a bloody hero, what's more the only one!"

Practice with a purpose

Prepare for the position you are playing in your next match e.g. if it's LEAD, practice rolling the jack to different lengths, vary the mat position.

Work on your weaknesses – Play the hands and lengths that you try to avoid in a competitive match.

Prepare for the unexpected – Draw to off-centre jacks, near the rink boundaries or close to the ditch.

Support your Team Mates.

Team Spirit

Resist providing unnecessary information – 'you're not up/you're narrow/you're heavy, again'.

Watch your body-language.

Work as a team – if the situation allows it, let the player, play the shot they fancy.



"There's nothing wrong with saying hard luck!
 Just learn to do it without the snigger."

Lead: "How much am I short?"

Skip: "You ought to know, you're closer to it"

MESSAGE FROM THE MEN'S CAPTAIN



We cannot start the New Year without recognising the very successful 2012 season. Our congratulations go to Captain Brian for winning the Div.5 League scoring 85.5 points, to Captain Greg for steering his team to a very creditable 5th place in Div.3 and to Pat Smyth, Greg Tierney, Aidan Kelly and Mike Brophy for crowning the year by bringing the Mercredy Cup to Greystones.

We have a very challenging year ahead, firstly to emulate the successes of 2012, but also to be able to give all the members wishing to play competitively the

chance to take part in league fixtures, now that by the decision of the B.L.I. Annual General meeting, our Div.5 matches are limited to two rinks.

We had sought to be included in Div.4 but notwithstanding our record in Div.5, 3rd 2009, 2nd 2011, 1st 2012, our application was not looked on favourably.

We have not entered the I.B.A. Cup, or the Shott Cup this year, but will open our assault on the O'D Cup at home against Bray B on Sunday 26th May.

Let us all cooperate with

one another and try to improve on the achievements of last season, while seeking to ensure that all our members get their fair share of competitive fixtures.

Jon



MESSAGE FROM THE LADY CAPTAIN



Greetings Ladies

Hope you over-wintered well – some of you kept 'your hand in' with the odd game in the All Weather League, while some 'rested-up' for the battles ahead. Our entries to this year's leagues and cup will be a repeat of last year and with a little more effort, we might improve on our very creditable 3rd place finish of last season.

Because of the number of clubs in Div 2 (7) this year, we will have a break in June. But, look on the bright side – you have an

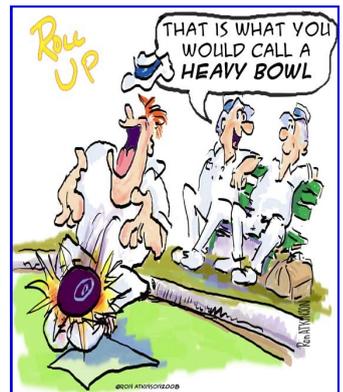
opportunity to take a mid-season holiday and you can enter lots of LBLI competitions. Over the years, Greystones Ladies have had great success – in the past 3 years, we have won the Junior Singles/Trips/Rinks (twice).

We will hold a Pre-season General meeting on Monday 25th March and hopefully, the entry forms and further information, will be available then.

The Domestic competitions are another opportunity to 'give it a lash', and I hope to see lots of entries from the Ladies Section.

Remember bowling should be FUN as well as a challenge – let's get those bowls rolling on that lovely grass.

Anne



MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER



The bowling season is nearly upon us again and soon we will be out practising and playing for 2013 and I for one am looking forward to it. A little reminder to all you fellow bowlers, keep your memberships coming in as time passes quickly. So for those who have put it on the long finger send your memberships to me as soon as you can.

Ann

OUR NON PAYING MEMBER

I would be very surprised to find a member of the club who has not come across our black and white member who without paying subs brazenly enters the green without the correct footwear and attempts to divert bowls delivered by fee paying members. Don't worry I am not referring to a human, it is none other than the Pied Wagtail and obviously it is more than one individual bird. Pied Wagtails have been visiting the Burnaby Park green since its formation, in fact founder members remember wagtails nesting in the hollow blocks of the banks of the green before they were covered in. The name of this species is of course very descriptive and self-explanatory, pied means black and white and it does indeed wag it's tail – a lot! It is also known as Willie Wagtail, though the origins of the name are obscure. In Irish the name is Glasóg shráide which literally means the grey young one of the streets. I think this suits the wagtail perfectly as its bobbing walk is suggestive of a

cocky young person walking down the street. You can imagine it saying "Are yea startin', I'll buuurst yea!", especially as your bowl heads toward it.

The Pied Wagtail is a common resident found throughout Ireland, the population is estimated at over a quarter of a million. Which means, that it is with us twelve months of the year. However, a few intrepid individuals do fly south to France and Spain in the winter for some winter sun. In hard winters wagtails from Britain and the continent move to the 'warmer' Ireland. According to ringing records from these islands the furthest recorded distance travelled by a Pied Wagtail is 4,775 kilometres to Mauritania in western Africa. The individual would have weighed about 21 grams and it was just over a year old when it was found dead. The record for the longest living Pied Wagtail is just over eleven years, although the average is two years.

Of course our 'bunking in'

visitor is in fact using us bowlers to help it feed. Our bowls disturb insects on the surface of the green and our pied friend is waiting to catch them with that little hop into the air. In hard times it will also eat seeds.

Pied Wagtails form large communal roosts at night especially in the winter months. Birds roost for a number of reasons, to keep warm, to have safety in numbers if a predator arrives and believe it or not to exchange information about local areas for good feeding. One of the most famous roosts in Ireland used to be the one in O'Connell St. Dublin. I say 'used to be' because the rejuvenation of the street in recent years has basically eliminated the roost. Earliest records of the roost were in 1929. The highest count recorded was around 3,600 wagtails in the plane trees that went down the centre of the street, though usual numbers were between 1,000 and 1,500.



Even though these trees lost their leaves in the winter there was still a full degree difference in temperature between the centre of the street and the areas at either end. At Christmas time the addition of the evergreen Christmas tree on the old Nelson's Pillar site was welcomed by the wagtails, who could be seen flitting in and out under the Christmas lights. In recent years I have seen a similar, though much smaller roost in the main street of Gorey. So next time our friend arrives to dodge your bowls on the green I hope you will view him, or her (no way to tell them apart visually), in a totally different light!



A SHORT HISTORY OF BOWLS



The history of bowls has been traced back to the ancient Egyptians. It is believed they played with stones - probably selecting the small round ones that weren't any good for building pyramids with anyway.

From Egypt it spread to Greece and Rome; where the Romans played "Bocci", and that word is still used in Italy today. We can doubtless thank them for introducing the game to England. It was in the thirteenth century that the game as it is played today became popular. There is a positive recorded history of bowls having been played in England as far back as the 12th century, and it could well have

been played much earlier than that. It is primarily an English game, and the Southampton Bowls Club is reputed to be the oldest in the world, its lawn having been laid in 1187. The green was in regular use by 1299 and the club has a tournament every year to mark that history.

Unlike the Egyptians the English, of course, wanted to machine perfectly spherical bowls from fine lumber they obtained from remote parts of the empire. So in the early days of bowling it is generally accepted that the game centred around hitting the target, as opposed to getting the bowl as close as possible to

it. Until one day in 1522 a bowl belonging to Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk split in two. He rushed indoors and sawed off an ornamental ball from a banister. Accordingly, one part was flat and it took a curving direction at the end of its run, instead of continuing in a straight line. This led him to discover he could bowl curved shots and sneak around other bowls near the jack. Today all bowls have a certain built in bias.

We do know that Henry the VIII played bowls but banned his archers from playing the game. They were spending too

much time bowling and not enough time practicing archery. Sir Francis Drake also played bowls - and in one famous game - told his men not to worry - he would finish the game before taking up arms against the invaders. It is believed that he lost the match but won the subsequent battle.

In Italy it became Bocce Balls. In France it became Boile. In England it became Lawn Bowls or simply bowling. In the USA it became ten pin bowling after someone lost the instructions and rules on the way over. Nowadays most bowls and bowling equipment comes from Australia where the sport is very popular.