



OEBC NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017



No: 10

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

As outgoing captains we would both like to thank everyone who supported the friendly matches and the league games. Overall we didn't do badly so please continue to support whoever takes over next year.

We would also like to congratulate Nic and Sue Bennett, Mike Ruffhead and Pat Sweet for managing to win enough games to get to Leamington. As far as we know, they are the first from OEBC to get there and although they didn't come away with the top prize, they, and we should still be proud of them for getting that far. WELL DONE ALL OF YOU!

Ron and Brenda Smith
Captains

NEWS FROM THE LEAMINGTON TEAM

NATIONAL MIXED FOURS 2017

THE FULL STORY

This story reports on the successful journey made by Pat Sweet, Sue Bennett, Mike Ruffhead and Nic Bennett (with assistance from Peter Campbell) in the Bowls England National Mixed Fours.

The team were one of forty nine entries in the Kent qualifying area, with only one place available to qualify for the National Championships at Royal Leamington Spa, to participate in the Last 16.

Round 1 - 23rd May - Away at Bromley BC

Opponents - Sally Jacobs, Denise Porter, Bernie Todd and Chris Smith.

This 1st Round match was the highest scoring of all the games. After losing the first two ends, we ran up a sequence of 4, 5, 4, 3, to lead 16-3

after just 6 ends. Then all of a sudden the pendulum swung the other way, so that the score was 20-20 after fifteen ends, with us having dropped two fives along the way. This wasn't the end of this up and down contest, as just when we thought we were getting into trouble. Bang!!! We picked up a five and a six, and after 19 ends we were shaking hands. Everybody on both sides were shell-shocked at playing such a strange game.

Final score - 32-21.

Round 2 - Home

After three suggested dates to play were offered to opponents from Bellingham BC, none were accepted and so our team were awarded a walkover. Always a disappointing way to win, but onwards to the next round.

Final score - Walkover

Round 3 - 13th June - Home

Opponents - Olivia Moulton (VCD BC), Sophie McIlmurray (Met Police BC), John Russell and Bob Shields (both Bromley BC).

This 3rd Round match was the lowest scoring of all the games. We led almost from start to finish, with just going behind once, after 13 ends. We made a quick start, to be 5-0 up after two ends, but this was our biggest lead until towards the end of the game. Every time we pulled away, they kept coming back at us, until on the 13th end we dropped a three and found ourselves 9-11 down. However, we dug deep and ran off a winning sequence of six ends, to lead 18-11 with two ends to go. Despite dropping two singles, we held on for a five shot victory.

Final Score - 18-13

Round 4 - 3rd July - Away at Blackheath & Greenwich BC

Opponents - Jane Barnes-Warden, Geoff Barnes-Warden, Gloria Stockwell and Darren Willis.

Mike was in 'sunny' Scotland, so his place in the team was taken by Peter Campbell.

This game had a very similar pattern to the previous round, but we did not go behind at any point. Another quick start saw us 4-0 up after two ends, but after dropping a four on the 10th end, we found ourselves all level at 10-10. Two singles for us followed by two singles for them saw the score at 12-12 after fourteen ends. We then had a good little run and managed to lead 20-13 with two ends to go. That would normally be a comfortable lead to hold onto, but with the whole team failing to get in a back wood, we dropped a five, as Darren picked up the jack with his last wood.

By mistake, their lead put up a full length jack, leaving it sitting on a big bare brown patch of dried earth. Nothing was going to stop anywhere near that kitty. Their front three players then proceeded to drop all of their bowls at least three yards short and although we had nothing too close, we were holding three or four, with nothing within a yard. We knew that all they could do now was for Darren to draw both his bowls for a drawn game. It was very unlikely, but unbelievably he managed to get both bowls within two feet. Nic had one bowl left to win the game and bowling down the big swinging hand, his bowl just made it to the edge of the dry patch and slowly rolled up to the jack. One shot! Won by three.

Final Score - 21-18

Area Semi-Final - 14th July - Away at Chatham BC

Opponents - Marie Fitzgerald, Becky Moorhouse, Chris Fitzgerald and Keith Hysted

Mike was still away for this game, so once again Peter stood in.

An accident in Chatham held us up and we were not going to be able to arrive by 6pm. We called ahead and they said not to worry. We eventually arrived just after 6pm and their team all met us in the car park. It was a lovely welcome and gave good first impressions. Chatham BC was a new experience for the whole team, but we found a fantastic club, with excellent facilities, very friendly members, an excellent green and floodlights, which ended up being required.

Another great start, winning the first two ends and then leading 10-3 after nine ends. Then disaster, we dropped a six. Then after a few tight heads, we were 12-14 down after fifteen ends. However, we once again kicked on, winning the next four ends. To give us a six shot lead with two ends to go. This time, we managed the end of the game a bit better and comfortably held on under the floodlights, for the four shot victory. Area Final, here we come.

Final Score - 21-17

Area Final - 1st August - Home

Opponents - Anna Hall, Rosina Hall (both Cheriton BC), Mick Fisher and Jeff Vane (both Canterbury BC)

We knew that this was going to be an extremely tough game, against a rink full of current county bowlers. However, home advantage turned out to be massive, as we raced into a 16-1 lead after just eight ends, while they were trying to get use to our slow green. Eventually, their ability started to come to the fore and they clawed their way back into the game, with some excellent shots coming from their backend. However, with four ends to go, we still held a ten shot lead and although they won each of those ends, we kept the heads tight enough to only concede ones and twos, so we eventually won by three shots. Next stop Royal Leamington Spa!!

It was also great to have so much support from Excelsior members who turned up to watch. They all got right behind us, but also appreciated good bowls from our opponents. Mick Fisher commented on this good sportsmanship, stating they see very little of this around the circuit.

Final Score - 22-19

National Finals – Last 16 – 1st September – Royal Leamington Spa

Opponents - Hampshire – Julie Hudson, Sue Dadson, Alan Geary and Chris Daniels

It was 8.45am and already a beautiful day. We arrived at the club in Victoria Park, to find all five greens looking immaculate and freshly cut.

We booked in, were given our white stickers and went to get changed. At 9am we queued with the other teams, to be presented with our National Championship badges by the Bowls England presidents and to have the official photograph taken.

Now it was time to play. We headed to rink C5 (right in front of the huge clubhouse) and met our opponents. The green was much quicker than we were used to, but initially we settled in the better, winning the first two ends, but this was to change. Overall, throughout the match our opponents bowled just that bit better man for man and woman for woman. Added to that, we never really got used to the various lines on our rink and it all became a bit of a struggle. However, despite losing a total of thirteen ends, we kept it to low scores throughout, so that after fourteen ends we were only five shots behind and felt like we were still in the game. This did not last long though, as suddenly the skip (who also skips for Hampshire) showed his quality, playing shots that prevented us from scoring again.

We gave up after nineteen ends, but although initially very disappointed at the result, we eventually realised the enormity of what we had achieved and were proud of our performance. Looking across the rinks, there were several current international players, which just confirmed the quality of the company we were in.

It was also wonderful to have support from Excelsior, with Russ and Lisa, Peter Campbell and Brian Rolfe all travelling up to watch. It was a shame that we did not give them much to cheer, but fully appreciated their presence.

Final Score – 8-22

Nic Bennett



WELL DONE TO NIC, SUE, PAT AND MIKE

BBDAB FINALS

Congratulations also go to Russ Snashall and Peter Campbell for winning the BBDBA Pairs for the second year running. Also congratulations to Mike Ruffhead, Terry Lanchbery and Ian Ashurst for coming runners up in the triples.

FRED AND GLADYS TYLER
KNOCK OUTS
14 SEPTEMBER 2017

**BELOW IS A COPY OF THE TWO EMAILS RECEIVED
AFTER WE HOSTED THE NWK KNOCKOUTS**

Thanks again for last night. No complaints re our rink (6) and an awful lot of hard work went on re the bar and catering (and having to cover your unfortunate plumbing problems!!) plus the person in the car park who directed us out with their high vis jacket and torch late in the evening !!!!!

Well done to all at Orpington Excelsior!!!!

Malcolm Whitehead
West Wickham B.C.

D FIGG

I am sure Malcolm will not mind me using his thank you.

I would like to add my thanks to Orpington Excelsior for the incredible effort your club put into the cup finals last night. You made us feel welcome from the off and all the arrangements added to a very successful night.

Thank you very much,
David

MACMILLAN
COFFEE MORNING
AT
ORPINGTON
EXCELSIOR



FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER
2017
FROM 10.30 am

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS
WORTHWHILE EVENT