

To keep members informed, the Joint Executive Committee (on behalf of both divisions) will be publishing newsletters with information about forthcoming events, County Competitions, national moves that will affect everyone and any other hopefully interesting bits and pieces. Clubs and individuals are welcome to send contributions for the Newsletter on anything they wish to communicate to others – perhaps you have a tournament coming up that you wish to advertise or want to publicise a notable success of a member.

Let me have anything at glosbowlssec@gmail.com – David Skeats

County Competitions

In the Men's Division's competitions are well underway with the later County-wide stages being reached for

Triples Semi-Final

Olveston (John Smallwood) v EDF (Robin Powell)
Barnwood (Steve Mills) v Fairford (Ken Sawyer)

Pairs Semi-Final

Cheltenham (Ben Coldrick) v Olveston (Joe Hardwick)
Barnwood (Dave Stokes) v Fairford (Nigel Cansdale)

Both Semi-Finals will be held at Bishops Cleeve BC on Sunday 22 July at 09:30.

2-Wood singles competition is at the **quarter-final** stage with the both this and the semi-finals to be held at **Cheltenham Spa BC on Monday 16 July at 18:00**. A list of the quarter-finalists is on the website.

The Ladies competitions are still at the sectional stage. These will be reported next time.



Inter-County Competitions

The **Men** are currently involved in three inter-county competitions

Middleton Cup (6 rinks) – we are in a regional group with Devon, Wiltshire and Worcestershire. The first game was against Worcestershire and resulted in a convincing win (18 – 4 on points). The **next game**, likely to be the crucial one, is **at home** (Cheltenham BC) **against Devon on Saturday 16 June at 14:00**. Support always welcome. The full team along with other news is on the website (under the competitions tab).

Balcomb Trophy (2 rinks) – the first game is against **Wiltshire on Sunday 10 June at Wotton Bassett BC at 10:00**. The team is on the website.

White Rose Trophy (2 rink under 25's) – an excellent win against Warwickshire (52 – 43) means we now face a game against **Somerset** in the regional final at **West Backwell BC, Bristol on Sunday 17 June**.

The **Ladies** have played their first **John's Trophy** (6 rinks) game in their regional grouping of Devon, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. This was away against Worcestershire and resulted in a draw – 11 points and 108 shots each. Next game is again away against **Warwickshire on 23 June** followed by the final regional game against **Devon at home on 7 July**.

Again, teams and further information available on their website.

100 Years for Cheltenham BC

Cheltenham Bowling Club is celebrating 100 years at Suffolk Square following the move from the Winter Gardens in 1918. First established in 1883, the club's membership featured a number of prominent councillors and business men. The acquisition of a former market garden at Suffolk Square for £500 provided the basis for the new greens.

First green being laid in 1917



From the first time a bowl was bowled at Suffolk Square at 5pm on Saturday 11 May 1918 the club has evolved to become one of the major clubs in the county, having excellent facilities, a stable membership and a continuing crop of good club, county and international players.

Two events had a major bearing on the development of the club at Suffolk Square. In 1955 this rustic thatched



THE ORIGINAL LINNIS PAVILIONS WITH 1955 BILLIARD ROOM EXTENSION.

pavilion built in 1922 was burnt down. It was replaced by the existing club house. Secondly, in 2001 the members voted in favour of ladies becoming full bowling members of the club (allegedly first proposed in 1930 and taking 70 years to reach fruition!).

To celebrate this Centenary Year, the Club held a Gala Dinner at the Queens Hotel in January (a location synonymous with the club's previous location), hosted a match against Bowls England in May and plan a Centenary Tour to Torquay in September.

The greens today



BOWLS - A BIT OF HISTORY

The oldest lawn bowling green in the world is in Southampton. It claims that it has been in continuous usage since 1299 though a club in Derbyshire claims an earlier beginning. In 1366, King Edward III outlawed bowling because it was diverting his troops from archery practice. In 1477, King Edward IV issued an edict against "*bowles, closh, kayles, hand-in and hand-out*" for similar reasons. Closh is an early form of croquet. Kayles involves knocking down pins with a stick instead of a ball.



King Henry VIII enjoyed lawn bowling. However, he banned the game for those who were not "*well to do*" because "*Bowyers, Fletchers, Stringers and Arrowhead makers*" were spending more time at recreation than practicing their trade. Henry VIII declared that anyone who kept a bowling green had to pay a fee of 100 pounds. However, the green could only be used for private games and the edict forbid anyone to "*play at any bowle or bowles in open space out of his own garden or*

orchard".

Handbooks and Websites

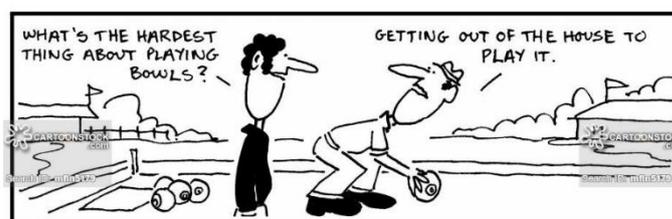
The JEC have committed themselves to reviewing divisional handbooks and websites. A small committee of the two divisional secretaries and competition secretaries has been established to prepare proposals for next year.

So much of what is common to both divisions is published in both handbooks (at considerable cost) and on each website that it should be possible to bring this together into one place.

Competitions are the major area of divergence between them.

The review will include all aspects including the handbook sizes.

If you have any views on the current arrangements, please let me know so that they can be included in the considerations.



Updating

The men's website is regularly updated with changes to member's or club's information. See the errata item under the information tab for any changes.

Future Items

Remember if anyone wants to provide material for this newsletter, please e-mail me at

glosbowlssec@gmail.com

Thanks – David Skeats