

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION
(website at www.wscsmba.org)

NEWSLETTER No 10

November 2006

I thought that it was about time that I go around to issuing a further newsletter now that the Winter season is finally underway. I have started this time with an item that has been the subject of discussion at one or two clubs and which has also been a cause of concern to one or two of our umpires.

Weighted Woods – I recently received a query from one club as a result of a discussion that took place concerning what constitutes a ‘weighted wood’ that should be declared and what action can be taken. The only person who can strictly enforce this rule is an umpire who can administer a warning and then if it happens again, remove the player from the game. I am informed that this came close to happening at a recent county competition and it is the last thing that any of our umpires really wish to do. However the safety of the players must be paramount and there is a requirement for players to declare a ‘weighted wood’. If such a situation occurred in a game when an umpire was not present and any club were concerned about any particular person who consistently takes such action, that club should report the matter to the County Committee.

The vexing question is – ‘what constitutes a weighted wood?’ - and it is of course impossible to define what weight is potentially dangerous, as the speed of mats differ and what would be considered a ‘weighted wood’ on a fast mat would only be a normal wood on a slow mat!!! The ‘interpretation’ that I feel best covers the situation and that I always quoted to people at the Nationals and at ICC Neutral Venues when I was running things was as follows: **‘Any bowl which is delivered with such force that it - is likely to - cause woods to leave the mat should be considered a forcing wood and should be declared – both verbally and visibly and any adjacent mats and spectators should be warned - before the bowl is delivered’**. The player in charge of the rink at the head end is responsible for taking this action and should not allow the bowl to be delivered until such action has been taken.

Having said this there will of course always be bowls that are delivered with a reasonable amount of weight that have not been declared, that just happen to knock woods off the mat but in these cases the bowl normally rolls off at a very slow pace. We really should all know what a real heavy wood is – I use them myself and they can be quite dangerous if people are not warned – only this week whilst away on holiday I caused a bowl to go over the fender. Fortunately I had warned people and there was no damage!!

We have a considerable number of senior bowlers who are not quite as agile as they used to be so it is important that warnings are given. Also in competitions the mats are often quite close together and woods leaving one mat could easily disturb the head on an adjacent mat so if you are one of the guilty parties please in future ensure you give a warning. Thank you.

League and Knockout Cup: - The Winter League season is now underway and all fixtures and results are published on the county website as soon as they are received. The second mailing to clubs for whom I have an email contact will by now already have been sent out. Since the original formation of the league for this season we have accepted a new club, Reigate Park, from just over the border in Surrey and they have joined the NE Div 2 to replace the Zorros. Two fixtures have already been postponed, the circumstances of which will be looked at by the Management Committee. Several other fixtures have also been rearranged due to changes to ICC matches. Clubs are reminded that if they intend to play any player from another club in their league team they are required to notify the League Organiser before that player plays in his/her first League game. In the Knockout Cup a few of the first round games have been played and results of these are available on the website. Clubs are reminded that the option of playing players who are registered with another club is Not applicable is KO Cup matches.

County Matches: - The Summer League team did exceptionally well this year coming second in their group and then achieved a notable success in the Semi Final against a strong Essex team who had won the other group. Unfortunately Oxfordshire who they had played in the group stages, were once again too strong for them in the final, but congratulation must go to all the players who took part.

The Premier Team played at home on 7 Oct beating Hampshire 23-13 and 206 shots to 158. The A Team fixture against East Sussex scheduled for the same day was postponed by East Sussex. On 4 Nov the A Team playing away at East Sussex won 24-12 but on the following day the Premier Team suffered a really heavy defeat 7-29 away at Oxfordshire. The B team played two friendlies – on 7 Oct they achieved a very creditable 16-20 loss away at Essex and then at home on 14 Oct comfortably beat Surrey 30-6. The following are revised dates for ICC matches:

Premier & A Team AWAY to Surrey – now Sun 14 Jan 07

A Team Home to E Sussex – now Sun 17 Dec 06

England Under 18 Select: Four of our juniors have been included in the England Under 18 Select Squad which plays matches against county teams throughout the winter season. Last year we hosted one of these games here in West Sussex and this year matches have been arranged against North Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Hampshire. The juniors who will be involved in some, if not all, of these games are Matt Allen, Dan Blackman and Adrian Walter from Ashington and Chris Page from The. (formerly The Foxes)

County Competitions: – On Saturday 9th September the Junior/Senior Competition was played and the final consisted of two teams from Ashington with Adrian Walter and Pat Garrett beating Matt Allen and Ron Booty. Saturday 30th September saw the first of the major County Competitions taking place, the Champion of Champions and the Unbadged Pairs. The Champion of Champions contained 12 players who had won their club Singles Championships and produced some excellent bowling all day. After a ‘round robin’ stage the competition proceeded to a Knock Out and such was the tightness of the games that both Semi Finals were eventually won on the last end by a single shot with Ken Clark (Mannings Heath) beating Keith Hawkins (The) and Rod McBeth (Upper Beeding) beating young Adrian Walter (Ashington). The final was equally well contested and resulted in a win for Ken Clark over Rod McBeth, by two shots. In the Unbadged Pairs the final was won by Sheila and Maurice Merritt (Ashington) who beat Shirley Weeks and Terry Berry (Midhurst Eagles).

The County Triples were played on Sunday 15 Oct and were won by a team from The Martlets comprising Kyle McGowan, Marc Lancaster and Craig Burgess. The Ashington Team of Chris and Dan Blackman and Michael Matthews came second with teams from Upper Beeding (Jean Armour-Milne, Neil Jackson and Tony Hills) and Lavant (Peter Winter, Rob Pierce and Tony Bleach) losing in the semi-finals. The following weekend the Charity Fours was won by a team from Crablands, with Midhurst second and The Martlets third.

The County Fours on 11 Nov was won by four players from The SMBC - Keith Paternoster, Eric Jackson, Paul Fisher and Malcolm Rollings with a further four players from The SMBC being the losing finalists – Carol Hawkins, Bernie Deeble, Keith Hawkins and Andrew Jackson. Teams from the Martlets and Bognor Goodwoods were losing semi finalists.

London to Paris Bike Ride - Many of you will remember being asked to sponsor Sharon Orman, daughter of Jim Orman from Upper Beeding who took part in the London to Paris bike ride on 2nd September. I attach below a report on the event.

We did it! On 2nd September a team of four cyclists from my works joined 70 other Lycra clad comrades and left London (Trafalgar Square) to cycle to Paris (Eiffel Tower) to raise vital funds for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

On day one we battled the rain and wind to complete the 78 miles from London to Dymchurch. Somewhat surprisingly I won the yellow (well white with big red spots) jersey for being the ‘rider of the day’. Whilst day two had slightly more favourable weather we did have rain and an equally torturous

amount of miles to cover which included a very hilly section in the afternoon. Day three saw glorious sunshine as we peddled through the streets of Paris to cross the finish line under the Eiffel Tower.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those bowlers who have supported my fund raising. The total raised should be just over £3000. – Sharon Orman.

Congratulations to Sharon on her achievement – rather her than me!!

Mats: One club is seeking to dispose of two old mats – not very good but may be useful to someone! A club is also looking to obtain a medium speed mat - any club that has any mats for disposal may wish to let me know!

200 Club: Further winners so far this year are detailed below:

Month		1 st Prize - £25		2 nd Prize - £15		3 rd Prize - £12
Jul 2006	52	Storrington SMBC	144	Beryl Simmons	142	Jackie Lee
Aug 2006	95	Allan Tyler	92	Mary Fair	112	Phyllis Whale
Sept 2006	84	Pat Garrett	90	David Garrett	109	Ashington SMBC
Oct 2006	70	Joyce Shaw	116	Allen Tolley	120	Alex Ayre
Nov 2006	116	Allen Tolley	117	Mary Langridge	115	Fittleworth VH SMBC

Renewal forms will be sent out in November.

Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome; these can be in the form of a match report, a competition report or just a letter. Articles for inclusion should be sent to:

Rod McBeth, 30 Manor Road, Upper Beeding, West Sussex, BN44 3TJ or emailed to rmcb@ntlworld.com.