

The BUGGLE

EDITION NUMBER ONE 2019



It was only to be expected in our first month of play-a mixture of Cats and Dogs and where are my sunglasses? Sadly the cats and dogs won when the men were due to play Esher and the game at Oxshott was also lost to the

wet stuff. We managed to get ten ends played in our friendly against Ashford before the rain sent us scuttling for cover. That game saw us break new ground by having tea before we bowled in order to let the weather settle a little.

OPENING EXCHANGES

Our first few weeks brought the Arsenal" invincibles" to mind as we opened the season with eight straight wins in our mixed matches.

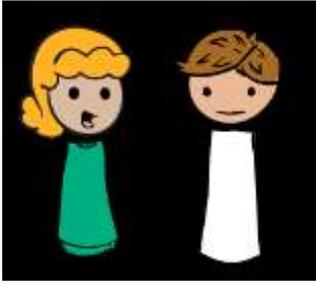
Among the highlights were a massive eighty seven shot victory away at Sunningdale on a super playing surface. They keep the green themselves and it is a delight to play there. I think our indoor skills helped us significantly in this our first match of the new outdoor season. Most of our team had not rolled a bowl before this game.

In the past we have suffered some painfully bad losses at Knaphill but surprised them by winning all five triples to record a thirty one shot win. The first leg of the Spelthorne Shield at home saw us register a thirty seven shot lead ahead of the second leg at Staines.



It was just as well because some of our rinks could not manage their heavy green. Staines recovered a lot of ground but we hung on to retain the trophy for the sixth consecutive year- but just by eleven shots.

Our excellent run of wins had collapsed at Cambridge Park. They took great delight in beating us by eight shots in a 69-61 victory. Unfortunately we had to cancel our away match at Tongham. This was partly due to a clash of fixtures but even then we only had six names on our match sheet for a five rinks fixture. In order to compensate them we will play the return fixture on August 11th away rather than at home. The Captains will have their long handled whips out to fill that match sheet!!



MIXED TRIPLES LEAGUE

As has become normal our first mixed triples fixture was away at Stanwell. In my fourteen years at the club I have probably played in this game at least ten times. Only once have I been warm and have got very wet on too many occasions.

There was nothing new this year. The forecasters said it would be mucky in the day brightening in the late afternoon. They must have been talking about Canada!!

It was a miserable- cold- wet experience once again. So bad we had to shorten the game otherwise we would have been doing the backstroke up and down the green.

The only bright spot was registering a nine points to one win.

Fordbridge Park were our second opponents this time on our green in much better weather. With some sun on our backs and a good paced green we saw off Fordbridge with a thirty one shot- ten nil win.

The return match with Stanwell was played in the right weather and we blossomed as a result. Wins on three rinks gave us an eight points to two third win.

OTHER LEAGUES

The men started the NWS Double Rink league with a home fixture against Egham. They included two “big name” new signings in their squad but found us a bit too hot to handle as we registered a three points to one win.

Sadly we could not maintain that form as we lost by the same margin at home to Chertsey the following week.

Our Ladies won their opening Surrey Advertiser fixture at Byfleet and the NWS Ladies registered a win in their opening match against Ashford.

Unfortunately they went on to lose the next two matches against Chertsey and Knaphill.

The TVL Double Triples(Two home- two away) programme opened against Masonians. A very close match saw each club win two games but Masonians edged the result on shots for a seven and a half to five and a half win.

We then played Hounslow and recorded a ten points to two win before losing eleven one to West Ealing. This match could easily have been an overall draw but two final ends saw our opponents come back from losing positions to gain their team near maximum points.

LADIES MATCHES

Our opening month has seen the ladies play three friendlies gaining wins against Strawberry Hill and Staines. West End just pipped them on our green by 46-43. A fourth fixture against NPL was cancelled but their fixture secretary forgot to let us know they could not play. Lots of apologies have been received.



CONGRATULATIONS

Well done President Isabel Morton and Tina Cooper on being selected again for the Middlesex Women's John's Squad.

Well done also to our Ladies Four of Carole Kowalski-Tricia Eales- Frances Donohue and Pam Foskett on reaching the quarter finals of the County women's fours. This result means that Tricia Eales will receive a colts badge next season.

In a strange twist of fate they will be playing our new member Kay Stockley, who will skip the four from Hurlingham Park.

A BIT OF A MOAN

It has been a struggle for the most recent matches to put out full teams. The captains have had to advertise and cajole in order to fill out the required number of players. A string of away matches has perhaps been a factor. It was noticeable that home league matches were heavily oversubscribed whereas the away friendly games have had minimal support.

We need to find a way of improving the situation if only for the Captains sanity.

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

We only entered one National competition this year and that sadly saw us make an early exit.

Cambridge Park were our downfall in the Tony Allcock over 60 double rink. On their green we found it hard going on one of the two rinks and had to shake hands after eighteen ends.

RECRUITMENT

Excellent work by Frances Gershfield and Andy Gibbon saw a total of thirty one people attend our three taster sessions.

Andy now has the task of arranging coaching for those that intend to follow up their initial interest.

Our thanks go to them and the volunteers that helped with the programme So that is May wrapped up-a very encouraging start to the year.