

BOWLS NORTHUMBERLAND

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2009

Editorial

Welcome to a new publication aimed at bringing you all the up-to-date news and action from around the County.

Published monthly 'Bowls Northumberland' will be available to view on-line at www.bowlsnorthumberland.com as well as being distributed to all clubs.

(To receive your own personnel copy see our subscription offer on the back page)

Each month we will bring you reports and results from the various county fixtures Leagues and competitions, covering both the Men's and Ladies Association's.

Catch up with the developments of 'Bowls North of The Tyne' (BNOTT) as it continues to make a big impression on the sport for the benefit of us all.

Look out also in future issues for our 'Club Scene' and 'Members Corner' - Here we hope to bring you news, views and items of interest from all clubs, but in doing so we will need your support.

You can help by forwarding me (Details on back page) your stories, topics of interest or just general points of view on the game.

Summer 2009

With another outdoor season almost upon us one can't help but wonder what the weather will have in store this time round. Often I find forecasts to be enlightening but in general hilarious.

In 2008 our so called experts had predicted a tropical style summer, with some of the hottest temperatures expected since records began. Unfortunately those predictions were way of the mark and cries of '*where's the summer gone*' were often heard resonating around the land.

I don't doubt that we will again be presented with more unpredictable weather this season, but let's hope the sun block is called for more than the waterproofs.

Good Luck to you all!

Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	2
News Update	3
Bowls North of The Tyne	4 & 5
County Programme	6
Chisholm's Success in Wales	7
Bowls England News	8
International Trial Nominees	9

Special points of interest:

- Bowls Northumberland and Bowls England launch new web-sites.
- Rob Chisholm makes Senior International appearance indoors.
- BNOTT assists with financial support of new bowls coaches and umpires.
- BNOTT launch Junior tournament programme for 2009. (More details in May issue)

Presidents Message

“I sincerely thank you all for appointing me, your President for 2009. To me this is a tremendous honour and it will be a privilege to serve you all during this period in office. May you all have an enjoyable and fulfilling season”

Re-Launch of County Web-Site

It is also my privilege, on behalf of the GPC, to welcome you all to our new and very own state of the art web site.

www.bowlsnorthumberland.com

You will find this new site is not only designed to give immediate results or league positions, but just as important it is here to eventually meet the demands of all of the associations members regarding every aspect of bowls in our county.

We are indebted to Steven Birdsey for creating this masterpiece and thank him for his time, expertise and patience he has devoted to this project over the last six months or so. It will be our pleasure in continuing an ongoing working relationship with Steven for many years to come.

We must also thank those officers who will be charged with the responsibility of regularly updating the system with results, news or other items of important or general interest.

To the user we say "enjoy the experience", this is your site, so feel free to add your own two-pennies-worth and keep this web site alive and continually evolving.

Mike Buggy
President NCBA

**“We are
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masterpiece”**

News from the Ladies

Ladies, 2009 sees us moving further along the road towards Unification with this opportunity to be included in the County Newsletter.

I'm sure we are all hoping for better weather for our Competitions and Matches, especially our President, Mrs Pat Kirkpatrick, from Hexham Elvaston Bowling Club. We all wish her Good Health and fortune for the coming year, especially for her County Tour to Somerset.

Our Competition Secretary, Margaret Turner (ably assisted by Jean Allen) has worked well to organise our Competitions together with the various venues. Our League Secretary, Pat Weir, has also been busy organising the Draw and I'm sure all will be right for the start of the season.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Ladies Committee to thank all those Clubs who have kindly allocated their greens in order that we can complete our Matches and to wish everyone good health and good bowling for 2009.

Anne Wilkinson

News Update

Life Membership Award

Bill Bell of the High Heaton B.C. was bestowed with Life Membership of the association at the annual general meeting in December. President Mike Buggy was delighted to present Bill with his Life Membership Blazer Badge at a recent parliamentary league spring meeting.

Congratulations to Bill from all within the game!



Presidential Tour

Mike Buggy takes his Presidential tour south on Saturday 2nd May with his party based in Essex. He has three matches lined-up in Essex, one of which is against an Essex County side, as well as short trips across the border to play Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. The week will end with a farewell dinner on Friday 8th before the party heads home on Saturday 9th May.

County Under 25s Two Fours Competition

Northumberland have been drawn to play Lincolnshire in the first round of this years competition, with the game taking place on Saturday 16th May at 2pm. Although the venue is yet to be confirmed it is likely to be Kirkbymoorside.

The Team Manager has arranged for a squad session on Sunday 10th May commencing at 10am (Venue to be confirmed) from which the team to represent Northumberland will be selected.

County Two Fours Competition

In the senior event Northumberland will meet Lancashire in the first round for the third year in succession; and although the honours are even to date, we will be hoping for a repeat performance of last season and progress to the area finals. (The date and venue of this game are yet to be arranged)

County Two Bowl Singles Competition

A reminder to all about the changes to this years competition.

Rounds One and Two will be played as shown in the published draw with dates and times adhered to.

IMPORTANT to note: If you are the first named player you will play on your green and be responsible for the arrangements regarding the provision of a suitable marker and of a suitable rink. (i.e. if you are the away player you will have to travel to your opponents green for the match)

New Bowls Coaches

Bowls Northumberland would like to congratulate the following on their qualification as level two bowls coaches:

Lena Taylor & Elizabeth Lyall (Astley Park), Ron Hodgson & Patrick Kadansky (Morpeth B.C.), Mark Hurring (Kenton B.C.) & Dave Cowling (Ponteland B.C.)

We would also offer our grateful thanks to County coaches Michael Grant & George Marston on their support and training of the above personnel.

Bowls North of the Tyne (BNOTT)

Monday the 17th September 2007 was a very significant day for bowls in Northumberland County as representatives from over sixty clubs agreed to the adoption of an organisation to support and promote the game of bowls, hence the birth of 'Bowls North of the Tyne'.

This new initiative is spearheaded by Bowls Northumberland and is jointly being supported by North Tyneside Council and Blyth Valley Arts & Leisure. It's aim is to improve participation in the sport by providing the opportunity for people to play bowls whilst at the same time assisting existing clubs and bowlers.

Although the first 12-months were spent networking major progress has been made to date, as the following reports will show, and will continue to be made for the benefit of us all.

Awards for All Big Lottery Fund

BNOTT received £9,972 to help provide the infrastructure needed to deliver bowls initiatives successfully for the foreseeable future. The five main elements of the funding are, Administration, General equipment, Bowls equipment, Coaching and Umpiring. The latter two are of vital importance in the development and retention of new members.

Bowls Museum

Plans for the first northern hemisphere bowls museum are at an advanced stage thanks to funding to the tune of £10,000 from The Elected Mayor of North Tyneside's Well Being Fund.

The museum at the Parks Leisure Centre in North Shields will be a permanent home for the growing amount of bowls memorabilia, there are also plans for a portable exhibition which can be taken to bowls clubs, exhibitions and events throughout the county.

FISHNET (Fit involved Safe Healthy Networks) provided funding totaling £2,000 to assist with the purchase of 17-sets of coloured bowls for use with the many future development projects.

Youth Development Programme

Whilst we continue to explore new initiatives with our partners, two success stories to date are the introduction of the '**Tyne & Wear Trophy**' a competition played over two legs against Durham, and the '**Northern Counties U'21 Team Event**'.

These events have raised the profile of the game in Northumberland and given our youngsters, both male and female, the opportunity of participating in the sport at a higher level.

County Coach, Michael Grant, is also making tremendous progress with many schools in North Northumberland, having already spent up to four weeks in six schools in and around Alwick.

Our county team manager, Chris Palmer, is currently making arrangements for a number of junior events/competitions to be held throughout the county over the summer months.

For more details contact Chris on 07855 825 687 or (01207) 237995.

Healthy Living

The healthy living agenda is increasingly encouraging people to take up activities which benefit their lifestyles through regular exercise. BNOTT have been able to tap into this very popular agenda and have formed links with healthcare professionals as bowls is a perfect vehicle for people who wish to take up gentle exercise in a safe and socially friendly environment. Playing bowls is a way to get fit, make friends and have fun at the same time.

**“Bowls
ticks
all the
boxes”**



Healthy Living Exhibition—Bowls keeps you fit!

BNOTT were delighted to be part of a recent exhibition held at Ashington Leisure Centre to promote ‘Healthy Living’.

The event in February, attended by development officer Jim Rennie & Chris Palmer, was used to promote the game of bowls and arrange taster sessions for all interested parties at various clubs during April and May.

Photo - Nathan Palmer trying out the New Age Bowls

Ponteland Healthy Living Event - Jim Rennie & John Cleverley attended the latest event on healthy living, which was another successful initiative in our ongoing bowls development programme. .

The event, staged at Ponteland Leisure Centre in March, was well attended and with over thirty people being introduced to the game of bowls with the use of the ‘New age’ bowl. BNOTT would also like to offer their sincere thanks to Ponteland Secretary Dave Kirk and his team for assisting on the day.

BNOTT provides funding for new umpires

Thanks to monies received from the ‘Awards for all Big Lottery Funding’ BNOTT have been able to assist financially with the qualification of three new umpires. BNOTT will provide them with the necessary equipment required and uniforms.

Rachel Proctor (Benfield) became the youngest qualified umpire at the age of 16, this latest achievement comes after qualifying as a level two coach two years ago. She started playing bowls 9-years ago and is addicted to the game.

Pam Wise (Cowpen & Crofton) was also successful in passing her umpires exam. Little over 4-years ago Pam and her husband were only observers of the game as they watched their 9-year old son take part in a junior section. The coach of that session tempted them into having a go themselves and they have not looked back since.

Paul Proctor (Benfield) with over 30-years experience in the game and many County appearances to his name also joins the official ranks as a qualified umpire.

Inter-County Programme 2009 (Men)

Middleton Cup ('A' Team fixture)

Date	Opponent	Venue		Start Time
Sat 30th May	Lancashire	(H)	Gosforth B.C.	2pm
Sat 13th June	Yorkshire	(A)	Dunnington B.C.	2pm
Sat 4th July	Derbyshire	(A)	Derby West End B.C.	2pm

Muras Cup ('A' Team fixture)

Date	Opponent	Venue		Start Time
Sat 6th June	Durham	(A)	Houghton Dairy Lane	2pm
Sat 20th June	Lancashire	(A)	Heaton Hall B.C.	2pm
Sat 27th June	Yorkshire	(H)	St Georges B.C.	2pm

Alsop Cup ('B' Team fixture)

Date	Opponent	Venue		Start Time
Sat 23rd May	Yorkshire	(A)	Middlesborough B.C.	2pm
Sat 30th May	Durham	(H)	Alnwick B.C.	2pm
Sat 13th June	Lancashire	(H)	Summerhill B.C.	2pm
Sat 4th July	Cumbria	(H)	Hexham Elvaston	2pm

Armstrong Cup ('C' Team fixture)

Date	Opponent	Venue		Start Time
Sat 23rd May	Durham	(A)	Stockton B.C.	2pm
Sat 6th June	Yorkshire	(H)	Collingwood B.C.	2pm
Sat 20th June	Cumbria	(A)	Wigton Park B.C.	2pm
Sat 27th June	Lancashire	(H)	Ponteland	2pm

Tyne & Wear Trophy (U'18 Competition)

Date	Opponent	Venue		Start Time
Sun 5th July	Durham	(H)	St Georges B.C	2pm
Sun 9th August	Durham	(A)	Houghton Dairy Lane	2pm

Please give your support to all teams

Chisholm Triumphant in Principality

Robert Chisholm of the Willows B.C. has made history by becoming the youngest ever winner of a World Bowls Tour (WBT) world ranking event with success in the Welsh International Open in February.

Victory over compatriot Simon Skelton in the final earned Robert a winners cheque of £7,000 and a place in next years prestigious world indoor singles championships at Potters leisure Resort in Norfolk.



Despite making his first appearance in a final of a tour event, Robert brushed aside the nerves and claimed the first set 9-5.

15th seed Skelton fought back in the second to lead 5-1 before Rob collected a double followed by a full house to see him regain the initiative and move ahead by two. Skelton hit back the very next end to leave the set all square with two ends remaining. A single for Robert on the penultimate end meant Skelton needed a double on the last to keep his hopes alive and send the game into a tie-break, and despite a valiant effort a single was all he could muster as an umpires measure judged Rob's green bowl to lie in second place thus handing him his historic victory.

The record breaking week started with a tie-break win over 13th seed Les Gillett (11-3, 5-8, 2-1) and if anyone still doubted the 23-year olds chances of overall success then this emphatic thumping of world No2 Greg Harlow (9-2, 10-3) in the second round give them food for thought.

Mervyn King was Rob's opponent in the quarter-final and despite losing the first set 9-3, he hit back to win the second and eventually overcame the 2006 world indoor champion 2-1 in the tie-break to earn a semi-final place against Scotland's Paul Foster. Against all the odds Robert overwhelmed another illustrious opponent to claim a straight sets victory and a place in the final.

"I just can't explain how much this means to me and my family—it's unbelievable"

Edwardson Cup 2009

Following the 'DARK' conclusion to the 2008 final it has been agreed that this years showpiece will move from its regular Thursday night slot and take place at Ponteland B.C. on Saturday 5th September with a 2pm start.

Tournament favourites Backworth go in defence of the cup with a home tie against Amble whilst fancied Morpeth St Georges host Tynemouth.

The tie of the 1st round will take place at The Willows with Gosforth the visitors.

U25's Two Bowl Open Singles

(Open to both Male & Female entrants)

Monday 25th May

commencing at 12noon

Venue:- **Gosforth B.C.** (T.B.C)

The above event is supported by
'Bowls North of the Tyne'

Entries to: Chris Palmer (01207) 237995 or
Just turn-up on the day. Entries close 12 noon



Hon Kong International Classic Pairs

England's Graham Shadwell & Mark Walton returned victorious from Hong Kong in December

This is the second time the duo have been successful in this event in 5-years

Top Tourism Award for Bowls England

Bowls England has won a top regional award for it's work in promoting Worthing as a holiday destination.

The award was made in recognition of the organisation of the Men's National Championships that are held each August at Worthing's Beach house Park— attracting thousands of players and spectators to the town.

The finals have been held in Worthing since 1974

Bowls England News

New Team Manager

Devon's John Smerdon has taken charge of the Men's Senior side for the next two years whilst Cumbrian John Bell takes up his new role as performance co-ordinator for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Commonwealth Games 2010 Initial Squad

Performance co-ordinator John Bell has named a short list of 24 players (12 Men & 12 Women) to go through a series of matches and assessments before the final squad of 12 for the games in Delhi, consisting of six men and six women, are named in September.

The squad players are being assessed on their performances in a wide cross section of events ranging from overseas International tournaments, home International trials and series, national championships and specialised squad weekends. Matches are presently being arranged for the CG squad to take on representative teams from the English regions throughout the course of the summer.

The squad line-up is:-

Women: Edna Bessell (Somerset); Jayne Christie (Bedfordshire); Sue Davies (Worcestershire); Ellen Falkner (Cambridgeshire); Sian Gordon (Devon); Amy Monkhouse (Lincolnshire); Catherine Pople (Huntingdonshire); Pat Reynolds (Huntingdonshire); Lynne Whitehead (Derbyshire)

Men: Stuart Airey (Cumbria); Mark Bantock (Buckinghamshire); Craig Docherty (Cumbria); Lee Haywood (Devon); Neil Hope (Leicestershire); Mervyn King (Norfolk); John McGuinness (Buckinghamshire); Robert Newman (Berkshire); Graham Shadwell (Wiltshire); Simon Skelton (Derbyshire); Sam Tolchard (Devon); Mark Walton (Yorkshire).

Bowler of the Year and Young Bowler of the Year Awards

Sam Tolchard made history by becoming the first player to win both the 'Times/Taylor Bowls' bowler of the year award and the 'Bowls International' young player of the year award.

The recognition follows a memorable season for the 19-year old who became the first Bowls England National Singles Champion last August in addition to winning the Mixed Fours and Middleton Cup with his County Devon. He also narrowly missed out in his bid to retain the National 'Champion of Champions' Singles title when he lost out to Billy Jackson in the final. To cap a fantastic year for the youngster he was also named in the provisional commonwealth games squad.

International Trial Nominees

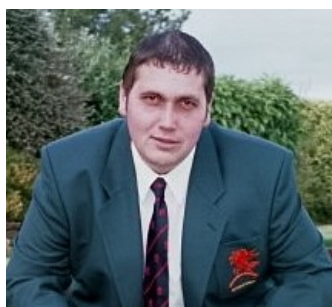
Following a vigorous selection process Bowls Northumberland are pleased to announce that the following have been nominated for International trials.

Kevin Wall (Senior Trial Nominee) - Had an exceptional year in 2008 by winning both the Singles and Pairs titles as well as the Northern Counties Singles title. On top of this he had some excellent performances for the County. Kev is not new to International bowls, as he has represented his beloved Wales both indoors and out at Senior and Under 25 level. His highest accolade to date was representing his Country in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Adelaide.

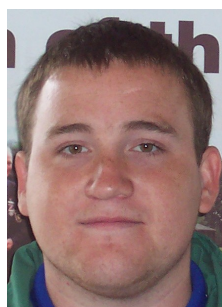
Robert Chisholm (Senior & U'25 Trial Nominee) - National Under 25 Singles Semi-finalist last season and a current member of the International Under 25's side both indoors and out. Rob has made a great start to 2009 by winning the Welsh International Open.

Philip Harvey (U'25 Trial Nominee) - A member of U'25 International squad in 2007 and despite a disappointing season in 2008, which resulted in him losing his place, has a very good chance of a recall.

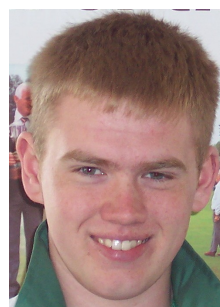
Dan Targar (U'25 Trial Nominee) - Another player who excelled in 2008 following his inclusion in the Middleton Cup side. Dan reached the National Finals in two events, the Pairs with Steven Birdsey and the Top Club event with Backworth B.C. He also narrowly lost out in the semi-finals of the county singles.



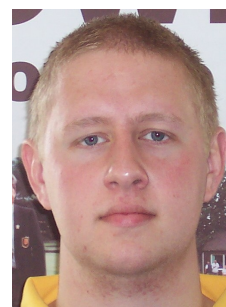
Kevin Wall



Robert Chisholm



Philip Harvey



Dan Targar

Matchroom Premier League Bowls

The second 'Matchroom Premier League Bowls Tournament' takes place later this month at the Potters Leisure Resort with the field including the five major tournament winners over the last 12-months plus one wild card entrant.

This is obviously great news for Willow's bowler **Rob Chisholm**, as he takes his place in the field following his success in Wales earlier in the year. The line-up includes Alex Marshall, Paul Foster & Darren Burnett from Scotland and England's, Greg Harlow, Billy Jackson & Robert Chisholm.

The format of the competition sees each player playing the other five once in a round robin basis. The winner of the league will go into the grand final with the 2nd, 3rd & 4th placed players going into a play-off for a place in the final.

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

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Well you can!

For a small subscription charge we will forward a copy of 'Bowls Northumberland' direct to your home address or you may choose to view publications free on the new revamped Bowls Northumberland web-site.

Newsletters will be published monthly bringing you up-to-date with all the news from around the County.

The cost of an annual subscription is just £15, so if you are interested in this offer then please send your forwarding details to the editor together with your subscription fee of £15.

All cheques should be made payable to:
'Northumberland County Bowling Association'

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We're also on the web!

www.bowlsnorthumberland.com

BOWLERS DRAW 2009

The Best Fundraiser for your club

'NO' Gaming license required

'NO' Expensive costs for ticket printing

You keep 50% of all ticket sales

Individual cash prize's totaling £7,400

Club Prize's for the top selling clubs totaling £1,500

(The draw will take place at the Men's Annual Dinner on 20th February 2009)

Please give this draw your full support

For more information contact : John Cleverley (County Secretary)