

HDIBC Winter Weekend Friendly Match Captains' AGM Report

March 2024

The weekend friendly matches on Saturday and Sunday afternoons are open to all Club members.

Most games begin at 2.30pm and we currently charge £5. Most are mixed. Most are Rinks and we generally play 18 Ends. Dress code is usually greys with Club Shirts. Then we meet after in the Lounge for a chat and drinks and biscuits and cake! There is always a Raffle.

In general, over the last few years, I have been pleased with the numbers of members, both experienced and new bowlers, who have been signing up on the Availability Sheets on the Concourse. However, it would be good to see more new names appearing. Please consider signing up. The Matches are always friendly and good fun, and a good learning experience for all players.

If you want to know more, talk to others who already play, or ask one of our current Weekend Captains, John Favell, Ray Dodd, Judi Simons, or myself.

The numbers of players signing up for games was excellent before Christmas, but since then, there have been a number of occasions when I have had less than 16 for Rinks and less than 12 for Triples! As a result, I have had to do a lot of phoning to get players. And then there have been a number who have dropped out at the last minute, and I have had to make more calls to find replacements. But thank you so much to those who have stepped in to help, including several new bowlers who had not played in a weekend friendly match before.

The Match schedule has again run relatively smoothly during the Winter Season 2023-2024. Most of the Matches were arranged as mixed Rinks, but in a few cases the Opposing Teams were unable to get enough players for this and so the games were reduced to Triples.

Unfortunately 7 games were cancelled by Opposition Clubs. 6 were due to the Opponents being unable to raise enough players, and in one instance, the Opponents claimed they had not agreed to play!

Confirming arrangements with visiting Clubs has been much better this year, but twice now, Club Contacts have not paid attention to the details, resulting in one Team turning up in "whites", and another only bringing Triples, when we had agreed Rinks!

Most of the Teams we play are from Outdoor Clubs, and they usually have few Indoor bowlers in their line-up. Harpenden generally wins these matches comfortably. The matches against other *Indoor* Clubs prove more challenging, but (as per last year) we have won most of these as well!

All Matches have been played in an extremely friendly, yet competitive manner, and Opposition Teams regularly praise us for our hospitality.

We have 43 scheduled Matches this winter. To date, we have played 31, Won 28, Lost 3, (at Home to SADBA and Stevenage Nomads and Away at Hatfield) and 7 were cancelled. As I write this, 5 more games are still to be played.

Once again we had "Hot Shots" this year! Congratulations to Judi Simons, Barry Collins and John Favell, who scored a 9 on one end in a Triples game against Hertford Castle in November and to Peter Hagart, Jenny Turkentine, Graham Martin and Tony Burns, who scored an 8 on one end in a Rinks game against Ladygate in March. Certificates will be given at the Presentation Evening.

And finally, I must thank my assistant Weekend Captains, Ray Dodd, Judi Simons, John Favell and Mike Waller for their help and support. Thanks also to all our bowlers who help regularly with collecting match fees, manning the Bar, setting up before, and cleaning away after Tea. And thanks to John Turkentine for arranging the Fixtures, Judi Simons for sending in Match Reports to the local Press, and John Millins for ensuring that the Match details are available on the Club Website.

Bob Pomeroy

Winter Weekend Friendly Match Captain