

AND TO FINISH THE YEAR

Our final drive of 2016 proved a great success for everyone who took part in the **Candle light** event. We had 4 rinks of triples, we played 12 ends in the daylight and a further 6 in the dark. The weather held fair, the food turned up on time, and out from the darkness the eventual winners emerged that of, Joyce Woodward, Anne Stanton, and Roger Lintott.

A big vote of thanks goes to the social committee, especially Jeanette Cosstick who spent so much of her time and effort in arranging the events during this years Off period. It does so much to help keep the club together (not forgetting the club funds). A lot of time went into this years Christmas party and it is appreciated when so many turn out to show support.

It was the annual dinner and prize presentation on 22nd October and we had 37 members attend, unfortunately two could not attend because of illness. We all had a very pleasant meal, of which the price has remained the same for four consecutive years. It was unfortunate that seven members were unable to collect their trophies; they must have had a more important commitment, so their trophies and certificates were left at the club house for collection.

Who is the thief? We loose another lock and chain from the main gate, it was locked at 11:00pm after the Christmas Party and was missing by 10:15 the following morning. Obviously taken by someone who knows the code, but immediately we loose profit from the night before. If anyone knows who took it, let us know.

WE START A NEW YEAR

Our fixtures secretary, Clive Lintott, has been very busy arranging the fixtures for this year and we have a couple of new venues. Our total number of fixtures this year being 80; the ladies have 14, the men have 8 leaving *only* 58 mixed. The new fixtures include a trip to the Royal Household and a visit of Richings Park, whilst the men see a return of Ashford in the TVL. Lets hope we can fulfil all the fixtures.

Car Park: following the explanation given at the AGM, you may have noticed that it has not happened. This is due to us not receiving any funds from the Heathrow Community Grant, thus leaving us £7,000 short of budget. However, we have not given up as we have yet other grant applications in and waiting for decisions. Watch this space, or rather the car park.

Fordbridge League fixtures. Against the wishes of Staines and other clubs the rules have changed this year allowing clubs to play one rink as a same sex rink. This could lead to some fixtures only requiring three ladies instead of four thus reducing our ladies competitive fixtures. However, if we have a strong ladies rink we could put out four ladies. We shall have to see how it pans out.

Ladies please keep an eye on both your fixtures book and the Match sheets this year as some ladies fixtures are now wearing Greys but some are still in Whites.

Another year starting with sad news as we lost a long term member, Joan Blockley on Christmas Eve. Joan had been a very supportive member of Staines for many years but had not been well for some time.

Our annual visit to Egham proved interesting as normal and we had one of our best results 94-145. We nearly had a win on two rinks but Derek Clark, Jeanette Cosstick, Joyce Marshall and skip Mike Davies just lost by one on the last end. Our winning rink was Jill Walker, Richard Cosstick, Clive Lintott and Gary Taylor. We all moan and say "I'm not doing that again", but we will say that many times again this year.