

The first official day of summer was another cold, cloudy day, but the Fordbridge league match against **Woodlands** went ahead with a good win for Staines 88-45 giving a 10-0 score. Top rink went by one point to Stan Stanners, Roy Holdaway and Skip Dot Stanners.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE LADIES GONE?

For Horsell 5-rink we have 2-names, for Sunningdale ladies 3-triples reduced to 2-triples, Windsor and Eton cancelled no ladies. Cambridge Park cancelled by them, no ladies. Please remember once they have gone from the fixture list, they will not return.

What a great day of bowls we had against **Sunningdale** on Saturday 4th, in the first round of the Sunningdale cup, a competitive match played in a friendly spirit, the men played for the Catley cup and the ladies for the Simes cup and in a very close two rink the ladies lost by only one shot 38-39. For the men it was a rare success winning 73-67 with Sunningdale having to use one lady in the men's match. Top rink for Staines was Mike Jones, Derek Goodway, Roy Holdaway, and skip John Smith. The second leg is on June 25th at Sunningdale. Let's hope you can all play again and go for an overall win.

We required 5-rinks for **Horsell** so imagine the frustration when we see only 8 names, with only two being ladies, however when calling to cancel the match we were invited to attend with the two rinks we have and play a true friendly. Even more embarrassment when we then arrive with only 7 of the 8 players. However, we were all made to feel welcome and had a great game of bowls played in the spirit of the game. For anyone who did not come they missed a very good day.

It was a quick return to **Sunningdale** for our ladies, and with the three triples reduced to 2. It was a close match with Sunningdale winning by 2 shots.

Congratulation to Anne Stanton for winning through the first round of the **Middlesex ladies two woods**. Good luck in the next round.

Cambridge Park ladies cancelled their match for Thursday 9th June. It has been rescheduled for 3rd August.

The good run continued in the Fordbridge League with another win, this time over **Stanwell** 78-61 giving a 6-4 point score.

Thanks to the last minute stand-in by Cynthia Hay through lack of ladies (seems a common theme here) Staines went from a potential loss to a very good victory against **Fordbridge Park** on Sunday 12th. Staines won 85 - 48 giving another win of 8-2.

The "Disappearing" Thursday 16th! Our ladies match against **Windsor and Eton** was cancelled due to the mysterious lack of Staines ladies. Then, the men's TVL against **Ashford** was cancelled by Ashford; this meant that Ashford had to concede the match. Staines tried to accommodate by offering to play one Home and one Away, but Ashford were still unable to play. A day lost.

The annual friendly against the **London Civil Service** was under threat due to the persistent precipitation we have been having, but all was well and we eventually had a very pleasant afternoon. The final score was Staines 42 - L.S.C. 46, but as they only had one lady I call it a draw. Our top rink was Rita Woods, John Geisha, Clive Lintott and skip Eric Moore.

So far so good, **Staines** are top of the Fordbridge League.

A quick return to **Cambridge Park** was a loss for Staines 62-84 on a tricky green. Our top rink was David Hunton, Rita Woods and skip John Geisha.

A very good result for our men in the TVL against **Cambridge Park**. An overall score of 96-51 and a three rink to one win.

The County match **Middlesex v Sussex** was a success despite the weather. Rain did stop play after 16 ends but thanks to the efficient team of ladies the food was ready to keep everyone happy. We can't mention everyone but a big thank to all the dedicated members who turned up to help make the day a success.

Just a reminder if you wish to play in the singles competitions next season you must complete the match requirements. If your name has turned **green** on the "Availability" sheets you are OK.

The men's annual visit to **Windsor Great Park** was successful with a 98-85 win, rain midway forced on the wets but stopped before the end. We had two top rinks; Mike Jones, Mike Davies and skip Derek Keogh and Rickard Cosstick, Clive Lintott and John Hay. Using the count-back system on ends won it went to John Hays team by 1 end.

Times seem to be changing, our two longest friendly games; against Egham and Ashford have almost disappeared, both clubs ladies no longer play us and then only one home and one away friendly each. Ashford, who I can remember in my short while here, once being a 5-rink triple is now reduced to 2-rinks. Our men's team no longer play Egham because of a change in the TVL league, but it seems Ashford no longer wish to play friendly games, only competitions, (see this week's Informer). After requesting a change of venue to our green, **Ashford** did send along two triples and Staines won 39-28 but it no longer had the same atmosphere. The answer? Who knows, maybe when their stars move on they may wish to come back, but we still have more than enough games to keep us bowling.

Unfortunately sad news again with the passing of Graham Galliford, Graham who has been a strong member of Staines as Club Captain for 4 years and then as Club president.

Our annual friendly 4 rink against **Walton** started well but unfortunately the wet weather moved in and the game was abandoned at 16 ends. At this stage it was a close win for Staines 61-60. Once again we had a tie for top rink between Derek Goodway, Rita Woods, Dave Woodruff and skip Dot Stanners; and Jeanette Cosstick, Ken Windmill, Joyce Marshall and Skip Mike Davies. Counting ends won it went to Dot and her squad by one end.

On a less sad note, it was a very successful **Open Day** with 13 potential new members turning up and with the support of 20 club members on hand to show support. Time will tell how many return, however a great thanks to you all.

Gentle reminder, if you enter any singles competitions then please **mark** for others when asked. (You don't have to have entered any to mark).

A good result for Staines in the Fordbridge league against **Osterley** on a bitterly cold evening. Staines won 91-54 with top rink of 29-3 to Anne Stanton, Mike Davies and skip John Smith.

A thanks to John Hay who stood in for a weekend whilst others went away, but unfortunately for the first time this season Staines had to reduce a match through lack of players. It was against **Byfleet** and reduced from 5-rink to 4 triples. It turned out to be a good day for Staines winning 73-58 with top rink to Joyce Woodward, David Gray and Albert Allies.

The Fordbridge league match against **Bishop Duppas** on Sunday 29th was a win for Staines 72-71, there should have been with an additional 2-triple friendly, but Duppas were unable to field them. Apologies to those who turned up.

Our second ladies match was against **Bishop Duppas** away on a warm day, it was a win for Duppas 48-59. Our top rink was Sheila Tinham, Sheila Rogers and skip Joyce Marshall.

It was a cold day for the **Denman** two wood triples on Bank holiday Monday, but 18 members played and the winners were Candy Astle, Mike Davies and David Woodruff. A well done to them and thanks for all who supported.

It is very embarrassing for a Captain to be standing waiting for a player to arrive and they don't. It is not the Captain's job to phone everyone to tell them they are playing. You put your name down **YOU** are responsible to tick your name and turn up.

STAINES BOWLING CLUB



Oatlands Park came to Staines after many a year absence and went away with a 63-73 victory. It was the first warm sunny afternoon with several close rinks and our top rink went to Clive Stevens, Shirley Palmer and Skip Roger Lintott.

We had 9 members due to attend the **Middlesex Marking** Course held at Ashford, a good turnout for us, and I am sure they all learnt something that will help them in future marking.

It was time for the **Bill Goodsell** trophy and 18 players arrived for the entertainment. The alcoholic beverage for the Spider was won by the organiser of this year's event Graeme Hinton (we may need to watch this one). The trophy was won by birthday girl Joyce Marshall, how old Joyce? However a late spot of rain had everyone running for cover.

After a topsy turvy start at **Egham** it was a pleasant afternoon albeit a win for Egham 42-78. We had a winning rink of Alan Morris, Anne Stanton and Skip Mike Davies.

On Sunday the 8th, under Men's captain Roger Lintott Staines gained their first victory of the year in the important Fordbridge League against **Meadhurst** giving Staines 8 points to 2. Top rink this time to: Alan Morris, Shirley Palmer and John Smith.

We had our first 6-rink match against **Bishop Duppas** in the first leg of the "shield" and after several close rinks Duppas ran out the winners of this first leg by 14 shots, 109-123. Staines top rink going to Pat Spearman, David Woodruff, Eric Moore and skip Albert Allies. We look forward to closing the gap in the second leg.

Our ladies had their first run out at **Windsor Great Park** in adverse conditions, the match was stopped (not before time) after 8 very wet ends. Our top rink at the time was Eileen Windmill, Pat Spearman and Joyce Marshall. A well done, from the non-playing captain for even starting.

Congratulation (even this early in the season) to Dot Stanners who has won her trial and has been selected to play for the prestigious **John's Squad**. Teams are selected from the best of the County players who will then play for the county against the equivalent players from other counties. Good luck Dot.

It was an exciting day against **Heathervale** with scores going up, down, and up. Staines won on three close fought rinks, but Heathervale won overall by 61-70. Top rink to Diana Brackenridge, Stan Stanners and Derek Keogh.

The first match cancellation came from **Windsor and Eton** for Sunday 15th match, whereas Staines had a full complement of 6-rinks, they could only muster 7 people and thus cancelled.



BACK TO THE FUTURE!

The **2015 Fordbridge finals** were held at Fordbridge Park on Sunday 15th May 2016 and for the Staines supporters that attended, on a hot sunny day, they saw a three very close match's in which Staines made a very good showing.

Gary Taylor came a close second to Ashley Tanner(Ashford) in the Men's final, but with the aid of Joyce Marshall and Roger Lintott won the Mixed Triples against Bishop Duppas 17-15 on the last end, Gary then went on to win the 75 points. Congratulations to all.



Please note two changes to your fixtures list: - June 1st Woodlands (Fb) now HOME, 2:30; July 28th Woodlands (Fb) now AWAY, 2:00. July 12th Chertsey ladies now AWAY; August 18th Chertsey ladies now HOME. Some fixture books may not require changing.

Welcome everyone to the 2016 season; we are lucky in starting the season with a total of 60 full members so wouldn't it be nice to not have to request members to play. (Already a dream). Thanks to everyone who managed to assist on Working party day, and you would have noticed (of course you did) that we have new ditch liners this season.

We have our Open day on Sunday 22nd May and we have planned a letterbox leaflet drop around the area. We have 1000 leaflets printed and these will be distributed to all who have volunteered to deliver in their area. We now need volunteers to attend on open day to help with any potential members. Please speak to any committee member who will advise.

The gardening season has also started and Margaret and her team have already got under way, so if anyone would like to get involved and help just talk to Margaret who I am sure would appreciate any help she can get.

As the new season starts and everyone has now received their Rotas and will no doubt have a quite grumble. But, please remember we have limited resources and the only people to carry out the tasks are **you**. If anyone thinks they can do better then I am sure Shirley would love to pass the task over, just have a word with her.

A reminder that Joyce Marshall, Gary Taylor and Graham Galliford will be paying in the final of the Fordbridge mixed triples at Fordbridge Park on Sunday 15th May. Please give them some support by going along (ONLY if you are not playing in the 6 rink Windsor and Eaton Home match) sorry Joyce.

As mentioned above and in the previous newsletter we have purchased new ditch liners. This has left us with old ditch liners. If anyone is going to the dump or has a way of disposing of them would they kindly take some with them. (Blue plastic bags in the equipment room). As normal the more people who can help the quicker we get rid of them.

A thanks to all the members who supported the Monday Club Night and the Friday afternoon Short mat, they help to break up the long winter afternoons and evenings.

The first two roll-ups have got underway and it was a good turnout considering the Arctic chill that was blowing across the green. We also had a new lady attend and we hope she will return.

And so the new season starts against **Ottershaw**, who have reduced the match down from 4 triples to 3 triples with the aid of our Mike Jones. Another club who have had a drop in members and it was a win for Ottershaw 36-53 on a chilly but sunny April day. Our top rink went to Val Edwards, Stan Stanners and Skip John Geisha who had a draw, but was robbed of a win on the last end.



The new season dawns and last year seems a long time ago, we start again with our roll-ups, club nights, competitions, and not forgetting our fixtures. A gentle reminder, it was voted at the AGM not to publish the match selections on our web site, so please make sure you ALL tick your name on the match lists and do NOT call the captain of the day to do it for you or to confirm if you have been selected.

As normal we will finalise team selection on Monday mornings IF we have sufficient names.

We have a total fixture list of 82 matches broken down as 13 ladies, and 9 men's leaving 60 mixed.

No one can do all of them, but please play where you can, and ENJOY.

With Ashford no longer in the Fordbridge League and the TVL tournament being changed, it means the men have some new venues to visit this year, namely: Masonians, and Mid Surrey, it does mean we only have two mixed games against Egham. Both Egham and Ashford have dropped their Ladies games which is very unfortunate as they were our longest standing matches.

Staines Bowls Club will also host the prestigious Triangular tournament that is held annually between Ashford, Stanwell and Staines. It was won last year by the hosts Stanwell so we need Staines to come up trumps this year.

The majority of afternoon games this year have a start time of 2:30, BUT NOT ALL, so please check your fixtures book and the match sheets.

Last year we received several complaints that the Monday league "is not what it was" so Graeme Hinton has researched amongst you and will put up a revised format, please support him. The dates for the Men's and Mixed triples rounds are in the fixtures booklet, so if you enter any of these competitions please ensure you are available for **all** the rounds. Also if you enter any competitions. ensure you are available for all of finals weekend.

We wish Derek Keogh a swift recovery following his unfortunate hit and run accident.

You will have all received a note confirming the Staines Bowls Club dress code, it has not changed other than to allow shorts and more colour in the tops, but it does emphasize the need to wear official bowls clothing.

Ashford will be holding a Marking course held over 2 sessions in May. This will be given by Middlesex County markers and will cost about £5.00 including tea and biscuits. I would recommend this to anyone who has never attended one. Details were on the board and the web site.

The club has spent more money, again, this time on new ditch liners and a new honours board for players who won external competition. As the finals of the Fordbridge competitions were rained off last year they are now due to be played in May, so we wish Joyce Marshall, Gary Taylor and Graham Galliford the best of luck in the mixed triples competition.

For anyone wishing to play more serious bowls then names are required for the Fordbridge competitions, the lists are on the board, or talk to John Hay.

We had our annual indoor match against **Egham** and had a rink winner of David Hunton, Gwen Whelan, Wendy Ridley and Alan Little, well done. Final score 81-155 a far better result than last year.

We start the season again with sad news: Marilyn Morris lost her fight and passed away on 18th January. Marilyn was an ardent supporter of the club and will be missed by everyone; we all send our condolences to Allan and his family.

Also Mike Ricketts passed away last week and whose funeral is on Friday 4th March. Mike who belonged to the club for many years and was a previous Men's Captain. We send Wendy and family our condolences.