

Sheffield's Joint Bowling Association Newsletter

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of the Sheffield bowling association joint Newsletter!

The 2024 season is just around the corner, and a lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes over the closed season to try and bring our associations together in ways that we feel will hopefully help to improve things for our members moving forwards.

There is an in depth summary of all the key aspects that have been covered within the meetings on the middle section of the newsletter, so please be sure to have a glance and get up to date with what's been happening.

There are contact details for those reps that have attended these meetings should you have any questions. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Competition Entries 2024

Sheffield Parks and Sheffield Social League have created a new website that allows for online entries to their respective competitions for 2024.

www.sheffieldbowlingassociation.co.uk

The site is very simple to use, with each association having it's own drop down list of competitions, which takes you to the entry form when clicked on.

Entries are confirmed as received by either text or email by the receiving competitions officer.

It is hoped that the Sheffield & Hallamshire and Works leagues will join this new addition with the 2 founding associations upon a successful trial throughout 2024.

The website offers a lot of scope to further progress the options available for utilising this tool should the trial period be a success.

Please give the site a visit and let us know any feedback by dropping an email to either:

Chas Smith	Ca.smith@rocketmail.com
Jennie Shepherd	jenniems@btopenworld.com
Liam Blackwell	leaguesecretarysdascba@gmail.com
Andrea Ainley	associationsecretarysdascba@gmail.com



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Sheffield Social League Bowls

SOCIAL LEAGUE IMPORTANT DATES

- Doubles Merit
28th April 2024
- Irene Nowill Doubles
30th June 2024
- Singles Merit
14th July 2024
- Stan Jones (D+E Division)
11th August 2024
- Vets Merit
15th August 2024

JOINT CONSULTATIVE CO

On Sunday 5th March 2023, a meeting took place between representatives from the Sheffield bowling associations to discuss the idea of amalgamation or, at least, closer co-operation between the 4 associations: Sheffield Parks, Sheffield Social League, Sheffield Works League and the Sheffield & Hallamshire.

One year on the below is what has been discussed and in many instances built upon for the coming season.

There is plenty more work to be done, but the foundations for success have been laid and the hope is that this will make bowling in Sheffield more concise and tailored to what the bowlers are looking for.

As always, any feedback or questions on any of the following information is welcomed. Please get in touch with any of the officers involved who will be happy to assist.

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The first meeting explored the financial implications of amalgamating the 4 associations and was guided by Andrew Moore (Sheffield Parks Treasurer) and Richard King (Sheffield & Hallamshire Treasurer), it quickly became apparent that any move in that direction would prove extremely difficult. The meeting concluded that there were a number of other areas that could benefit from all the associations collaborating and working together on, and this is what has been worked towards over the last 12 months to date.

There have been 4 further meetings held, June 8th 2023 / 2nd August 2023 / 16th November 2023 and most recently 29th February 2024. At each meeting there has been a clear feeling that the associations are all committed to working more closely together and the aim of this newsletter is to keep bowlers informed and up to date with what that looks like moving forward.

The following is a list of areas where there has been discussion and, in most cases, some progress. We hope that by issuing this newsletter we will gain feedback from bowlers telling us how they feel about what is going on.

- A) We have agreed to move towards a system where competitions are incorporated into the appropriate league programme wherever possible. This already happens with the Social League and they have seen a marked increase in the number of entries to their team competitions. The Sheffield Parks have used this method with the Longley Handicap and are seeking to extend this to the Kever Wait also. The plan for competitions that are run in this manner moving forward, is for any team in the league the competition represents, will automatically be entered into the competitions, and must opt out if required. The main benefit is that players do not have to give up any further time outside of their normal bowling commitments to play within these competitions.
- B) The idea of playing Semi-finals and Finals of competitions on the same dates has also been considered, and is already happening in 2024. This is in the Sheffield Ladies 4's and the Longley Handicap competitions.
- C) The associations have all moved to wards charging a £1 player levy for players playing on neutral greens in competitions and Merits. This helps in a small way to gather some income for the hosting clubs on each occasion.
- D) Some competitions moving forward may be dropped, particularly those that do not attract a high volume of entries. The Jennie Burdall for example has been left out of the Sheffield Parks programme this year, competitions in general will run in 2024 and the entry levels assessed post season and decisions on this made from there.
- E) The Sheffield Civics has traditionally been a central event in the Sheffield Parks calendar, but there is a feeling that extending the event over the usual fortnight is too much now with the level of entries received. This year's event will be run over an 8 day period.
- F) Liam Blackwell has been developing a website for 'sheffieldbowlingassociation.co.uk' In it's first year we hope that it will contain details of all merits run by Sheffield Social League & Sheffield Parks, and the option for the Works League & Sheffield & Hallamshire associations to come on board after a successful trial in readiness for 2025 season. There is much scope for additional things such as player registrations to be built into this, and this will be further explored upon completion of the 2024 season and reviewing the utilisation of the website in it's duration. It is hoped that plenty of the bowlers will visit the site and leave their email address at the same time, this way we can build up a database of bowlers to distribute future communications to.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

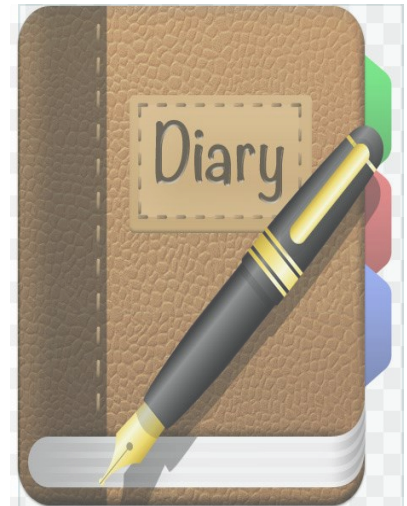
- G) The Works League has now joined BowlsNet thanks to the commitment and work of Frank Sidebottom and Ian Banks. This means that details of leagues in all 4 associations can be accessed on the same site and there may also be an opportunity to streamline our joint presence on BowlsNet in the future.
- H) Publicity could be extended by ensuring that we regularly appear on the "What's On In Sheffield" site and by making more use of social media. Ideally, we would benefit from a Publicity Officer working on behalf of us all
- I) The idea of a Junior Bowling Challenge has moved a step closer. There has been a meeting between Steve Hawkins (South Yorkshire Development Officer) Robert Mollekin (Former Development Officer) Chas Smith and Helen Turner who works with schools in conjunction with the programme entitled "Sheffield Schools Get Active" The plan is to host an inaugural event at Ecclesfield on the 25th June 2024, for up to 36 8 to 11 year olds. There is also discussion about equivalent events on other greens.
- J) We have already worked jointly on a disciplinary matter and the aim is to try to develop a joint disciplinary policy which avoids duplication and standardises all 4 associations. We have already begun the process of sharing calendar information to try and avoid any unnecessary clashes.

Hopefully all of the above, gives you a flavour of the range of areas that we believe there is scope to work together and make changes to improve bowling across Sheffield. Each association continues to hold it's own, independent meetings where these issues can be discussed. Equally each association may have members who feel that they could contribute to this work or, more likely do it better and come up with more ideas. The people who have devoted time to the first 12 months of this Joint Consultative Committee are all committee members of their respective associations, but this doesn't have to be the case. In the next 12 months it would be good to see other people who would like to contribute, out themselves forward to attend meetings or simply put forth ideas that they may have.

If anyone should be interested, please contact any of the below in the first instance.

2023—2024 Joint Consultative Committee:

Andrea Ainley	Social League Association Secretary
Richard Allen	Sheffield and Hallamshire League Registrar
Liam Blackwell	Social League Secretary / Treasurer
Richard King	Sheffield and Hallamshire Treasurer



SHEFFIELD PARKS IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday Merit
28th April 2024
- Vets Merit
4th June 2024
- Gents Doubles Merit
12th May 2024
- Vets Doubles Merit
Qualifier 13th August
Final 3rd September
- Ladies Evening Merit
Qualifier 27th June 2024
Final 18th July 2024
- Ladies Doubles Merit
2nd June 2024
- Ladies Telegraph Merit
7th July 2024
- Lady Vets Merit
28th May 2024
- Lady Vets Doubles Merit
Qualifier 2nd July
Final 23rd July

CIVIC DATES

Gents Dates:

- Qualifier 1 - Saturday 3rd August 2pm
- Qualifier 2 - Sunday 4th August 10:30am
- Qualifier 3 - Monday 5th August 6pm
- Final - Saturday 11th August 10:30am

Gents Vets Dates

- Qualifier 1 - Monday 5th August 2pm
- Qualifier 2 - Tuesday 6th August 10:30am
- Final - Friday 10th August 10:30am

Juniors

- Sunday 12th August 10:30am

CIVIC DATES

Ladies Dates:

- Qualifier 1 - Saturday 3rd August 10:30am
- Qualifier 2 - Sunday 4th August 2pm
- Qualifier 3 - Tuesday 6th August 6pm
- Final - Saturday 11th August 10:30am

Lady Vets Dates

- Qualifier 1 - Monday 5th August 10:30am
- Qualifier 2 - Tuesday 6th August 2pm
- Final - Friday 10th August 10:30am

Sheffield Parks Meeting
Dates 2024

All take place at :

Niagara Conference Centre S6 1LU
7:30pm Start

- 14th March 2024
- 19th September 2024
- 7th November 2024
- 5th December 2024

Sheffield Parks Presentation
Evening

- 8th November 2024

Sheffield Social League Meeting
Dates 2024

Pre Season Meeting

@ Niagara 7:30pm

14th March 2024 - Takes place with the Parks meeting and is simply to handout the pre-season packs. No formal meeting taking place

- AGM 5th Feb 2025

Social League Presentation
Evening

- 7th February 2025

@ Niagara 7pm Start

Sheffield Parks

Jennie Shepherd	jenniems@btopenworld.com	07469245807
Chas Smith	ca.smith@rocketmail.co.uk	07981813086
Elaine Burtoft	eburtoft@gmail.com	07803130021

Sheffield Social League

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Donna Wainwright	competitionssecretarysdcba@gmail.com	07814706115

Sheffield & Hallamshire

Dave Skelton	chizzel54@gmail.com	07958587927
Steve Wood	steve.wood50@btinternet.com	07907861785
Russ Palmer		07973904581

Sheffield Works

Frank Sidebottom	frank. Bowling@hotmail.co.uk
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Useful Websites:

BowlsNet	www.bowlsnet.co.uk
South Yorkshire County	www.sycgba.co.uk
British Crown Green	www.bcgba.org.uk