



# Victoria Park Bowling Club Newsletter- December 2023



## A Poem for the Winter

Just for a change we start with a little bit of culture to see us through the Winter.

### "Greens in Wintertime"

*Oh, the bowling season's ended and the jacks are put away,  
With matches now suspended until the Summer's play.  
The greens seem so deserted while the seagulls stalk and peck,  
The worms they cast their burrows and the crane fly dance the deck.*

*Here the lonely groundsman, with his mower takes his time,  
Pursues his work unhindered to maintain the sward so fine,  
And when the sun comes peeping through the winter wind and frost,  
Some players may come creeping to remember the pleasures lost.*

*Oh, welcome sun in springtime to the greens so smooth and fine,  
Shine on billiard table smoothness for a game that is sublime,  
When the solstice is in springtime and good folks will change their clock,  
Then rejoice again to find the time, for friendship and a 'knock'.*

Thanks go to Dave Spratt for this adapted poem.

## VPBC Awards Night



The VPBC Annual Awards Night will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January '24 at the Southport Old Links Golf Club, Moss Lane, Churchtown. The evening will include a 3 course meal, disco, stand-up bingo and a raffle. Because of rising costs, the ticket prices are slightly more expensive this year at £35 per person but we are sure you will agree that this still represents excellent value for money.

This can be paid either via bank transfer to 34056760 - 30-97-88 or you can post a cheque in the post box in the Pavilion Clubhouse marked with your name and Awards Night made payable to Victoria Park Bowling Club. The ticket price includes your bingo tickets.

Please could you let Gayle Gordon know the names of the people in your party and your menu choices from the list below. You should reply to her email sent on 15<sup>th</sup> November as it will automatically be sent to her.

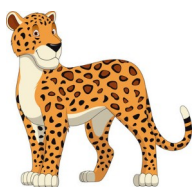
- First Course  
Prawn Cocktail  
Vegetable Soup  
Chicken and brandy pate with toasted ciabatta
- Main Course  
Roast topside of beef with mushroom filled Yorkshire pudding and a red wine glaze or au poivre sauce;  
Supreme of local chicken with bacon, creamed leek and Chablis wine sauce, mushroom sauce or asparagus sauce;  
Fillet of salmon with either hollandaise sauce, asparagus sauce or lemon butter sauce.
- Dessert  
Baileys cheesecake and white chocolate sauce;  
Sticky toffee pudding with cream or custard;  
Cheese platter with biscuits and fruit.

If anyone has any raffle prices, these will be gratefully received.

## Winter Team News

### Southport Saturday Winter League at Fleetwood Hesketh

More than 30 VPBC members are registered to play in the winter league and club members make up the majority of the players in four of the ten teams -



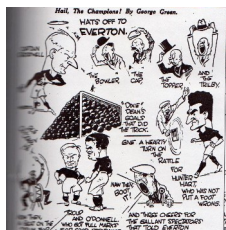
Jaguars



Tigers



Cobra Kai



60 Grand Old Team

Each match consists of two pairs playing each other, a win scoring one point and the overall aggregate scoring one point, making up to three points possible per match.

### The Maghull & District Winter League At Ormskirk

Our Victoria Park squad are enjoying their Tuesday league matches in the Maghull Winter League. We are also practising on Thursday mornings on the Ormskirk artificial green. It's been good fun with our squad trying very hard against high quality opponents who in most cases are more experienced on the unique, tricky green. We are aiming for a mid table finish and have recorded some pleasing pairs performances. The squad currently attending our Thursday practice sessions consists of Haydn Preece, Steve Halliwell, Debbie Barnes, Irene Kermode, Debbie Herold, Gary Baker, Mike Wardle, Janice Hobson, Paul McCabe and Neil Regan. If anyone would like to join us in the New Year please contact Haydn.

Each team plays once or twice a week and matches so far have been played on Saturday 18 and Saturday 25 November.

The Jaguars currently have seven points from four matches and Cobra Kai seven points from three matches. Both 60 Grand Old Team and the Tigers have played three matches, 60 Grand Old Team scoring five points and the Tigers no points.

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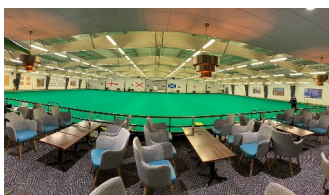
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VPBC members account for about one-third of the registered winter league players.

### Practice at the Ormskirk Green



### Indoor Bowls Prestatyn



On Sunday 12th November Eric Ireland arranged for 20 bowlers and 3 spectators to venture out from Southport for a day's Long Mat indoor bowling at the Prestatyn.....

Having booked 3 lanes, we played from 11am until 1pm, when a break for a delicious lunch was taken.

Following lunch the games resumed at 2pm concluding at 4pm.

Our thanks go to Eric Ireland for arranging a really successful and enjoyable day that will be undertaken again later in the Winter period.



## Indoor Bowling at the Dunes & Games Afternoon at the Pavilion



Just a reminder: there is still the opportunity to get together and play short-mat bowls at The Dunes, Monday 10am till 12midday or Wednesday 10-12 midday with Fred Douglas. Sue Mountford's Wednesday matches commence at 12:30pm. You will be in good company, the games are enjoyable, and there is a refreshment break halfway through the session.

If you would like a little bit of competition Sue runs a team in a League Wednesday morning 10am. There will be vacancies available after Christmas. If you are interested please contact Sue.

The Club Tuesday afternoon games continue throughout the winter from 12 midday at the Pavilion.

All members are welcome to come along and join in. You may enjoy it - if nothing else you can get a cup of tea and a biscuit.

## Recruiting players for A teams

At its November meeting the committee learned that a number of VPBC teams are struggling for players, typically A teams playing in the top or higher divisions of their respective leagues. Naturally, not everyone currently plays, or has the desire to play, to A team standard. If we know which members aspire to bowl for an A team, we can look for initiatives that can make this possible. If you have this ambition, please email [vpbc.sec@gmail.com](mailto:vpbc.sec@gmail.com). There's no reason to be shy, let's work together on this.

## Victoria Park Club Team Shirts

Presently each Team individually selects whether or not to wear a Team Shirt when representing the Club in their respective Leagues. Those that do also select the colour of the team shirt. This has led to some members having to purchase a number of shirts if they play for a number of teams. To overcome this, it has been suggested that all teams wear the same colour. The Chair would like all team members to consider this proposal, discuss it within your teams, and ask the Team Captains to submit their suggestions to the Chair before the AGM so that it can be discussed for the new season.

## Annual General Meeting 28th January 2024

The AGM will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00am at S&B Sports Club, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale. The doors will be open from 10:15am for a social get together beforehand, tea, coffee and other drinks will be available from the S&B bar. Members can put forward propositions for the AGM in writing to the Secretary by 16th January 2024. Anyone wishing to join the Committee or nominate a member for the Committee should contact the Chair, Sue Mountford, before 16th Jan '24. Any member that would like to volunteer to help with Club events should speak to Sue.

The draft Agenda for the meeting is:

- Welcome and Apologies
- Minutes of the AGM held on 18th February 2023
- Annual Report
- Treasurer's Report on the 2023 Financial Statement
- Election of Officers
- Election of the Committee
- Appointment of Examiners of the 2024 Accounts
- Chair's Plans for 2024
- Any Other Business
- Date of Next AGM

Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
Every Mon	Short mat Bowls at the Dunes 10-12
Every Tues	Games Afternoon 12 midday
Every Tues	Winter League at Ormskirk
Every Wed	Short mat Bowls at the Dunes 10-12 & 12:30 to end
8th Dec	Ladies Christmas Lunch
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan '24	Awards Night Old Links Golf Club
27th Jan 24	AGM at S&B Sports Club