Victoria Park Bowling Club

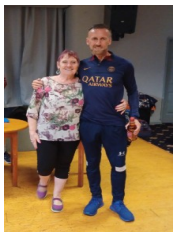
Newsletter - October 2024

Club Away Day

.On Sunday 1st September with unsettled wet weather day 40 members grabbed a seat on the coach and took on the 'Away Day Challenge' at the Fox Lane Sports & Social Club. Gary Burgess organized the competition, with 38 taking part in a Round Robin Pairs system which consisted of 10 Groups and was held during the morning Bowling session.

The winners of each Group went forward with the 6 best group runners up into the last 16 moving on to the last 8 and eventually to the semi finals, there was some very good bowling throughout the rounds. The semi finals were no different, with Gary Burgess beating Ted Morrell 21-7 and Dave Gordon overcoming Paul Crummey 21-12.

The final was a very tense, exciting game between Gary and Dave despite the wet conditions. Both players produced some excellent bowls, although Gary led from the start it became a very "nip & tuck" match with neither player managing a 3 end run. A memorable final which Gary eventually won, to become the Away Day Champion 21-17.



Thanks go to Gary for organizing the competition and also the final was professionally refereed by Paul Crummey.

A good buffet lunch and evening meal was provided by the Fox Lane team which appeared to go down well with all members and also a few drinks to help the grub on it's way..

Grateful thanks go to Irene Kermode, Sheila Mo & Liz Monteith for the overall organisation

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End of Season Pairs Competition

On Sunday 29th September the End of Season Pairs Competition was held on a real autumnal day, 32 members competed for the title, there was an equal number of ladies and gents. The format was a randomly drawn pairs without handicaps.

All those not progressing in round 1 were entered into the Consolation Competition, both in the main and consolation there were some very competitive matches.

The Main Competition winners were Carrol Whittaker & Steve Ridgway eventually beating Debbie Herold & Haydn Preece 21-20 in an extremely close match. The losing semi finalists were Colette McGenity & John Ashcroft and Nancy McDade & Dave Pilkington.

In the Consolation Competition the eventual winners, Wyn Allen & Brian Kildare were able to overcome Gayle Gordon & Ted Morrell also in a very close encounter. Losing semi finalists were Louise Draper & Alan Mountford and Jeana Ormesher & Brian Holland.

In a change from the norm, lunch was a BBQ consisting of Beef Burgers and or Sausages with onions and salad, the meat was made by a local butcher. The Chefs for the day were Paul McCabe and Graham Whittaker they cooked the food to perfection and our thanks go to them. Thanks also go to a number of members who donated Cakes. Following lunch a "Spider" roll up was played out for a bottle of Malt Whiskey, kindly donated by Paul McCabe. Mike Wardle was the lucky winner.

Finally our grateful thanks go to Dave Gordon and his son Adam for organising a very successful competition.

Dunes Short Mat Indoor Bowls

As the outdoor season slowly closes we look forward to the Dunes indoor games.. The Short Mat Indoor Bowls, Monday & Wednesday morning games start 10am – 12 midday and are organised by Denise Harvey.

The Wednesday afternoon sessions are 12:30pm for 1pm start, organised by Sue Mountford.

Indoor games (dominoes cards etc) in the Pavilion every Tuesday with bacon butties and tea.

Team Reports

Victoria Park Vikings
Southport Parks A Team

The Vikings are presently 2nd in the league and possibly promotion to the premier league. There are only 3 games to play, but Sandbrook are breathing down our necks just 10 points behind in 3rd place.

The Captain Mark Eustace would like to thank the team and those that have stepped in when required. The Team have been consistent all season with a strong mentality and great team spirit that will give us a great chance to achieve our goal.

Southport & District Ladies
(Thursday Evening)

Although the league title appeared to be slipping away from the Ladies a few weeks ago, the title came down to the last match of the season against the only other contender Crossens away at their Green.

Thanks to the team's remarkable spirit, unwavering camaraderie and outstanding performances they emerged victorious with a 5-3 win, gaining 8 points to claim the League Title.

The Teams Captain Gayle Gordon stated that it has been an absolute honour to be their Captain and would like to congratulate every team member.

Victoria Park Maghull Monday Night League Team

The Team has had another enjoyable season with some fantastic results and few we wish to forget. Finishing 5th in the Leagues Second Division, which consisted of 11 teams.

Of the 20 matches we won eleven, 9 at home. only losing at home to the Divisional Champions Brooklands by 18 chalks. Congratulations go to Carrol Whittaker, winning 13 of her 17 games, not losing a single game on our West Green. These results put her top of our team averages and 16th in the Divisional Averages.

We are also through to the Second Division Team Knockout Cup Final against Brooklands, originally planned for the 23rd September it was postponed due to bad weather and will now be held on 30th September. Watch out for the result in the next Newsletter.

Southport & District Ladies
Friday Afternoon A Team

The Ladies A Team had a great season winning 13 out of 16 games, losing only to Crossens twice (one of which was by 1 chalk) and Banks. The entered the final game of the season in 2nd place in the league 2 points behind Crossens, and it was Crossens they faced at home.

The Ladies played exceptionally well winning 7 of the 8 games, gaining 9 points and therefore winning the League Title.

Captain Sue Davies thanks all of her players who played well and gave their very best every week – sometimes when they were carrying injuries! Her thanks also go to Doreen, Irene and Carole Wilson for stepping in when the team were short of players.

Captain Gary Burgess would like to thank the squad for their commitment and continued support, stating: **"It was a pleasure to be their Captain"**	Congratulations go to Carrol Whittaker who finished 1st in the league and to Debbie Herold gaining 3rd place. Additional congratulations go to Carrol who finished 10th in the Lancashire Ladies inter town league in her first season winning 4 out of 5 games

Victoria Park A
Southport Vets Mixed (Division 1)

Although still at the bottom of the league all is not lost and the fight goes on. Unfortunately they took a bad knock when they met top of the league team Scarisbrick NSA at their green, it did not start well, as the Captain turned up at Scarisbrick BC in Falkland Road the wrong venue ! By the time Nigel arrived at Bullens Lane the rest of the team were happily warming up. But despite a number of the team putting up a valiant fight and coming close to winning their games, the team lost the match 10-0 thereby returning to the bottom of the league

The strong character of a team can be judged by their next result and their next match was at Home to Mere Brow who presently sit in 3rd place some 48 points ahead of them. They knew it was going to be a very tough match. After losing the first 3 games with an aggregate of 12-63, the team got stuck in and with Carrol Whittaker and Nigel (the Captain) both winning their games strongly the remainder of the team got stuck in and ended up winning the match 6 game to 4 with a very good aggregate giving them an 8 point victory.

Our next match was against Hoole A who presently sit in 6th place in the league. It was not going to be easy the green was extremely wet and the rain refused to relent and history was repeating itself, after 4 games they were 1-3 down, but the tenacious fight back began and they won the next 5 games which gave them a 6-4 win, with the aggregate they gained 9 precious points.
The team is now 7 points ahead of last place Banks B and just 3 points behind Fleetwood Hesketh who are looking hard over their shoulders, there is one match to play at Home to bottom placed Banks B.

There is light at the end of the tunnel, maybe it's not the relegation train!!

The Maghull Winter League

Winter is approaching and the Maghull Winter League will soon be starting, matches are played on Tuesdays at Ormskirk on the "Carpet". The Victoria Park Team currently includes:

Haydn Preece, Debbie Barnes, Debbie Herold, Irene Kermode, Mike Wardle,
Gary Baker, Sue Davies, Denise Harvey, Ted Morrell, Janice Hobson,
Paul McCabe, Steve Halliwell, Neil Regan.

Throughout the Winter each week we play four (4) players in two (2) pairs, it's great fun played against very competitive, high quality opposition. If any member would like to join the team please contact the Captain Haydn Preece.

The fixture list can be found at:

https://www.cgleague.co.uk/archives/div.php?&L=MagW&S=2024-25&D=-

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Club Shirts

A number of The Club Shirts are now in stock, should wish to purchase one please contact Sue Mountford. The cost is £25

Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
6th October	Singles Day Ladies & Gents
Every Monday, Wednesday	Short Mat Indoor Bowls at the Dunes
Every Tuesday	Indoor games at the Pavilion
8th October	Maghull Winter League Commences at Ormskirk
November date to be confirmed	Fleetwood Hesketh Winter League commences
6th Dec 24	Awards Night Old Links Golf Club
1St Feb '25	AGM at S&B Sports Club