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## TIME TO CHANGE?

Has the time come to change our start of season date? That is what some individuals are asking and many more thinking after our opening day fixture list was cancelled in its entirety. Easter Monday not only heralded the first day of the new season but also a return to winter conditions with heavy snowfalls resulting in all 11 of our opening day 6-Man League fixtures being called off. Not much better the following day when only 12 of the 31 scheduled 10-Man League games managed to go ahead.

Currently the 10-Man League Sections are set up to accommodate a maximum of 26 league fixtures played on the 26 Tuesdays from the beginning of April to the end of September. The free dates for Sections 3, 4 and 5 permit early Sub-Team KO games to be scheduled for then and any shortening of the season would impact on those dates first.

So should we be thinking about our start date which inevitably leads on to considering the end date and also the number of teams in each Section. There is also the opportunity to include changes to when KO games are played as well. Let's have a look at some of the options:

**Option 1:** Start and end the season 2-3 weeks later.

**Option 2:** Start the season 2-3 weeks later but still finish by end of September by playing some league matches on mid-week dates.

**Option 3:** Start the season 2-3 weeks later but still finish season at end of September by reducing teams in each Section to a maximum of 12 (a 22-week season).

**Option 4:** Reduce number of teams in each Section to 10 and then play knock-out games on vacant dates.

There are pros and cons for each option and whilst we currently have 62 teams in the 10-Man League it presents problems about any reorganisation. Maybe we should stick with what we have and this is always an option as well. The HDVBA Discussion Board has started tossing around some of the implications, with some new ideas including the introduction of a mid-season break.

Turn over to read about the impact any change to season dates could have on the 6-Man League.

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## **TIME TO CHANGE? - 2**

The 6-Man League is different in that with 23 teams at present there is some scope for change without major reorganisational surgery. The current 22-week league season is supplemented with four Mondays dedicated to Julie Fuller KO Trophy games. So you could put the start date back two weeks and move some of the Julie Fuller dates to mid-week without too much disruption although many clubs favour Mondays for KO games with some forced to withdraw through team raising problems on any other day than a Monday. A two-week delayed start would still allow the inclusion of two KO Mondays.

## **CLUB REPS CORNER**

Thank you to all clubs for their efforts in overcoming the Week 1 match postponements. We lost a total of 31 league matches in the first two weeks and all were rearranged to be played within the 28-days allowed under your rules. Thank you for your co-operation.

All Section 3 teams should note the withdrawal of Linthwaite Hall from the League. Those fixture dates are now blank for Section 3 teams.

We have had a problem with our bank refusing to accept cheques made out to 'HDVBA'. So if you intend paying any future dues by cheque please use our full title 'Huddersfield Veterans Bowling Association' each time to save you the bother of having cheques returned.

We are now aware of one wrong telephone number in the 2018 Yearbook. The Marsh Lib representative's mobile number is 07833735119 and not as listed in the book. Please update your copy and let me know if your contact details are incorrect in the Yearbook.

The General Secretary has a number of 2018 Yearbooks still available for purchase. They are priced at £1 each. Ring John Hoyle on 308051 to arrange delivery/collection.

Six-man teams are reminded of the qualifying rule regarding the Julie Fuller Trophy competition which begins on 21 May. Any bowler competing in this competition must have played two 6-man team league matches prior to the opening round. Make sure your bowlers get those two qualifying games in before the 21 May deadline otherwise you cannot play them. Any team ignoring this rule will be eliminated.

Delighted to report that Paul Rangeley of Netherton Cons has offered sponsorship of the 2018 Rose Bowl competition which is very generous of him and we are very grateful of his support. We still have sponsorship opportunities for the Sub-Team KO which would suit a member club as they get the option to host the competition final and the potential income to be generated from such a day. In addition our Inter-District team is still looking for a new business sponsor for the 2018 season.

# INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

It is that time of year again where you are invited to enter some of our Individual & Pairs Knock-Out Competitions. With over £1,300 in prize money to be won and entry fees set at a maximum of £2 the way is open to all with a range of competitions to attract everyone. There is a lot of history about these competitions as well and all the winners names go on to the League's Roll of Honour and their names will appear in the Yearbook and League records for ever.

## **ROSE BOWL** (sponsored by Paul Rangeley)

Singles Knock-Out Handicap competition open to all League bowlers. This our most prestigious competition and last year there was £440 in prize money when Tony Clegg of Crosland Moor beat Mick Cox of Lockwood Con in the final. Closing Date: 26 May Entry Fee: £2

## **OVER-70's** (sponsored by Lockwood Cons)

Entrants must be aged 70 or over on 31 May. Eddie Haigh of Lockwood Con beat Frank Greenwood in the 2017 final. Straight knock-out handicap format. There was £280 in prize money paid out last year. Closing Date: 12 May Entry Fee: £1.50

## **OVER-80's** (sponsored by Pat & Alan Stephenson)

Entries must be aged 80 or over on 25 May and last year there was £180 in the Prize Fund and it was Eddie Hine of Kirkheaton C&BC who beat Geoff Rollinson of Holmfirth in the final. Handicap KO format. Closing Date: 25 May Entry Fee: £1.50

## **PAIRS** (sponsored by Almondbury Liberal Club)

Pairs must be from same club. Handicap Knock-Out with £300 in prize money paid out in 2017 when Duggie Duck and Dave Cooling of Lockwood Con lifted the trophy by beating their club mates Eddie Haigh and Mick Cox by 21-20. Closing Date: 12 May with a £3 per pair entry fee.

## **LOWER DIVISIONS TROPHY** (sponsored by Atkinson Interiors)

Singles Handicap KO competition with £115 in prize money last year. Open to bowlers from Sections 3 (except Starred Bowlers), 4, 5, A and B. Anyone who has played a game in Sections 1 or 2 is not eligible to enter. Derek Sykes from Marsden Park beat Phil Hunter of Lowerhouses in the 2017 final. Closing Date: 26 May Entry Fee: £1.50

There is an online entry form on the HDVBA website where you can enter as many of the competitions as you are eligible for or you can send your entry direct to our Competition Secretary David Sykes at 26B Deyne Road, Netherton HD4 7ET. Club Reps should collect your entry fees and then get them to the Competition Secretary.

Full details of each competition are available on our HDVBA website along with the listing of all the previous winners, competition by competition.

## YCGBA VETS TITLE

The Yorkshire Qualifying Round of the BCGBA Veterans Individual Championship will be held at Marsh United on Friday 11 May 2018. Entries are now invited from all Male and Female bowlers aged 60 or over on 1 January 2018.

The competition starts at 11:00am and the draw will be made on the day. The entry fee is £2 and will be collected on match day. The closing date for entries is Saturday 5 May and all entries should be sent to Chris Hasselby, 48 Spring Avenue, Long Lee, Keighley BD21 4UJ or telephone 01535-210813. Spectators will be welcome on the day and refreshments will be available.

The successful qualifiers will progress to the BCGBA Veterans Finals Day which will be held on 4 July 2018 starting at 10:00am at Prees Cricket & Recreation Club in Shropshire. The eventual winners will be presented with the Jack & Jean Isherwood Trophy.

## INTER-DISTRICT FIXTURES

The Inter-District season starts on Friday 4 May and we open the 2018 campaign with home and away fixtures against Wakefield. Having finished fourth last year the team will be looking to regain the form that saw them last win the title in 2014. Greens are allocated on a match-by-match basis. The full fixture programme looks like this:

4 May v Wakefield  
18 May v Skipton  
1 June v Bradford  
15 June v Castleford  
29 June v Leeds  
27 July v West Riding  
10 August v Halifax

## MAY DIARY

Tues 1st	Sub-Team KO Preliminary Round
Fri 4th	Inter-District v Wakefield
Tues 8th	Sub-Team KO Round 1
Thurs 10th	Bistro Round 1
Sat 12th	Closing date for Over-70s, Over-80s and Pairs KO's
Thurs 17th	Team KO Round 1
Fri 18th	Inter-District v Skipton
Mon 21st	Julie Fuller Preliminary Round
Thurs 24th	Pairs KO (down to 32)
Fri 25th	Over-80s KO (down to 16)
Sat 26th	Closing date for Rose Bowl & Lower Divisions Trophy
Thurs 31st	Over-70s KO (down to 32)

### MAY NEWSLETTER

If you have registered to receive the monthly HDVBA Newsletter then the June 2018 issue will be arriving in your email inbox by

**FRIDAY 25 MAY**

Reserve your copy by registering at [www.hdvba.co.uk](http://www.hdvba.co.uk)

# THE HC&AC STORY

One of the oldest and most successful bowling clubs in the area in the last 120 years was the now defunct Huddersfield Cricket & Athletic Club (HC&AC) or as they became known, 'Fartown'.

In the Veterans League they won the Section 2 title in 1982 after lifting the Section 3 title four years previously and were Team KO Winners in 1981. However it was in other competitions that they really made their mark with a string of top awards in local, county and national competitions.

They lifted the Huddersfield League's top team competition, the Subscription Cup, 12 times between 1924 and 1980. Then the ultimate prize of the Yorkshire Cup was won on six occasions (as well as being runners-up four times) the first being in 1897 when they beat Chapeltown at Ilkley and the last in 1970. The last win came about by a concentrated effort to bring the best bowlers to the club specifically to win the County title and, with the financial support of the Sellers family who were generous supporters of the Fartown sporting hub, they achieved that aim.

In recognition of reaching that Final the team was kitted out in new plum coloured blazers, slacks, shirts and Panama hats with 'Fartown' banding around the rim. The team were expected to wear the full outfit when travelling to any away game the year following their last success to intimidate their opponents. Ken Atkinson was a member of that successful side and he recalls one occasion when the team was congregating to travel in their resplendent outfits that another team member, the unique Jack Hewitt, announced that they looked like a brass band on the road.

Besides Ken (Elland C&BC) and Jack (Lindley Lib) other current Veterans League bowlers who played at HC&AC were Alan Hirst (Thongsbridge), John Wright and Chris Squires (both Milnsbridge BC). The captain of the last County Cup winning team was Fred Whitehead from Wakefield who was a local bowling legend. Also remembered as a great tactician with good man-management and motivational skills. His list of individual honours from the sport is huge but included the Champion of

Champions title twice, in 1964 and 1974, the Huddersfield Merit in 1970 and the Talbot championship at Blackpool in 1968 eventually culminating in the title of All England Champion in 1974.

The HC&AC club was first formed in 1875 by the amalgamation of St Johns' Cricket Club and Huddersfield Athletic club. The club was located at the St Johns site, on Spaines Road in Fartown. Crown green bowling came along a little later and two bowling greens were built on the HC&AC complex. The big bottom green [50x40 yards] was used in the sixties and seventies for the prestigious Websters Brewery Northern Counties handicap. Playing 31-up off a maximum 7+ handicap on Sundays it attracted bowlers from several northern counties.

Later a green wide scorers shelter was erected at the end across the lane from Fartown WMC's green. The smaller top green [45x35 yards] was a tricky green favoured by 'homesters'. Both now gone with the rest of the sporting infrastructure that harbours so many sporting memories for the many sports that thrived there including football, rugby league, all forms of athletics, cricket as well as crown green bowling and not forgetting the indoor sports with a snooker hot-bed developed on the back of a number of tables being installed.

The subsequent decline of the bowling club paralleled the decline of the Rugby section. In 1984 HC&AC club was taken over by the late John Bailey and renamed 'Arena 84'. The club's snooker tables had been sold when the late Jack Broadbent turned up to play a competition match. This leading to further reduce support of the club was the last straw and the decline was well and truly on but not before the two greens were among the 16 greens selected for the 1986 Easter Handicap with an entry list exceeding 300 bowlers but by then the greens were fast deteriorating and it was to be a swansong before the ultimate passing of Fartown into Huddersfield's sporting heritage.

*I am very grateful to Bob Swan and Ken Atkinson for sharing their memories and photographs of those days and also to Bob Haigh for the more recent photographs, all included overpage.*

## THE HC&AC STORY IN PICTURES



Above is the HC&AC St John's Stone featuring Hercules which was originally sited above the entrance to the Apollo Gymnasium on St John's Road for over a 100 years and is now resting in the memorial garden at the John Smith Stadium and below is an ariel view of Fartown at its height with the two greens easily spotted in the centre.



Two photographs of the HC&AC Bowling Team that won the 1974 Yorkshire Cup with a number of them in their sponsored plum-coloured outfits although without the Panama hats.



The two former bowling greens at Fartown now home to an all-weather netball court

