

NEWSLETTER

A review of the past month, a preview of the coming month

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Passing of Former President

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The Huddersfield & District Veteran's Bowling Association has lost a good friend, loyal servant, former Inter-District team captain, Life Member and past President in Bernard Jones who passed away peacefully at home on Thursday 20 July aged 89.

Bernard was a one-club man since joining Almondbury Lib in 1984 and played for the clubs teams in the Liberal League, Mirfield League and Huddersfield League and then when qualified he started in the Veteran's League.

In 1994 he captained the club's 6-man team to the Section A title and followed that up by leading the 10-man team to the Section 2 title two years later.

Bernard then went on to captain the away side in the all-conquering Huddersfield Inter-District team that won the Yorkshire title for seven consecutive years.

He became HDVBA President for the period 2000-01 and joined with Clifford Tattersley to win the Pairs Knock-Out in 2000. Never one to stand still Bernard became President of the Liberal League, Bowling Secretary for his club and then Village Secretary where he organised the Biltcliffe and Fenay bowling trophies. He was actively involved in the major building programme around the Almondbury Lib green often to be seen digging out footings, mixing and laying concrete, a real club man.

His health deteriorated and resulted in him stopping bowling two years ago. Bernard leaves his wife Joyce and family of David, Neil, Hazel and the late Lynn. Friends are asked to meet at Huddersfield Crematorium on Tuesday 1 August at 2:00pm. Family flowers only with donations for Kirkwood Hospice accepted at the funeral. Bernard will be missed by all including his many friends in the Huddersfield Veteran's Bowling League.

Two more photographs inside. R.I.P. Bernard



Canalside Back Green Update

Thank you to the teams that have helped Canalside out by agreeing to bring their League fixtures forward to an early (11:00am) start time. There are just four fixtures that are affected, two for the A team and two for the B team, due to a clash with Ladies League matches already scheduled for those Tuesday afternoons on the front green.

The loss of the Canalside back green with effect from the end of July is a big loss to local bowling but a bigger loss to the loyal membership of the club's bowling teams. Although arrangements are now in place for all their teams, including two teams moving their home fixtures to Bradley & Colne for this season, the longer term picture remains uncertain.

With some stories appearing in The Examiner about members leaving Canalside sports teams because of the unrest and uncertainty the situation may resolve itself if they lose a number of teams



then there may be no need to reprovide all the facilities being lost. That would be a huge disappointment for local sport in general but hardly surprising in the circumstances.

However there is also an opportunity here with Huddersfield Town aware of the public relations disaster facing them and keen to appease club members. The option to reprovide the lost facilities could bring long term benefit and stability but that requires the bowls teams to lead such developments and work with Town on overcoming these changes. It seems that the snooker fraternity has a stronger voice than bowling at present.

The more members that leave the club the more difficult it will be to convince Town to invest in a new and improved setup for bowlers. Moving to another club will be the easy option for many and they can hardly be blamed especially the more senior members that bowl in the Veteran's League who can no longer be motivated by promises of long term benefits.

The current agreement in place between Town and the bowlers is that two greens will be provided up until 2025 as long as the membership is no lower than 119 paying members. That total currently stands at 99 so giving Town a get-out opportunity if membership numbers are not addressed. Following on from the loss of the green at Newsome last year this is another blow to bowling in Huddersfield and it would be great to hear of a new green being developed anywhere.

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Club Reps Corner

Fancy having your own club's website? The developer of the Bowlsnet website is offering a free facility to allow individual bowling clubs to design and develop their own websites. This would allow pages to be populated from data on Bowlsnet such as fixtures, results, league tables, player averages etc. It would not be restricted to just Vets League data but any League that uses Bowlsnet could be included in the club's website so providing a single visit for all the teams that a club has in local leagues. The offer includes a free easy to use Web Editor for you to design all the pages of the website which each club has to do themselves. Full details can be found at www.bowlsnet.uk/.

If one of your club teams reaches a Knock-Out Final then you need to make the bowlers representing the club that day aware of the dress code. Only black trousers are now allowed in line with BCGBA Rules. The same rule applies for our Individual Knock-Out Finals with participation being stopped for any bowler not conforming with the code. As Club Rep you need to make all your bowlers aware of this restriction.

BERNARD JONES

Two more photographs featuring the late Bernard Jones. The first sees Bernard in the centre on his home Almondbury Lib green whilst the bottom one shows the victorious 2010 Inter-District team with away team captain Bernard seated second from the right in the front row.



Inter-District Team Lose Out

Our representative team fared well in the one-day Hickson Trophy competition before failing at the final hurdle when beaten in the Final by Bradford. A win over the host city of Leeds was followed by a close victory over a strong Sheffield side before a 211-197 reversal against deserved winners on the day in a repeat of the 2016 Final. The Inter-District campaign continues and again Bradford seem on course to win that as well with just two matches remaining they have a five point lead over Halifax who they confront in the final game of the season. Before then they meet bottom-of-the-table Castleford. Our team currently sits in fourth place just 13 points off the top and any slip up by the leaders could play into our team's hands.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

If you have registered to receive the monthly Newsletter then the September 2017 issue should be arriving in your email inbox by

MONDAY 28th AUGUST

Register on www.hdvba.co.uk

Fantasy League Update

The Fantasy League competition moves in to the final third of the season with David Morrison still having a firm grip on the title and £60 first prize as he extends his lead to a season best 19 points. The race behind for the minor placings is warming up as well with three contenders separated by one point so still lots to play for. The Knock-Out 1 competition finally went the way of Frank Greenwood who beat Kenneth Broadbent in the final. Knock-Out 2 starts on August 14 so renewing interest for those whose position in the full league may not be ideal.

League's 50th Anniversary Looms

The Association's 50th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2020 having first been formed in 1970 but what form should those celebrations take? A number of suggestions have been made by bowlers on the HDVBA Discussion Board and some good ones are amongst them. More ideas are encouraged but there appears to be a will amongst all to mark the occasion in some form. Visit the Discussion Board to catch up on those ideas and add your own suggestion.

August Diary

Tues 1st	Sub-Team KO Round 3
Thurs 3rd	Bistro Round 4
Fri 4th	Julie Fuller Trophy Semi-Finals
Tues 8th	Lower Division Trophy (down to 8)
Thurs 10th	Over-70's (down to 8)
Fri 11th	Inter-District v West Riding
Thurs 17th	Team KO Semi-Finals
Thurs 17th	Sub-team KO Semi-Finals
Fri 18th	OVER-80's FINAL
Fri 18th	JULIE FULLER FINAL
Thurs 24th	Bistro Semi-Finals
Fri 25th	LOWER DIVISION TROPHY FINAL
Thurs 31st	PAIRS KO FINAL