

NEWSLETTER

Number 27
March 2019

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

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This is the official monthly Newsletter of the HDVBA which provides friendly but competitive crown green bowling for the Over-60s in the Huddersfield area.

Thank you to **TONY LOCKWOOD** of Lowerhouses for sponsoring this issue of the Newsletter

HDVBA TREASURER IS NEW YORKSHIRE CCGBA PRESIDENT

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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MARCH SPONSOR

Thank you to Tony Lockwood of Lowerhouses for his generous sponsorship of this issue of the Newsletter. I am now looking for sponsorship of the April and May issues so will be delighted to hear from anyone interested in helping secure the future of the free monthly newsletter. It costs just £20 to sponsor an issue with full front page acknowledgement in that edition for the individual or commercial organisation sponsor.

FRONT COVER

On the front cover of your new format newsletter this month is a photograph of six Shepley bowlers bearing the February elements at the Penistone all-weather green to get in some much-needed practice. They are left-to-right, Ian Yeardley, Wilf Hartley, David Erving, Keith Hann, John Brook and Elon Sykes. This isn't just a photo-shoot they actually played for two-hours in sub-zero temperatures. They breed 'em tough in Shepley.

BIGGEST IN YORKSHIRE?

The addition of ten new teams to our ranks this season makes us the biggest League in the Huddersfield area (maybe in Yorkshire). With 94 teams we are now larger than the Huddersfield League (84 teams), Mirfield League (75), Heavy Woollen League (63) and the Works League (41).

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Congratulations to HDVBA Treasurer Alan Stephenson of Waterloo Bowling Club who has been elected as the 2019 President of the Yorkshire County Crown Green Bowling Association. This is great honour for Alan recognising the many years of office both at County and Huddersfield levels.

He held the position of Chief Executive and Treasurer at the Yorkshire CCGBA from 2008-2016 and was the President of our Association for three years from 2013-2015. Alan is now in to his third year as HDVBA Treasurer and this award will be greatly welcomed by all.

Alan follows another ex-HDVBA President as Alan Sharpe has also held both positions in the past. It is an honour for Alan and he will now have a full year of events to attend throughout the County in this prestigious post. We offer our congratulations and wish him well in this important role.

AGM RETAINS THE STATUS QUO

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on 18 February at Paddock I&C when clubs voted to retain exactly the same set up as previously in place. That meant that all the Officials were re-elected en-bloc so continuing with the following establishment:

President: Alan Hirst

Vice-President: John Hoyle

Treasurer: Alan Stephenson

General Secretary: John Hoyle

League Secretary: Jeff Jacklin

Competition Secretary: David Sykes

Management Committee:

David Armitage, John Townend, Ian Kinloch,
Frank Greenwood and Allan Dobson

Alan Stephenson presented the Association's end-of-year accounts for 2018 which showed a deficit of £670 operating loss on the year. Much of this being down to the loss of two major sponsors, Bluebird Care and Armitage Leisure, during the year. This contributed to an overall £200 reduction in income.

The Treasurer was confident that the deficit would be addressed this coming season with the increase in League fees already agreed along with the increased number of teams in the League. Members were given the opportunity to question the Treasurer before the balance sheet was approved without objection.

The League Secretary outlined the League structure for the coming season with changes implemented to accommodate applications from 10 new teams to enter our leagues. However Marsden Park have withdrawn their team from the 10-Man League due to team-raising difficulties but have managed to form a new 6-man team instead. This has resulted in a net nine-team gain in numbers for the new season, a remarkable achievement.

With seven new teams applying to join the 6-Man League providing a total of 30 teams it has resulted in an additional Section being formed with now three 10-team Sections for the 2019 season. All the new teams were placed in the new Section C except for Longwood and Lockwood Con who were both put in Section B.

Three new teams in the 10-Man League took the total to 64 teams with the top two Sections having 14 teams and 12 in each of the other three.

The Competition Secretary outlined some minor changes to administration of our Individual KO

competitions and then announced the introduction of a new Over-70's Pairs KO competition being run for the first time following receipt of a three-year sponsorship deal with an individual who prefers to remain anonymous.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Upon completion of the AGM the President opened the one-item agenda Special General Meeting. This had been called by the Management Committee to consider a proposed rule change. The meeting fully supported the proposal which resulted in a change to Match Play Rule 1c which now means that only Section 1 and 2 teams will have Starred Bowlers.

This will release a further potential 75 bowlers who will now be able to play for their club's lower placed teams and also in the 6-Man League. The two clubs who have B teams in Section 2 - Lockwood Con and Meltham - will be the only disadvantaged clubs affected by the new rule as they will have a further 5 Starred Bowlers than would previously have been the case. The Management Committee deliberated on this point but decided if B teams were good enough to operate at that level then their bowlers should be treated just the same as other Section 2 bowlers.

INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY



It was announced at the AGM that General Secretary John Hoyle would be standing down from his role in the short term due to illness but he hoped to resume his position at some stage during the new season. Interim arrangements with the League Secretary covering the role were also shared

with the meeting. Subsequent to that, Management Committee member Allan Dobson has agreed to assume the role of Interim General Secretary to cover John's absence. Allan can be contacted on his mobile phone on 07974271293 or by email at allan_dobson@sky.com.

GOLDEN JUBILEE PLANS

Clubs were informed of plans to celebrate the Association's 50th Anniversary at the AGM and some dates can now be added to those announcements.

Clubs gave an overwhelming endorsement to the plans to have a Launch event at the start of the season and a Presentation event at the season end. Dates have now been agreed with two venues with the first taking place on the afternoon of Monday 17 February 2020 at Meltham Bowling Club. This event will include the League's Annual General Meeting followed by a buffet, some awards to individual and clubs around the Anniversary celebrations and some speakers looking back at the history of our Leagues.

The end of season event will include the presentation of trophies to League and Knock-Out winners, a buffet and some other awards as befitting of the occasion. This will be held at Rastrick Bowling Club on the afternoon of Monday 2 November 2020.

Clubs were pleased to hear that the costs of events planned to date could all be funded from current balances and the previously touted Club Levy is not required. Clubs denied the opportunity to contribute to the cost of the celebrations may wish to see their club added to the list of Patrons instead.

The new Anniversary Patron scheme continues to attract support and help fund some of the plans and it is hoped that more individuals, clubs and businesses will come forward to add their names to this list of benefactors.

It is also hoped to attract further sponsorship from local and national businesses which would enable the purchase of some mementoes to be shared amongst clubs but this is far from certain at this time.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

48 YEARS AGO

16 March 1971

Meeting of Clubs

The meeting date had been moved forward from 18 March due to a widely supported general strike planned for that date.

47 YEARS AGO

23 March 1972

A proposal to run a Pairs competition in the 1972 season was not supported as it was thought that the season was already too full with the league and the one knock-out competition.

ANNIVERSARY PATRONS

We are very grateful to the growing list of Anniversary Patrons for their support of this scheme. Further contributions are most welcome with a minimum donation of £10 getting your name on the list which will be widely shared over the next two years. All funds raised will directly benefit the commemoration of the Association's 50th Anniversary.

We are pleased to add that all Patrons registered by 5 March will now be included in the 2019 Handbook as well as the Anniversary Handbook in 2020.

The current list of Patrons is below and you can add your name to this list and show your support by contacting the League Secretary.

ANNIVERSARY PATRONS:

Peter & Judith Muff, David Sykes (Brockholes), Jeff Jacklin (Kirkheaton Con), Allan Dobson (Kirkheaton C&BC), Philip Walker (Lindley BC), Bob Swan (Cowcliffe), David Union (Outlane), Jeff & Ann Smith (Meltham), Paul Rushworth (Broad Oak), Ian Crawford (Longwood), David Blackburn (Thorpe Green) and Brian Faichney (Canalside).

TRANSFERS RUN DRY

With just one bowler transfer during February it looks like business is almost complete for the coming season. That transaction saw Rod Jackson move from Waterloo to Almondbury BC.

Clubs continued to take advantage of the new bowler qualifying age with some new bowler registrations and in February there was a lot of activity around bowlers signing for a second club to enable them to play for different clubs in the 6-man and 10-man leagues as now allowed under our rules.

Crosland Moor being a prime example of this when signing 7 bowlers for their 6-man team from David Brown Sports who only have a 10-man team. The added factor being that the two clubs share a green so bringing that local knowledge with them. All the new bowler registrations in February are listed below.

19-02-19	Dennis Burnand	Longwood (6man)
19-02-19	John Goldthorpe	Shepley (6man)
20-02-19	B Ashwell	Crosland Moor (6man)
20-02-19	David Heeley	Crosland Moor (6man)
20-02-19	J Mulligan	Crosland Moor (6man)
20-02-19	J Wade	Crosland Moor (6man)
20-02-19	R Wood	Crosland Moor (6man)
20-02-19	B Lambourne	Crosland Moor (6man)
20-02-19	M Boon	Crosland Moor (6man)
22-02-19	Ken Boyles	Kirkheaton C&BC

INTER-DISTRICT ALL-CHANGE

Things are happening with our Inter-District teams following the retirement at the end of last season of the two team captains, Frank Greenwood and Donald Crowther. Their replacements have been announced this month with Mick Cox and Malcolm Gilbert taking over the Home and Away teams respectively. Tony Emerson has also stepped down as Away Team Manager and John Hoyle has stepped in to that role. The one Remainder is David Armitage who retains his role as Home Team Manager.

With a second successive fourth-place finish last year after so many years of winning and competing at the top of the table it seems the time has come for a change. Both former captains took matters in to their hands by announcing that they were standing down but remain available for selection.

Mick Cox of Lockwood Cons is the new Home Team Captain and he can certainly lead by example as he has finished in the League's Top 3 Singles Averages in Section 1 for the last five seasons, coming out top on three occasions. Malcolm Gilbert has been an away team player for the last three seasons and most recently finished as the top Huddersfield Away Team bowler winning 5 of his 7 matches.



Mick Cox



Malcolm Gilbert

The fixtures for the coming season have all been released with the one-day Hickson Trophy KO being played in Barnsley on Friday 12 July. All matches are played on Fridays starting at 1.30pm.

2019 FIXTURES

- 3 May v Leeds
- 17 May v Wakefield
- 31 May v Halifax
- 14 June v Bradford
- 28 June v Skipton
- 26 July v Castleford
- 9 August v West Riding

90 YEARS & STILL COUNTING



Ken Williams of Slaithwaite B.C. received a Long Service Award at the Annual General Meeting to commemorate still being an active bowler in our League after passing his 90th birthday. Ken is still very active for his club turning out in 16 League games last season, winning 5 of them. The picture above shows Ken receiving his award from HDVBA President Alan Hirst.

FANTASY LEAGUE KICKS OFF

The Well Bowled sponsored Fantasy League is once again open for business with £120 in the Prize Fund and free entry for all Veterans League bowlers.

All you have to do is select your top teams in each of our eight Sections and every point your teams get goes towards your Fantasy League total. Top performers over the season win the top prizes.

Change in format this year for as well as the one big League with everyone in, we have also created three new Leagues where even more prizes are on offer. There are eight guaranteed winners this year compared with five last season so every reason to get involved. If you don't have time to select your entries then leave it to us with a Lucky Dip entry.

Visit the HDVBA website and enter now.

BISTRO KO COMPETITION DRAW

The draws for all four of our team Knock-Out competitions have now been completed starting with the Bistro involving all 64 of our 10-man teams. The format of this competition tends to throw up some giant-killing acts with it's five pairs format and with the total aggregate score determining the winners. A drawn aggregate scoreline then gets decided by the team with the most wins. Throw in a handicapping system for good measure and surprise results are almost guaranteed. With no less than six ties involving Section 1 teams facing Section 5 sides the scope for surprise results seems to have increased. Thursday 9 May is the date of the first round but unfortunately we have already had two teams - Elland C&BC A and Rastrick - withdraw from this competition as they traditionally have difficulty fielding full teams with other League commitments for mid-week fixtures. The holders are Marsh United A and they get a bye after the withdrawal of Elland C&BC B.

Bistro

Round 1 Thursday 9 May 2019

1.	Shepley (+12)	v.	Brockholes A (+8)	On Golcar Lib.
2.	Holmfirth B (+32)	v.	Lindley Lib. B (+20)	On Lockwood Con.
3.	Marsh United B (+24)	v.	Canalside (+24)	On Brockholes
4.	Primrose Hill Lib A (+16)	v.	Golcar Lib B (+16)	On Milnsbridge
5.	Paddock I & C (+16)	v.	New Mill A (+8)	On Cowcliffe
6.	Ravensknowle Park B (+36)	v.	Meltham A (+4)	On Huddersfield RUBC
7.	Kirkheaton Con. A (+12)	v.	Broad Oak A (+8)	On Outlane
8.	Hemphol B (+36)	v.	Longwood (+4)	On Crosland Moor B.C.
9.	Skel Windmill (+12)	v.	Marsh Lib (+36)	On Waterloo
10.	Clayton West (+4)	v.	Greenhead Park (+32)	On Thongsbridge
11.	<i>Elland C&BC A (withdrawn)</i>	v.	Crosland Moor	
12.	David Brown Sports (+32)	v.	Waterloo (+4)	On New Mill
13.	<i>Rastrick (withdrawn)</i>	v.	Kirkheaton C & BC A	
14.	Golcar Lib A	v.	Primrose Hill Lib. B (+36)	On Springwood
15.	Denby Dale (+24)	v.	Brockholes B (+20)	On Almondbury B.C.
16.	Huddersfield RUBC (+28)	v.	Netherton Con. B (+24)	On Lindley Lib.
17.	Marsh United A	v.	<i>Elland C & BC B (withdrawn)</i>	
18.	Hemphol A (+12)	v.	Ravensknowle Park A (+24)	On Slaithwaite
19.	Cowcliffe	v.	Almondbury Lib. (+16)	On Thorpe Green
20.	New Mill B (+28)	v.	Milnsbridge A	On Broad Oak
21.	Meltham C (+24)	v.	Outlane (+20)	On Kirkheaton Cons
22.	Almondbury B.C. B (+16)	v.	Netherton Con. A (+4)	On Hemphol
23.	Lockwood Con. A	v.	Holmfirth A (+20)	On Kirkheaton C&BC
24.	Broad Oak B (+32)	v.	Lockwood Con. B (+12)	On Paddock I&C
25.	Lindley B.C. B (+32)	v.	Almondbury B.C. A	On Dalton
26.	Slaithwaite (+20)	v.	Dalton (+32)	On Meltham No.1
27.	Meltham B (+12)	v.	Thongsbridge A (+8)	On Holmfirth
28.	Kirkheaton C & BC B (+36)	v.	Thorpe Green (+12)	On Netherton Con.
29.	Milnsbridge B (+28)	v.	Lindley B.C. A (+8)	On Primrose Hill Lib.
30.	Lowerhouses (+28)	v.	Thongsbridge B (+28)	On Shepley
31.	Lindley Lib. A (+4)	v.	Springwood (+16)	On Lowerhouses
32.	Bradley & Colne (+20)	v.	Kirkheaton Con. B (+36)	On Meltham No.2

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION DRAWS

The Team KO competition is for the top 32 teams from the previous season and the match format is the same as for League games with four Singles and three Pairs. The differences being that it is a handicap competition with the result determined by the aggregate score. We are grateful to Lindley Bowling Club for once again sponsoring this competition in 2019. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Team KO

Round 1 Thursday 16 May 2019

1.	Milnsbridge A	v.	Longwood (+5)	On Brockholes
2.	Netherton Con. A (+5)	v.	Kirkheaton C & BC A (+10)	On Outlane
3.	New Mill A	v.	<i>Elland C&BC A (withdrawn)</i>	
4.	Thongsbridge A (+10)	v.	Waterloo (+5)	On Bradley & Colne
5.	Meltham B (+15)	v.	Almondbury Lib. (+20)	On Longwood
6.	Almondbury B.C. B (+20)	v.	Primrose Hill Lib A (+20)	On Lockwood Con.
7.	Clayton West (+5)	v.	Meltham A (+5)	On Shepley
8.	Hemplow A (+15)	v.	Brockholes A (+10)	On Netherton Con.
9.	Thorpe Green	v.	<i>Rastrick (withdrawn)</i>	
10.	Lockwood Con. B (+15)	v.	Kirkheaton Con. A (+15)	On Almondbury B.C.
11.	Golcar Lib A	v.	Almondbury B.C. A	On Lindley B.C.
12.	Paddock I & C (+20)	v.	Lindley B.C. A (+10)	On Cowcliffe
13.	Crosland Moor (+10)	v.	Shepley (+15)	On Milnsbridge
14.	Broad Oak A (+10)	v.	Lockwood Con. A	On Huddersfield RUBC
15.	Cowcliffe	v.	Marsh United A	On Crosland Moor B.C.
16.	Skel Windmill (+15)	v.	Lindley Lib. A (+5)	On Slaithwaite

The Sub-Team KO is contested by the 10-man teams outside the top 32 teams from last season otherwise it is exactly the same format as the Team KO. We don't currently have a sponsor for this competition so anyone, individual, club or commercial organisation, who may be interested in helping us out here should get in touch and we will be very pleased to hear from you.

Sub-Team KO

Round 1 Tuesday 30 April 2019

1.	Holmfirth A (+25)	v.	Slaithwaite (+25)	On Broad Oak
2.	Lindley B.C. B (+40)	v.	Primrose Hill Lib. B (+45)	On Cowcliffe
3.	Lindley Lib. B (+25)	v.	Netherton Con. B (+30)	On Crosland Moor B.C.
4.	Holmfirth B (+40)	v.	Ravensknowle Park B (+45)	On Almondbury Lib.
5.	New Mill B (+35)	v.	Bradley & Colne (+25)	On Hemplow
6.	Brockholes B (+25)	v.	Outlane (+25)	On Meltham No.1
7.	Marsh United B (+30)	v.	Milnsbridge B (+35)	On Lindley B.C.
8.	Lowerhouses (+35)	v.	Hemplow B (+45)	On Slaithwaite
9.	Elland C & BC B (+35)	v.	Kirkheaton C & BC B (+45)	On Longwood
10.	Meltham C (+30)	v.	Broad Oak B (+40)	On Bradley & Colne
11.	Kirkheaton Con. B (+45)	v.	Greenhead Park (+40)	On Outlane
12.	Dalton (+40)	v.	David Brown Sports (+40)	On Huddersfield RUBC
13.	Springwood (+20)	v.	Thongsbridge B (+35)	On Marsh Lib
14.	Canalside (+30)	v.	Denby Dale (+30)	On Holmfirth
15.	Huddersfield RUBC (+35)	v.	Golcar Lib B (+20)	On Kirkheaton Cons
16.	Ravensknowle Park A (+30)	v.	Marsh Lib (+45)	On Paddock I&C

JULIE FULLER TROPHY DRAW

Once again we are delighted that Julie Fuller continues to sponsor the competition bearing her name in the Knock-Out Competition for teams in the 6-Man League. With the biggest number of entries ever and every round except the Final being played on a Monday we expect competition to be fierce in trying to rest this prestigious trophy away from 2018 winners Lindley Lib. The five pairs format with the winners decided by the better aggregate score all adds to the model that some teams just can't come to terms with. With handicaps being an added factor to even up the inter-Section gaps and open up the potential for shock results. Skel Windmill and Crosland Moor get byes through the Preliminary Round with the other 28 contenders matched up for the 20 May launch of the 2019 competition.

Julie Fuller Trophy

Preliminary Round Monday 20 May 2019

1.	Marsh Lib (+18)	v.	Thongsbridge A (+12)	On Oakfield T&BC
2.	Greenhead Park (+18)	v.	Golcar Lib. (+6)	On Milnsbridge BC
3.	Brockholes B (+18)	v.	Meltham (+12)	On Farnley Tyas
4.	Lindley Lib. B (+18)	v.	Farnley Tyas (Scr)	On Golcar Lib.
5.	Holmfirth (+12)	v.	Netherton Con. (Scr)	On Marsh United
6.	Shepley B (+18)	v.	Primrose Hill Lib (+12)	On Netherton Con.
7.	Longwood (+12)	v.	Oakfield T & BC (+6)	On Marsh Lib
8.	Thongsbridge B	v.	Brockholes A (Scr)	On Lockwood Con.
9.	Almondbury Lib. (+6)	v.	Marsh United (+18)	On Paddock I&C
10.	Hemplow (+12)	v.	Clayton West (+6)	On Crosland Moor B.C.
11.	Paddock I & C (Scr)	v.	Marsden Park (+18)	On Longwood
12.	Lindley Lib. A (+6)	v.	Milnsbridge BC (Scr)	On Hemplow
13.	Skel Windmill A (+6)	v.	Golcar C & BC (+6)	On Brockholes
14.	Lockwood Con (+12)	v.	Shepley A (Scr)	On Meltham No.1
15.	Skel Windmill B	v.	[BYE]	
16.	Crosland Moor	v.	[BYE]	

CLUB REPS CORNER

All clubs, but especially those in Sections 2, A and C, should note that Skel Windmill will be playing their home League fixtures at Skelmanthorpe Central from the start of the new season. This is due to The Windmill pub closing down and the subsequent withdrawal of basic services to the green clubhouse. It is hoped that the pub will reopen sometime during the year enabling the teams to return to their home green. Club members intend maintaining that green to enable a swift return should things progress as hoped.

Final Reminder about the Bowler Transfer Deadline being 2 April. All transfers should be completed by that date to make those bowlers available for the 2019 season. Transfers can be completed after this date and during the season but only with special circumstances applying and the approval of the Management Committee.

All clubs received a list of their registered bowlers at the AGM along with our record of the Club Reps full contact details. Clubs are asked to update

these records and return to the League Secretary by 4 March to enable this information to be added to the 2019 Handbook. This listing also identified the provisional list of Starred Bowlers for Section 1 & 2 teams. Clubs are invited to submit any appeal about their selected Starred Bowlers. Any appeal should be in writing to the League Secretary before the 11 March Management Committee meeting. That appeal should identify the grounds of the appeal and suggest replacement Starred Bowlers.

With the General Secretary becoming unavailable due to illness we are scrambling around trying to get the 2019 Handbook completed and printed for the new season. All being well it will be available before the season starts but keep watch on the HDVBA website for up to date information on when and where you can collect your copies.

Fifty-two of our ninety-four teams have requested and received customised fixture posters for their teams. All these are now available on the HDVBA website and it only takes an email to request any others that you need.

My Bowling Life – DOUGIE MELLOR

'Respect' is a word that Douglas Victor Mellor uses a lot. He uses it when he talks about the manner in which he tries to always conduct himself with other people and the way in which he expects people to act when addressing any of the many positions he has held. This is not about respect for Dougie the person, but about respect for the positions he has held.

He is also a great believer that people need to be more mindful, more respectful, of the positions they hold when talking about subjects and giving opinions on all matters. He is scathing on people he sees holding high office in bowling circles who do not act in an appropriate manner to add to the esteem in which these positions and organisations are held but instead use them for personal gain and a platform to air personal views. This is not the manner in which he would expect people to mis-use their authority.

This is a man of high principles who has held eminent office in many local as well as county-wide bowling organisations. A man who believes that holding office is a privilege not to be abused for personal gain. He really believes

that senior posts in local organisations have a responsibility to set the tone of behavior that everyone in their organisations should adhere to. Leadership doesn't just come from what you say but also how you act and treat people at all levels.

Where many see high office as a dreaded consequence of helping out in other roles, Dougie views such appointments as an honour and true privilege with an opportunity to influence how that organisation is viewed by setting a behavior standard that others should aspire to. He also feels that such organisations have a responsibility to use their powers to promote good deeds especially in raising funds for worthwhile local charities. The demise of this practice in local bowling circles is a big disappointment and a real concern for him.

He recalls the time that he was a member of a group of six along with Chris Squires, Bill Blackburn, Paul Marshall and Steve Batler when they organised an annual Charity event for 12 years around bowling for the Richardson Cup which raised many thousands of pounds for a number of different charities including



Huddersfield president Dougie Mellor is pictured with the Bodyshop Mugs Trophy and the finalists (back row from left): P Paxman, R A Brook, R Buggely, R Spencer, A Stephenson, T Clegg, R Haigh. Front: P Schoffe, N Jones, A Torbet, A Hunt, W K Barrett and D Sykes

Kirkwood Hospice and Mencap. After which Alan Sharpe took up the challenge to continue raising funds for local and national charities. It disappoints him greatly that the link between bowling and local charity fundraising has now been diluted so much.



As President of Huddersfield CGBA presenting a Life Membership Award to previous President Ken

The fact that Dougie rose to the highest position possible in Yorkshire Crown Green Bowling when assuming the position of YCCGBA President in 1997 is entirely down to his strength of personality rather than his bowling acumen. For as he admits himself, he was only an average bowler in Huddersfield although not past taking an important scalp at times when the mood and green suited him. He recalls with great satisfaction some notable wins against prominent local bowlers but whose names he prefers are not included in this record to save their embarrassment.

Dougie was born at 32 Thackery Grove on the Walpole Estate in Crosland Moor in 1941, one of a family of seven children, six of them boys. After an education at Crosland Moor and Mount Pleasant schools he became, at the age of 15, a wood machinist for J. Ellis the Cabinet Makers on Bradford Road. Then aged 20 moving on to spend 12 years working for Stephenson Developments on Leeds Road making pre-fab homes. Although there for 12 years he was made redundant three times over that period such was the volatile nature of manufacturing at that time.

Intervening periods were spent with short spells at Huddersfield Funeral Services making coffins before moving on to the Wakefield Skills

Centre. That in turn led to two years working for the David Brown Group, initially at David Brown Tractors and subsequently David Brown Gears at Lockwood.

Marriage to Bronwyn and the arrival of Jayne, Joanne and Andrew led to the need for an increased income when he turned to the role of part-time central heating salesman. Sent on to an estate in Castleford to sell electric warm air central heating systems to miners who got free coal delivered was never likely to be a good earner. However, even when he did make a sale he refused to clinch the deal as it was clearly not the right decision for a big, but not too bright, miner. As I said earlier a man of high principles and Dougie soon realised that this was not the job for him when lambasted by his boss for not taking the man's money regardless of the consequences to the miner's pocket and family.

Two years working as a postman making deliveries on a bicycle in the Clayton West and Scissett areas followed before promotion to using a van to more remote destinations in the Golcar area eventually led to a training opening in his mid-thirties. The opportunity to take a training course in telephone engineering presented itself at the same time as he was interviewed for the position of Steward at Rawthorpe WMC. The training course looked more attractive to Dougie and so it proved to be as it led to secure employment as a BT Engineer for the North-East Telephone Region from 1976-2000.



Fond memories of his early days under the foremanship of Tommy Sands, 'a most polite man', who instilled in Dougie the virtues and life values of doing things properly. Tommy was a keen cricketer and bowler with Bradley and Colne and with so many common interests they formed a good friendship.

Dougie recalls with great satisfaction a two-year secondment to the Home Office from 1979. His engineering and driving skills being required as one of a two-man TV license dodger detector team covering a wide area in the North and East of England. Many amusing now, but not at the time, tales of confrontation with license-dodgers in a number of less than safe environments than he would have liked. Notably tales from the Lincoln and Middlesboro districts spring to his mind when he had to keep the van engine running for quick getaways if the summons his colleague was serving prompted a threatening reaction. More than once the end

result was a visit to the local police station to get accompaniment for a revisit to such outposts. The police weren't always that happy about some of the homes they were asked to visit either.

Although living in Almondbury his bowling career started at Waterloo in 1981, just into his forties when his best friend Harry Moseley invited him to take up the game. He was soon pressed into competitive service with the Waterloo B team when they were caught a player short and he was put on in the first four against Horbury WMC at Hightown Liberal for his B team debut but it was far from a fairy tale opening as he went down 5-21 to his much more experienced opponent. But the seed had been planted and his allegiance with the sport had been well and truly instigated.



The Huddersfield Bowling Association have raised over £30,000 for different charities over the past 10 years — and the beneficiaries of their efforts last season are Kirkwood Hospice, Mencap, the Heart of Huddersfield Appeal and MARFAN who all received cheques of £500 each at a special evening at Almondbury Liberal Club. Pictured (left to right) are: Alan Sharpe (Almondbury Lib), Christine Hellawell (Mencap), Anthea Purdey (Mencap), Pamela Taylor-Hanson (Marfan Assoc), Steve Tattersall (Almondbury Con), Joyce Richardson (sponsor), Alan Hirst (president), Stewart Richardson (sponsor), Linda Reilly (Heart of Huddersfield Appeal), Jenny West (Kirkwood Hospice), Dougie Mellor (organiser) (12/16/99)



Presenting a Life Membership of the Huddersfield Bowling Association award to Peter Muff recognising his 35 years of reporting on bowling in the Huddersfield Examiner

He later moved on to become a member at Lockwood Con, after previously playing football and cricket for Lockwood CYC Old Boys based at the Red Lion pub, before drifting away to join Lindley WMC. He tells the tale about watching a donkey pull the green mower and roller at the club and, following its death and in honour of its services to bowling, it was buried beneath the crown leading to one of the most pronounced crowns in Yorkshire.

Dougie's first venture into an official capacity came in 1985 when invited to assume the position of Vice-President of the Colne Valley Bowling Association, a post he held for four years when Derek Radley was President there.

The moving on to become Deputy to Steve Batler who was President of the Huddersfield CGBA in 1989. It was during this time that Dougie got involved in the development of junior bowling in the area with the formation of a Huddersfield Junior Team that competed in the Yorkshire Inter-District Junior League. Without a youth league structure at that time sufficient young bowlers were attracted to a trial event held at Kirkheaton C&BC and from the 20 attendees a team was formed to contest the Saturday evening Inter-District fixtures. Along with Alan Crowther and Harry Moseley, Dougie helped guide the team through those early days and that has now been taken up by

Geoff Martin in a role central to the introduction and well-being of a Huddersfield Youth League which continues to flourish and is so important for the future of our sport in this area.

After serving for two years as Deputy, Dougie took over as President of the Huddersfield CGBA for three years from 1991 to 1993 with Barry McMath as his Deputy. Barry was to take the prime role in 1994 to coincide with the Centenary of the Association, a year of celebration peaking with a Dinner at St Patrick's Club with a mass of bowling celebrities attending.

Still not satisfied with his contribution to his beloved sport, Dougie turned to refereeing after passing the exams at Eastfield B.C. in Scarborough in 1989. He went on to referee in four Yorkshire Merit Finals, nine Mirfield Merit Finals and around twenty Huddersfield Finals as well. So although his bowling was never destined to take him to such levels he enjoyed that matchday Finals experience through his refereeing involvement.



His pleasure at being involved in his sport was punctured in 1994 when his wife of 32 years, Bronwyn, herself a keen bowler at Waterloo, passed away. He found comfort in his sport when sponsoring and dedicating a bowling competition in Bronwyn's memory which in turn raised funds for local charities.

Then came the ultimate accolade after serving as Deputy President to Gene Bardon in 1995-96 he was confirmed as President of Yorkshire CCGBA in 1997 where he duly served for two years. Carefully collecting a photo record of his term of office which he proudly maintains as a memory bank of great days supporting the sport

that means so much to him. A sport that has, deservedly, given him so many friends and admirers as a servant and benefactor only taking out of the game the memories, friendships and a history of service and leaving organisations stronger for his contribution.

Even in his finest hour he finds others to credit with their contribution to his success as President by claiming that he was fortunate to have Tony Longsdale of Cleckheaton Sports as his Deputy President - 'a great organiser and a wonderful man'. This was a happier time for Dougie as Geraldine entered his life and they were to be married in 1998 in the middle of his two-year term as Yorkshire CCGBA President. Things went well for Dougie in his term in office, climaxing when the County team went on to win the 1998 British County Championship when beating Shropshire in the final at Meltham.

Although daughter Jayne lives near Wakefield her siblings Joanne and Andrew now living in Australia along with his five grandchildren and four great grandchildren and despite frequent visits it is the memories of friends made through bowling that provide good throwbacks and

continuing involvement for Dougie in his 78th year. The memory of his son playing for Yorkshire combines the two and in a quieter moment of reflection Dougie mulls over the importance of bowling in his life to date whilst still feeling that he can contribute to the future of the sport in the area.

He is frustrated by the acceptance of many in bowling of an image of a 'ragamuffin' sport. 'Why don't we dress up smart to play our games instead of putting on anything that is to hand?' he asks. 'Where is the pride in our sport?' He recalls the time when dress was much more important than it is now. A time when the best turned-out bowler in competition finals received a £50 sales voucher from Lindley Tailors with Jean Wrathall given the unenviable chore of selecting the winners. It comes back to the respect that he feels we have lost not only with each other on occasions but also for ourselves and our sport. So whilst Dougie might bemoan the disappearance of respect within our game it can never be denied that this man remains one of the most respected figures in Huddersfield bowling and has been for some considerable time.



got the champion! Frank Greenwood (second right, middle row) already has a winning smile on his face in this photograph taken before the start of the Huddersfield Bass North Handicap at Lindley Liberal Club yesterday. Back row: Ronnie Manning, Jol Spinall, Robert Mudd, Graham Illingworth, Brian Starkey and Trevor Sykes. Middle row: Alan Crowther, Stephen Senior, Jol Wright, Andrew Tate, Frank Greenwood, Barry Gibson. Front row: David Watson, Mick Cox. Huddersfield Association president