



Irene Bowling Club Newsletter

NO. 3, 26 November 2009

Quite a lot has happened since the last newsletter of 17 October. The league has dominated our activities. The men in the second and third divisions have played five games, and those of the 5th division four games, owing to the withdrawal of a Centurion team. The final four games will be played from 9 January, finishing on 6 February, with a break on the 23rd of January. For the seventh division, which originally only had eight teams, reduced to six by the withdrawal of Municipals IV, they still have three games, starting on 16 January.

For the ladies, unbelievably the league is over. There were only two sections of six teams, with five games in total. In fact, due to the withdrawal of a Meyerspark team, our ladies in the 3rd division only played four games. This is a situation with which our ladies, in common with some other clubs, are not too pleased. It would seem that this issue has come up before in the last couple of seasons, and that the BGN ladies voted to keep the same pattern, rather than fall into line with the men's competition formula of a longer league season. Meraai is going to investigate and perhaps do some persuading to see if this can't be changed.

Our ladies did very well indeed, and the first team came third in their section in the first division, losing to a very powerful, star-studded High School Old Boys' side, in what was in effect a section final at Irene on Saturday the 14th. Going into this match they were ahead on points, and had something unforeseen occurred, like some heavy rain, which was not out of the question as the skies were full of moisture, and the points had to be shared, they would be playing against Wonderboom for the 1st division title. The second team in the 3rd division also acquitted themselves very well, coming second in their section.

As far as the men are concerned, our first side in the second division is at this stage top of the log, and looking very good as a powerful contender for top honours which would mean promotion to first division. We shouldn't get ahead of ourselves with four games to go, and only 1 point separating us from Colbyn/Oostelikes, whom we still have to play, but it is not a bad time to hold our thumbs and encourage the team in the hope they continue to play as well as they have up to now. Having watched one of their games and observed a practice session, all I can say is that they are quite awesome in their consistency.

The men's 3rd division side is well set up in the top half of the log and well within striking range of the top, and the same applies to the 5th division side. By contrast the 7th division is propping up the bottom of the log, but are confident their fortunes are about to change. At the end of this newsletter the logs as they stand at the moment are reproduced.

In all divisions and leagues there have been some interesting occasions, but one of the most intriguing was the men's 7th division game against Brooklyn I at Irene last Saturday. The Brooklyn side consisted of 8 learners from Pretoria Boys High School, all of them in grades 10 or 11. At this stage of their bowling careers their positions are still quite fluid and the two skips played in that position because the other players reckoned they ought to have a chance of playing skip "to see what it is like" as they had played in the front rank in previous games. They were all exciting players, not afraid to play the shots, and by no means overawed by the greyhaired and bearded men of the opposition. But as they freely acknowledge, they still have some way to go before learning all the niceties of the game. For example, around the fourth end, their second delivered his bowl into the ditch. The third retrieved it, carefully removed all the sand from it, and then replaced it on the green!

On the external competition side, Irene has been doing very well in the various competitions. **Our Novices have excelled themselves in the Novice competition at Municipals. Our representatives, Gerald, Eurika, Ashley and Debbie last night (Wed 25 November) advanced to the finals. Going into the last end they were peals, but they picked up three in the last end to win 18-15. Well done! On Friday evening (27 November) at 6pm at Municipals they will contest the Novices' finals. I am sure they would appreciate all the support they can get if you can manage it.**

Our ladies four (Kathy Potgieter, Shelly, Gill and Hester) did extremely well in getting to the semis of the BGN ladies' Fours. In the men's BGN singles, which has not yet started, Irene has 16 men who have entered for the competition, which is bettered only by Vriendekring with 18 entries!

Meraai has informed you of all our triumphs as well as our members who have been selected to BGN representative sides. Their names are on the board, but it does no harm to repeat them here. Vicky has been selected to the BGN "A" team, and we have Ann Nelson and Sheila Parsons in the Fillies team. On the men's side, Anton and Hugh are in the BGN "B" team, and Lee and Cobus and Jannie (whom we still regard as one of "our own") are in the Colts side. Well done to all of you!

On the internal competition front, that slave driver Chris Patton has been cracking his whip most effectively, not allowing the momentum of the two competitions he committed himself to completing this year (namely the two bowls and the mixed drawn pairs) to falter for a single moment, and when you speak to him about these two competitions, you can see he is not really looking at you or even listening, his steely eyes are firmly focused on that distant goal, of two finals before 31 December 2009. So if you have excuses lined up, forget it. Before you can finish speaking he has put the bowl firmly on your rink. This doesn't sound quite as good as placing the ball firmly in your court, but it has the same effect. Arrange with your opponent to play the game by yesterday, or forfeit!!

Still on competitions, on 5 and 6 December we have our Summer Fours, and looking at the entries, there are quite a few BGN “heavies” entered. There will not be any social bowls that weekend, but it will be very good spectator value. Anton who is running this, needs more prizes, so please chip in if you can!

To get away from competitions, I am sure that everyone has noticed that we have some nice new and very smart chairs in our clubhouse. The reason for this is that the Irene Country Club has decided that the usual Thursday evening dinner should in future be held in our clubhouse rather than in the main dining room upstairs, presumably because they feel more able to create an intimate dinner ambience there. We can only benefit from this as our clubhouse becomes more recognized as a small venue centre. And it certainly does no harm to our bar profits! As a footnote I should add that Gerhard, Pam and myself thought that the “background” needed some tidying up if people were going to be dining there, and so we tidied up the cabinets. At its meeting on 21 November, the committee decided that members should no longer be allowed to store their bowls under the big table near the TV set. But that doesn’t mean that you have to cart your bowls laboriously up the slippery slopes of Mount Irene clubhouse to the carpark.. Pat Cummings has come to the rescue with a large wooden pallet which he has offered to loan us. Members may place their bowls on this, which will be stored in our nascent tabs-in office.

On Thursday 12 November at 10:30 there was a gathering of bowlers who had known Bonnie Starke, and members of her family, at the northwest end of the Village (lower) green, near the memorial stone at the burial site of the Erasmus brothers. Bonnie’s son, Glen, scattered her ashes, after which a sumptuous tea, with sandwiches and snacks was enjoyed.

May I remind members to regularly consult the Notice Board. At this time of the year there are numerous fundraising events at various clubs, and they can be a lot of fun.

The entry forms for the Black and White have also been on the Notice Board for a week or two.

Here are the logs as they stand at the moment:

Ladies league section 1B				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	PHSOB I	5	38.0	+51
2	Pretoria North I	5	34.0	+31
3	Irene I	5	29.5	+9
4	Meyerspark I	5	28.5	+16
5	Municipals I	5	28.5	-2
6	Centurion II	5	6.5	-105

Ladies league section 3A				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Centurion III	4	35.0	+55
2	Irene II	4	25.5	+0
3	Zwartkop III	4	19.5	+20
4	PHSOB III	4	18.5	-22
5	Villeria I	4	11.5	-53

Men's league section 2				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Irene I	5	42.5	+82
2	Col/Oos I	5	41.5	+42
3	CBCOB II	5	37.5	+64
4	Vriendekring III	5	34.5	+16
5	Wingate Park II	5	24.5	+12
6	Municipals II	5	24.5	-8
7	Koedoe Park I	5	20.5	-35
8	Lynnwood I	5	19.5	-69
9	PHSOB II	5	15.5	-54
10	Centurion I	5	14.5	-50

Men's league section 3				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Zwartkop I	5	34.0	+38
2	Meyerspark I	5	33.0	+27
3	Pretoria North I	5	31.0	+5
4	PHSOB III	5	27.5	-7
5	Wonderboom II	5	27.0	-2
6	Irene II	5	26.0	+0
7	Bronkhorstspuit I	5	25.5	-2
8	Lynnwood II	5	25.0	-13
9	Harlequins II	5	24.0	-12
10	Meyerspark II	5	22.0	-34

Men's league section 5				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Wonderboom IV	4	33.5	+33
2	Wingate Park III	5	32.0	+21
3	Sunnyside I	4	29.0	+42
4	Irene III	4	29.0	+30
5	Capital Park II	5	25.5	-7
6	Zwartkop II	5	22.0	-24
7	Municipals III	5	21.0	-18
8	Military II	4	16.0	-30
9	Col/Oos III	4	12.0	-47

Men's league section 7				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Lynnwood IV	3	21.0	+11
2	Col/Oos IV	2	20.0	+37
3	Brooklyn I	3	17.0	-18
4	CBCOB IV	2	16.0	+20
5	Vriendekring V	3	9.5	+2
6	Zwartkop III	2	8.5	-12
7	Irene IV	3	7.0	-40

To plagiarise Bruce Forsythe who comperes “Strictly come dancing”, and ends his show with the words “Keep on dancing!” allow me to say, “Keep on bowling!”

Ken Smith