

CROWN GREEN BOWLS

April-May 2024 Newsletter

2023 gave us an interesting season at Haslam Park. The weather was not always kind to us and there were more sessions cancelled than we would have liked. However, the camaraderie that we enjoy has endured over the season and we were able to celebrate our efforts with our usual Christmas get-together in January at the Woodfield Farm Hostelry. Our new experimental competition brought about joint winners as seen in the attached photo, with Tony Frith (on the left) and Ray Bicknell being the ones to beat in the coming season. Thanks must go to Andy Martin for inventing and administering this very successful event, and Graham for his unseen efforts in preparing the surface each week after our wormly overnight visitors have departed. Our group has seen increasing numbers wanting to join us over the past couple of years, and if this continues we may have to ask Haslam Park to extend our allotted time (more than 12 on the green simultaneously feels like the bus is full, with standing room only). Potential new members will always be made welcome - bowls can be provided - just give me a ring before you appear. The group photo does not illustrate our dark side (lighting at WFH didn't help), but it may be good enough for your dart board.

George Kirk



October-November 2023 Newsletter

We are having another successful season at Haslam Park. Unfortunately this means that we have had to temporarily close the list to new applicants. No-one is turned away on the day but we are seeing maximum numbers being reached regularly, partly due to our ongoing experimental competition organised by Graham and Andy. We are allowed to participate throughout the winter however, so if our numbers change, newcomers will be most welcome. Just give me a ring for an update.

The water system for the playing surface is in the process of being replaced, so we are looking forward to playing on bright green grass in the near future.

George Kirk

October-November 2022 Newsletter

The weather this year has been in our favour. We have replaced our coats and sou'westers necessary in the winter climes, with shorts, t-shirts and sunhats to help us avoid sunstroke. The pavilion is now newly painted and with the water-testing completed, all conveniences are now provided for our Thursday afternoon recreation. We have 9 members who regularly arrive with optimism and a sense of humour, all throwing aside their worldly worries in favour of aiming larger spherical objects to arrive as near to a smaller object (the jack) as their skills allow. Frustrations are usually overcome through vocal expression of lesser known phrases of the English language - another way of saying in writing how we all need to laugh at ourselves at times.

Our three most recent members are Sheila, Jed and Pauline. They have come on in leaps and bounds in a very short time, after some positive coaching from some of the senior players. They are prime examples of how to take up a new interest, and in only a short time develop skills that prove that you're never too old to succeed at something if you put your mind to it.

We are always keen to encourage other members to join us. Just give me a ring - all equipment is provided, but it helps if you bring with you a healthy sense of humour.

George Kirk

June-July 2022 Newsletter

As the pictures demonstrate, even winter weather doesn't dampen the spirits of our hardy but happy band of bowlers. For two hours a week we can forget about Ukraine or washing the dishes or tending our gardens. Come and enjoy our humorous banter, and join our analysis of how the Rovers managed to avoid staying in League 1.

George Kirk



No matter what the weather or covid has thrown at us in 2021, our merry band of bowlers make every effort to enjoy the fresh air on a Thursday afternoon. The consistency of our performances seems to improve month on month. We have 9 U3A registered members and enjoy occasional visits from others who want to see what we get up to. The attached photo was taken when we met for a Christmas brunch at a local hostelry, and there were no objections to the suggestion that it would make a good target for prospective darts players.

We have a good mix of male and female members, and hope to increase our numbers in 2022. May I remind all newcomers that you do not have to bring your own bowls - they can be provided - but bringing a sense of humour is essential.

George Kirk



August-September 2021 Newsletter

Our trusty band of bowlers has been very fortunate to be able to enjoy the fresh air and exercise at Haslam Park during most of the Pandemic. We have had to follow local and national instructions, and have only recently been able to use the pavilion. That has made it more convenient (excuse the pun) for us, and Wendy, secretary of Haslam Park Bowling Club, has kept us up-to-date throughout and has supported us in our quest to play regularly on a Thursday afternoon.

If any members, male or female, feel that they would like to join us, please contact me on my mobile, as we are still currently restricted to a maximum of 12 on the green, but that should hopefully change after July 19th.

We are a friendly group with plenty of humorous banter between deliveries, with improving personal performances all the time.

Come and give it a try.

George Kirk

October-November 2020 Newsletter

Uniting 3rd Agers

Following National Government, Doncaster MBC, Doncaster District Bowling Association, and Haslam Park Bowling Club regulations, and using the mandatory Track and Trace system, after a delayed start to the season we have been able to enjoy Bowling again during the month of August.



The weather has been kind enough for us to be active for at least an hour each week before or between showers. Keeping our distance has not been a problem, and we have all enjoyed being out in the fresh air as a break from domestic chores. Not having the use of facilities in the locked (by DMBC) pavilion might be an inconvenience, but it certainly has not affected ambience or the competitive streak that is still evident in our games.

Newcomers are always welcome, but please note that when the clocks change in October, our starting time also changes, moving back to 1.30pm.

George Kirk

After an enjoyable summer season at Haslam Park, we were allowed to extend our stay on the green into the winter months. With two new members this year, our numbers are steadily growing.

The early 1.30 p.m. starts in November and December have not put off our merry band, who arrive in various garbs determined to prevent the rain, wind, frost, etc. from spoiling this wonderful outdoor exercise. Our efforts culminated in having a successful social get together at the Cheswold in the first week of December after our last session in 2019.



We shall carry on our therapeutic hobby in 2020, with renewed enthusiasm. Any and all U3A members who wish to come and have a go, please do. You never know what hidden talents you have until you at least explore the possibilities. Come and join us on a Thursday afternoon.

George Kirk

February – March 2019 Newsletter

We finished our 2018 season in December and spent our final Thursday afternoon session before the Christmas break enjoying a meal at the Cheswold. We now have a group of up to eight who attend on a regular basis, if we are not on holiday or looking after grandchildren. We are still looking for new players to join us, male or female. No experience is necessary and bowls can be provided. We start again at 1.30 p.m. on January 17th at Haslam Park, weather permitting. See you there.

George Kirk



December 2018 – January 2019 Newsletter

As the season approaches the year end and we anticipate that either the winter rain or the inevitable white blanket will make it difficult to propel our round spherical objects in a horizontal direction towards the object Jack, we can reflect on a very eventful six months in 2018. Our numbers have increased to a steady 8, most of them managing to attend fairly regularly to enjoy the fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie. Our newcomers Andy, Dave, and Peter have joined Graham, Guy, Tony Snr, Tony Jnr, and myself, and we share the facilities on the day with some of the ex-Doncaster Probus Club members. On occasions we have been delighted to welcome some of our DU3A members who just want to see if this game of “Marbles for Oldies” is a suitable way to exercise their bodies.

In October we tested our growing expertise by inviting some members from the Danum Probus Bowls Section to provide some testing opposition in the form of a match consisting of three pairings. The result was 2-1 in our favour. We were highly delighted and are looking to make this a regular fixture on a home and away basis from next year.

George Kirk.

Easter is supposed to see the start of the fair weather outdoor sports. Well, we have started, but still with the need to wear warm clothing, as the photo suggests. Our regular group numbers vary from three to six or seven each week at Haslam Park, and the standard of the beginners is beginning to impress the two or three seasoned bowlers. We are a merry bunch who enjoy the exercise every Thursday afternoon if we are not on a cruise, or on a caravan break, or visiting relatives, or child minding. Merging with the Probus group who also arrive for a 2 o'clock start we have had some very entertaining moments, including taking on our more experienced opponents and winning the odd game.

We would like our regular numbers to increase this year, so any DU3A members who would like some jovial outdoor exercise in a social setting, please come along. You don't need to have any previous knowledge of how these bowls just cannot seem to stay on a straight line when you aim them at a static object ball. You don't even have to bring any with you - there is a supply for you to choose from.

If you are interested, you can contact me via email or click on the Blue Bird on the Crown Green Bowling page of the Doncaster U3A website.

Tell you what - just turn up, we'll be glad to see you, especially if you bring the sun with you.

George Kirk



Never having tried crown green bowls before, I thought I would give it a try when George Kirk started a group at the beginning of the summer.

It should be simple shouldn't it - you send a jack across the grass and then take it in turns to try and hit it with your wood....

Well of course there's more to it than that - I should have known. The jack and the bowls are weighted so they curve across the green and the 'crown' bit means the green isn't flat so you have to compensate for that too.

This means that the whole thing becomes a mental challenge - so your brain has to work and being in fresh air and good company makes for a very pleasant afternoon. And yes, we all made some rubbish bowls but it's very satisfying when you get it approximately right.

If you fancy joining us for the last couple of weeks of the season contact George or look out for it restarting next year.

Wendy Hattrell



What a Load of Bowls at Haslam Park.

This new group of Crown Green bowlers has enjoyed basking in some superb summer weather at Haslam Park in Bessacarr. The initial interest on that first Thursday afternoon gave rise to the decision to meet every Thursday until further notice, weather permitting.

Our players have not needed to go to SpecSavers, although two of them have played some years ago in their youth!!

The season is only from Easter to October, so anyone who wants to play **Marbles for Adults** should waste no time in coming along and having a go. Get your body bending and stretching. Wake up those muscles that have gone to sleep. Feel good about your fitness and mobility.

George Kirk

