

Middleton Cup Manager's Report for 2009

My report is very short.

Results in Middleton Cup – Won 1 and lost 2.

Results in Home Counties League – Lost 5 and cancelled 1

You may think these results look like a disaster, but I can assure you they are not.

Middleton Cup matches: All three games were played in the right spirit. We had a close game with Kent, but we faded towards the end of the game. Sussex beat us with ease. The Isle of Wight was a good one; we played well and produced a good result as we won easily.

Home Counties League matches: All matches were close games where either side could have won, right up to the last 2 or 3 ends.

I would like to say thank you for your support during the season to both Middleton Cup player and Home Counties League players. I felt proud of you.

BG Richardson
MC Team Manager

Under 25 Managers Report for 2009

In my second year I can report that the team have held together well, and we have fulfilled all fixtures with a full team.

We played 6 HCL matches, 1 x two fours, 1 trial/practice match, 1 match against the Past Presidents and a full County friendly match against Hampshire U25. We beat Berkshire and Surrey in the HCL and Hampshire in the friendly.

We also took a mixed Under 18 team to Worthing during the National Championships to play a friendly against Northants Under 18's. Though we lost the match, it was a great experience for the young players, and will give them an insight into the national scene. Unfortunately, though we do have some excellent Under 18 players who have performed well in national competitions many of them were unavailable on the day.

This gave us a total of 11 matches this year, quite a programme in the circumstances.

I was satisfied with the general demeanour, endeavour and loyalty of most of the players, and the team spirit was good. Our results were a little disappointing, as we do have a good team, but I have the usual problem of never being able to field my best team.

Under 25 County Badges were awarded during the season to the following players: Frankie Bell and Luke Tibby (Iver Heath BC), Chris Bunce and Cameron Halsey (Chesham BC), Andrew Litchfield and Philip Gregory (Aylesbury Town BC), David West (Winslow BC) and Michael Gomme (Gerrards Cross BC).

I can report that there are a number of promising young players in the County, and some of them have been blooded in full County U25 matches. I will not lose any of my current squad next year due to age,

so expect improvements in performance. I had 45 players available to me in 2009, which should not change very much in 2010.

Lastly, I would plead for funds from the County purse to change the County shirts for next year. I also need more, and a wider range of sizes with the new County badge. The existing stock is just not good enough and is a poor comparison with other Counties. I am actually searching for grants to help in this regard.

I would like to thank my assistant County U25 coaches John Fox and Colin Hanson for their total support and invaluable assistance this year.

If elected, I am willing to stand again for 2010.

Dave Oxley
Under 25 Team Manger

League Secretary's Report - 2009

2009, my second year which, I thought, went fairly well until the very last week of the League when I managed to cause devastation, my apologies to all the teams concerned, especially to Chalfont St Giles.

We lost four teams for various reasons and gained six which meant that we started the season with fifty three teams. The North had three divisions containing thirteen teams, Central had three divisions containing fourteen teams and the South had five divisions containing twenty six teams.

No division had more than six teams in it and where they only had four teams they played each other three times

This year's winners are as follows:

Northern League

- Division 1.** Chandos Chokers.
Division 2. Chandos Park Bouncers.
Division 3. Stony Scarlets.

Central League

- Division 1.** Wendover Woods.
Division 2. Aylesbury Ducks.
Division 3. Risboro.

Southern League

- Division 1.** Iver Heath (2nd Year)
Division 2. Denham Dynamos
Division 3. Gerrards Cross Rasers (2nd Year)
Division 4. Burnham
Division 5. Burnham Outcasts

Congratulations to all of them.

Despite having rain on most of the Wednesdays, we did not lose one game to the weather and only had one game called off at fourteen ends. My thanks to all who helped by playing, even when the conditions were awful.

I already know of two clubs that intend to enter new teams and, sadly, one club that is dropping out. If any clubs would like to enter more teams or know of a local club that may be interested in entering a team please let me know. This year's entry forms have already been sent to your Club Secretaries and I will send entry forms to all of this year's Club Contacts.

Ray Keen
League Secretary

Bowls England Delegate Report to the AGM - 2009.

Annual Conference: Bowls England has decided to make the Conference an annual event and next years will be at Leamington Spa on 7th April. Four delegates may attend on behalf of our Association. Bowls England will pay their mileage providing they travel in one car.

Insurance: The discussion about a single insurance for all Bowls Clubs has continued again this year and will be voted on at the Bowls England EGM on 21st November. The BCBA Executive Committee supported this incentive with only 5 votes against.

Bowls Alliance: The Bowls England Board has resolved that Tony Allcock and the Vice-Chair, Ruth Howes to be the Directors. Since then Ruth Howes, has decided against this decision and Norma Hazzledine will be the Director.

Directors of Bowls England: Jeff continues to be a Bowls England Director and chairs the Member Services Committee. To save costs, it is being recommended that the Development Committee and the Member Services Committee are to be merged as we now have a very good Development Officer and is doing the majority of the work that the Development Committee should be doing. The latest date for merging is 2012, but several Counties have indicated it should be asap. The BCBA Executive Committee supported this incentive of merging the Committees asap.

Size of Committees: Again to save money it is being recommended that the size of the Committees are to be reduced to five with the powers to co-opt two further members. The BCBA Executive Committee supported this incentive.

Women's Selector: Two nominations Bobbie Potheary and Kay Kendall. The BCBA Executive Committee left it to the BE Delegate to discuss with the Association Secretary.

Men's Dinner: This will be on February 26th 2010 at the Walker Stadium, Leicester with the Company EGM the following day at Goodwood BC.

Waste Water Usage: Some Clubs are facing 100% increases. If your Club has been re-valued don't accept the figure, but say you will appeal – BE will assist. If you accept it you're stuck with it!

Local Authority Rents: In many areas local authorities are starting to re-assess the rateable value of greens – some at £250per rink and £25 per square metre for premises! Again don't accept the re-valuation but say you will appeal. They may well offer a hefty discount, but that can be removed at any time and if you accept, again, you will be stuck with it.

One-stop Funding: This is a new service which will help clubs find out what funding is available in their area – for further details see the BE Website.

Friends of English Bowling: £24,000 was handed over to BE as sponsorship at Worthing this year. The joining fee has been reduced to £10.00 from £100.00 and Jeff is now the Secretary.

Ray Keen
Bowls England Delegate

HCBA Report – AGM 2009

Finance: It was reported that there is £615.00 in the current account and £19,452.00 in the Standard Life account.

Annual Subscription: This will be £130.00 per County for 2010.

Officers: The Chairman for 2010 will be Brian Lee from Sussex and the Deputy Chairman will be Stewart Wright from Berkshire.

Championship Finals Draw for 2010:

Singles	a	MX	v	SY	b	SX	v	Bye	c	OX	v	BK	d	KT	v	BU
Pairs	a	BU	v	KT	b	SX	v	MX	c	BK	v	SY	d	OX	v	Bye
Triples	a	SY	v	Bye	b	BK	v	OX	c	MX	v	BU	d	SX	v	KT
Fours	a	OX	v	Bye	b	MX	v	BU	c	SY	v	BK	d	SX	v	KT
U25 Singles	a	BU	v	SY	b	BK	v	KT	c	MX	v	OX	d	SX	v	Bye

BK = Berkshire, BU = Bucks, KT = Kent, MX = Middlesex, OX = Oxon, SY = Surrey and SX = Sussex.

HCBA Match Programme for 2010:

10 th June	HCBA v Eastern Counties BA @
24 th June	HCBA v Midland Counties BA @ Chesham BC
8 th July	HCBA v SW Counties BA @ Highworth BC, Wilts
15 th July	HCBA v Berkshire CBA @ Three Mile Cross BC (Centenary Game)
22 nd July	HCBA v Sussex CBA @ Pavilion BC (Chairman's County)
5 th Aug	HCBA v Middlesex CBA @ Bush Hill Park BC (Championship County)

HCBA Finals Day: 19th September at the Pavilion BC, Sussex.

HCL Venues: With effect from 2011 it was resolved that the venues for HCL Matches will be based on a maximum travelling distance of 160 miles from the agreed centre to the venue round trip. As a gesture of goodwill, the Bucks delegate would see if the Sussex fixture for 2010 could be moved to a club further south.

Sponsorship: It was reported that there was no forthcoming sponsorship, but the HCBA were grateful to BG Richardson & Sons for sponsoring the U25s final. Would any other likeminded individuals like to support the other finals. £100.00 is given to each County if their U25s complete the fixtures for the year.

Match Committee Report - 2009

Overall, it was a disappointing season results wise. We only won 7 of the 19 County Friendly Matches. In contrast we won 11 out of 12 President's fixtures, only losing one to Stony Stratford.

The only consolation was that no fixtures were rained off and only a few affected by bad weather.

We did have what I consider to be a major problem, ie difficulty in fielding a team for all the matches. This issue needs to be addressed. Too many players withdrew after having been selected and somehow we need to make it clear that once players have applied and been selected they are expected to play. If it had not been for the endeavours of our Match Secretary, Ian Harvey, we would have been short of players on several occasions and his efforts are worthy of praise.

I genuinely think that we need to emphasise the need for players to honour their commitment to play. After all they applied to be considered in the first place.

B Dawkins
President and Chair of Selection.

Planning Committee Report – 2009

The Planning Committee have met on once since the April Exec and have discussed the following:

Unification: We have completed a great deal of work during the year which includes the BCBA agreeing the Structure and Constitution of the New Association, appointing the Association Secretary, the Men's and Women's Secretary and the Association Treasurer. We as a committee (Jeff Applegate, Brian Dawkins and Ray Keen with Gavin Holmes and Alan Goss co-opted and Margaret Langley-Roberts, Jessie Clarke and Shelia O'Hara with Florence Memory co-opted) have agreed all of the new regulations, have set most of the new budgets including expenses for the various Association Officials, and have agreed the new badges along with the various flashes that go with them. We have one more meeting, before the Inaugural General Meeting on Sunday 13th December, simply to finalise the odd few loose ends.

Competition Rules: We have agreed a few small changes to Competitions Rules that have been incorporated in the new BBA Association Regulations.

The Year Book: Following the continued success of the smaller year book we have again expanded it slightly to its maximum size and it now contains all of the Council Members including Women and a few more odd bits of information. All other information is now on the Web.

The Association Dinner: Following last years disappointing Presentation Dinner at The Ex Service-mans Club we have decided to return to the Spread Eagle at Thame which has now been completely refurbished and has a brand new management team. We have made a couple of other changes to the evening, all of which we hope will culminate in a once again successful evening.

The County Tours:

- i. 2009 Tour to the Isle of Wight was a great success with the good weather playing a major role.
- ii. 2010 Arrangements for the Tour to the North in September have been completed and is now nearly fully booked.
- iii. 2011 Tour is probably going to Sidmouth and will return to its normal dates in late May.

The Management Plan: We are not undertaking any further work on this until after unification, if needed?

The Association Web Site: David Throup continues to work very hard running our successful Web site which has now received over 65,000 hits. For various reasons he is now in the process of setting up a new site which he hopes to have running by the New Year. It will have a new address but will also have a seamless crossover from our existing site.

The Secretaries Meeting: Following agreement by the Executive Committee in April we revived the Secretaries Meeting which was held at Waddesdon Bowls Club on Sunday 18th October. 44 people attended a very successful open forum and at the end agreed that it should be continued.

Ray Keen – Chairman
October 2009

End of Reports