

KC4s League

League Secretary Report for 2010 / 2011 Season

This year saw the implementation of the new handicapping system, changing to it being 80% off of a 220 average but keeping our policy of having no maximum handicap. From my perspective, I think that this has been extremely successful and it has led to a much more competitive league which is no longer dominated by those teams with the highest scratch score potential. With the new handicaps, each team is capable of beating any other team on their day, and keeping the no maximum has helped us to recruit and retain new bowlers into the league which is always a positive thing. As a prize money league, the new system has also narrowed the gap between the top and bottom points scores and produced a fairer distribution - again a good point.

Having said all of that, Saxons positively ran away with the league this season. Despite the odd wobble late on, they were already so far ahead of everyone else after 2 cycles that there was nobody going to catch them. Many teams held second spot for a while, but at the end, the defending champions Jokers Wild held on for 2nd spot. Blind Ali were just behind them taking 3rd place and the last prize money spot. The highlight was of course Sandy's 298, shattering the previous best score by a lady in the KC4 league and winning her all 4 categories for the ladies. In the men's section, Peter Naylor again dominated the scratch section, but the handicap section reflects 6 different people. It is with a great deal of smugness that I can recollect warning you how good Hasan was going to be this last season and his improvement of 30 pins on his 2009/10 average is worthy of special mention.

The introduction of the Gutter ball trophy was also a great success - allowing some new bowlers to excel in a category for the first time. It also seems to be the case that no matter which lane you're bowling on, I have the happy knack of just happening to look up at the right time to spot the indiscretion and ensure that even if it's not recorded on the league sheet, it doesn't go unrecorded or unpunished on the web site.

We had a real glut of blind bowlers early on in the season as due to various holidays, injuries or weather influences and many teams could not field a full team. One of the reasons that this position relented was the arrival of both Barbara and Richard Spragg. Having 2 new enthusiastic and improving bowlers available to fill in with teams was a real bonus - they are looking to find a permanent home now though, so if you want to bolster your team members, please contact them!.

Moving on to the Summer league, it was really great to have 10 teams this year. Thanks to the negotiation work of Nick & Colin, not only did we manage to have a good league season, but it was also cheaper, taking advantage of the Tuesday night deals. It was also a much closer affair with the lead changing hands many times across the 9 weeks and with some good individual scores. Cally's Heroes won the final week showdown to take top spot with Spare Set dropping to 2nd with then a number of teams bunched up very close behind. The men's high scratch game was beaten almost weekly, rising up from 220+ through a few 240's and then into the 250's before the fit again Dan Shelton Smith posted the winning 279. Lee Davis showed his continuing improvement, bowling some 19 pins better on average in the Summer having already improved in the Winter. For my crystal ball prediction for this year, watch out for a big improvement from Mark Blezard on his 183 Summer average.....

Whilst you are all here and I have your attention, I would just like to make a couple of points.

1 - Although I am happy to continue as league secretary, my job would be made much easier if people would take a little more care and attention completing their score sheets. Some are handed back to me with just a bare minimum filled in and I then have to guess whether the results are correct and have no way of proving that they are right. Please ensure that you complete our forms accurately - and if you're bowling against Rum Bunch, don't let terry near them!

2 - Whilst I am flattered that many of you enjoy the weekly update to the web site, some to the point of complaining if it is not available until Monday or in extreme cases Tuesday, please understand that it takes time to do all of the league result inputting and processing and given that I lead a busy, some would say Jet Set, lifestyle, I am not in a position to do them often until late on a Monday night. Very few leagues offer anything in the way of advanced notification about the previous weeks results and none that I know of have an active web site updated on a weekly basis showing not only the results but offering witty (I hope) reflection on the previous weeks events. If not having the update posted to the web site until late on a Monday night is not acceptable to the league, then I suggest you do not vote me in as returning League Secretary as this practice will not change whilst I am doing it.

To finish on a slightly happier note, I would like to give my personal thanks for 2 things;

1 - The great support that I get for doing my role from the rest of the committee members and especially Nick, who is always happy and able to help cover my very occasional holiday and fix any technical problems with the spreadsheet programs and

2 - Thank you to the many of you who kindly sponsored me for my 100KM Oxfam walk back in July. I complete the course in 22 hrs and 48 minutes and between the 4 members of my team, have raised £2900 for Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trust. For some of you however, I will be coming round your lanes to collect the last of the sponsorship money next week. Failure to pay up could mysteriously manifest itself in an unexpected drop of handicap.....

Karl.