



Newsletter

Issue 7

March 2017

League all set to start

The Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowling League is all set to start for the 2017 season and it promises to be another cracker. Holders Sir John Bayley will be in unfamiliar territory in trying to defend their title they won by 5 points last season. They have signed two players in Chris Worthington and 2015 League Averages Winner Rob Burroughs but have lost two as well in Aaron Tapper and Jason Groom, so will have a very similar squad to last year. Their biggest challenge will come from previous winners Castlefields and St Georges who have both strengthened over the winter. Castlefields have signed Adie Rowe and Steve Freer but lost Clay Flattley to St Georges who have re-signed Tom Langford and Carl Hazelhurst to, and signed Jamie Wyer. Both teams will be eager to return to those past years of winning the league and have players left from those times that will be able to offer them that experience.

Behind these three Chester Road and Hanwood enjoyed impressive seasons last year and will be hoping this wasn't an one off. Chester Road have strengthened with the addition of Andy Foster, Chris Stretch, Steve Rogers and Alex Lockett, while Hanwood have added Gary Neal who is back after a year out. Hanwood will hope that they will have more experience on the away greens now but conversely most teams now have some knowledge of their green. Meole Brace and Ifton finished joint 2nd in 2015 but suffered disappointing seasons last year. Meole did win the Alan Mayhew Trophy last season but will like to be back at the top end of the league, however the loss of Adie Rowe with no replacement will hurt them. Ifton have signed players with Richie Griffiths returning to the league, but with most of the squad being similar to 2015 they are more than capable of getting back into the top 3.

Bowring didn't quite live up to expectations in the league last season but have changed their line up with three young guns in Kieran Buckley, Ayden Smith and Reece Farr coming in for the three going back to Wrockwardine Wood. So they will hope their young team will be full of exuberance and energy to move into the top half. Newport suffered a disappointing season after so much success and will hope to start rebuilding again with Mick Jones at the helm, a man who has won the league several times with St Georges. Pete Cookson is a good signing along with Pete Farmer and Russ Pegram coming back full time and his son Justin re-signing to. But with Alan



Winners Sir John Bayley. Back from left: Gordon Hawkins, Gary Cooper, Ben Mellor, Chris Ward, Will Plant, Paul Evans, Spencer Clarke, Norman Harvey, Scott Simpson, Steve Burroughs. Front from left: Aaron Tapper, Alex Jones, Paul Reeves, Tom Roden.

Davidson not being able to play all the games because of work and Dave Rhodes being lost to injury it will still be a tough season.

Burway scored around their usual points tally although did fall to 10th place last season and with no ins or outs they will hope their current squad will improve to allow them to move up the league. Wrockwardine Wood suffered a poor season after just finishing outside the top 6 in 2015 but with the return of Andy Jones, Liam Stevens and Stuart Clee alongside the signing of Dan Taylor they will hope to get back to those heights. Wem USC are another team that have looked to youth in order to improve having signed Matt Beeston and Connor Whitehall along with Paul Gleave returning to the league. How quick these signings settle and how much better their home form is will determine where they finish.

Bylet have made more signings again in order to move up the table with Staffordshire starts James Duce, Jason Groom and Rob Perry coming in along with players from Albrighton and the returning Rob Fuller meaning they should be much improved. Hanmer are the new boys in the league and will be looking to do what Hanwood did last season and make a serious impact on the league. Their home green will be a big weapon with only some players and teams having seen it but on the opposite side they won't have too much experience of the away greens. They have made several new signings to in order to add experience to their side and freshen it up, however with so many signings they will hope they can integrate them into the team successfully.

The League would like to wish all players and clubs a successful season ahead, hopefully a dry and warm one!

Captain's Previews

Club: Bowring

Captain: Jamie King

Players Signed : Ayden Smith, Kieran Buckley, Reece Farr (Donnington Wood)

Players Left: Stuart Clee, Liam Stevens, Andrew Jones (Wrockwardine Wood)

Premier Top 3:

1st: Castlefields 2nd: SJB 3rd: St Georges

Dark horses: Hanwood

Thoughts on the bottom of the table:

Looking at the tables over the last few years you'd have to say Bylet, but they have strengthened by a few this year so it could be very interesting! There will be a few teams looking over their shoulder trying to stay ahead!

Player to watch:

Own Team - Kieran Buckley

Other Team - Chris Worthington (SJB) back in the prem after many years away

Aim for your team: Finish in the top half of the table and have a good go at defending the county cup!

Club: Burway

Captain: Chris Dovey

Players Signed: None

Players Left: None

Premier Top 3:

1st: SJB 2nd: St Georges 3rd: Castlefields

Dark Horses: Bowring

Thoughts on the bottom of the table:

Hard to pick really as most teams strengthen each year, maybe Bylet?

Player to watch:

Own Team - Ben Allen (expecting a good season from him to follow last year)

Other Team - Steven Rogers (Chester Road)

Aim for your team: To win our home games and pick up more away points. We had some good away pick ups last year so more of the same or better this year. We have some players in our side with a point to prove after last year. So expect individuals to pick up more wins than last year.

Club: Bylet

Captain: Mick Harries

Players Signed: Jason Groom (SJB), James Duce (Hadley USC), Rob Fuller (Wrockwardine Wood), Barrie Sadler, Steve Lampitt, Tom Bennett, Rob Perry (Albrighton)

Players Left: Andy James (Highley)

Club: Castlefields

Captain: Andy Duckett

Players Signed: Adie Rowe (Meole Brace), Steve Freer

Players Left: Clay Flattley (St Georges)

Premier Top 3:

1st: Castlefields 2nd: SJB 3rd: Chester Road

Dark Horses: Hanwood

Thoughts on the bottom of the table: Will go down to the last game

Player to watch:

Own Team - Steve Freer

Other Team - Andy Moss (Chester Road) because he's good to watch!

Aim for your team: Improve on away results from last year.

Club: Chester Road

Captain: Paul Fowles

Players Signed: Andy Foster (Bridgewater), Steve Rogers (Meole Brace), Alex Lockett, Chris Stretch (Victoria)

Players Left: Carl Hinton (District)

Premier Top 3:

1st: Castlefields 2nd: SJB 3rd: St Georges

Dark Horses: Hanwood

Thoughts on the bottom of the table:

Unfortunately Bylet but Castlefields may get dragged in!

Player to watch:

Own Team - Gary Beff

Other Team - Andrew Armstrong

Aim for your team:

To consolidate a place in the top 6!

Club: Hanmer

Captain: Dave Ellison

Players Signed: Phil Scott, Jack Hewitt (Malpas Sports), Gary Whitehall (Elephant and Castle), Tom Hardy (Adderley), Dan Hughes, Martin Elson, Simon Evans, Nick Jones (all returning), Rich Pullen (District), John Paddington (AWC)

Players Left: Joey Williams (Ifton)

Premier Top 3:

1st: Castlefields 2nd: SJB 3rd: St Georges

Dark Horses: Ifton

Thoughts on the bottom of the table: Bylet/Wem USC

Player to watch:

Own Team - Andrew Armstrong

Other Team - Keiron Roberts (Ifton)

Aim for your team: To survive and any finish in top 10.

Club: Hanwood

Captains: Mark Shore, Ash Wellings & Wayne Phillips

Players Signed: Gary Neal

Players Left: Rob Jones (Pontesbury)

Premier Top 3:

1st: Castlefields 2nd: SJB 3rd: St Georges

Dark Horses: Hanmer

Thoughts on the bottom of the table:

I think Bylet may find this season tough. They will have to find 30 points on Wem USC and Wrockwardine Wood who have strengthened. I think Hanmer's home green will keep them from being bottom.

Player to watch:

Own Team - Gary Neal will be always be in the spotlight being the new boy

Other Team - Steve Freer (Castlefields)

Aim for your team: The honeymoon is over, we have had one season in the league and apart from the Ifton result everything went very well for us. We would like to consolidate our position in the league and look to improve our away form.

Captain's Previews continued...

Club: Ifton
Captain: Dickie Jones
Players Signed : Richie Griffiths, Ian Jones, Curtis Metcalfe (Wem USC), Joey Williams (Hanmer)
Players Left: None
Premier Top 3:
 1st: Castlefields 2nd: SJB 3rd: St Georges
Dark horses: Hanwood
Thoughts on the bottom of the table: Bylet/Wem USC
Player to watch:
 Own Team - Keiron Roberts
 Other Team - Adie Rowe (Castlefields)
Aim for your team: Top 5

Club: Meole Brace
Captain: Peter Bound
Players Signed: None
Players Left: Adie Rowe (Castlefields)
Premier Top 3:
 1st: St Georges 2nd: Castlefields 3rd: SJB
Dark Horses: Hanmer
Thoughts on the bottom of the table:
 Need 2 leagues and invite more teams in
Player to watch:
 Own Team - Will Tarrell
 Other Team - Colin Smith (Wem USC)
Aim for your team: Finish in top 5

Club: Newport
Captain: Mick Jones
Players Signed: Russ Pegram, Justin Pegram (Hadley USC), Pete Cookson (Wrockwardine Wood)
Players Left: None
Premier Top 3:
 1st: Castlefields 2nd: St Georges 3rd: SJB
Dark Horses: Ifton
Thoughts on the bottom of the table: Bylet/Newport
Player to watch:
 Own Team - Chris Grocott
Aim for your team: Mid-Table

Club: Sir John Bayley
Captain: Tom Roden
Players Signed: Chris Worthington (Donnington Wood) Rob Burroughs (Hadley USC), Paul Bradburne (Wrockwardine Wood), Kane Beaman (Donnington Wood), Paul Sikora (Undisclosed fee)
 Players Left: Aaron Tapper (year off), Jason Groom (Bylet)
Premier Top 3:
 1st: Castlefields 2nd: St Georges 3rd: Hanwood
Dark Horses: Hanwood
Thoughts on the bottom of the table:
 All the teams at the bottom have signed 3 or 4 players and all look to have improved. If I had to bet, I'd probably say Bylet but I think it'll be closer at the bottom this year and wouldn't be surprised if they end up finishing 3rd from bottom.
Player to watch:
 Own Club - Alex Jones, plays once a week & never practices... machine.
 Other Club - Chris Stretch (Chester Road) has been impressive whenever I've seen him.
Aim for your team: We like trophies.

Club: St Georges
Captain: Tony Rhodes
Players Signed: Clay Flattley (Castlefields), Tom Langford, (Wrockwardine Wood) Jamie Wyer (Hadley USC), Carl Hazlehurst (returning)
Players Left: None
Premier Top 3:
 1st: SJB 2nd: St Georges 3rd: Castlefields
Dark Horses: Over a 26 game season can't really see anyone strong enough to shock anybody. Chester Road finished brilliantly last year so if they can start strongly who knows?
Thoughts on the bottom of the table: Bylet and Hanmer
Player to watch:
 Own Club - Lewis Scott. Looking forward to his second season in the league.
 Other Club - Josh Bradburn (Bowring) is in our Summit Monday squad so will challenge him on another level after what I saw as a breakthrough season last year.
Aim for your team: To be better than last year, more competitive and believe that we can win something again.

Club: Wem USC
Captain: Graham Dulson
Players Signed: Connor Whitehall (Elephant and Castle), Paul Gleave (Prees) and Matt Beeston (District)
Players Left: None
Premier Top 3:
 1st: Castlefields 2nd: SJB 3rd: St Georges
Dark Horses: Hanwood, second season with the signing of Gary Neal. Will cause some upsets.
Thoughts on the bottom of the table: All the lower teams have improved squads. Some mid table sides from last year may get dragged into a relegation battle.
Player to watch:
 Own Club - Scott Thomas, after two impressive seasons, getting better all the time.
 Other Club - Ade Rowe (Castlefields), if the move inspires his interest in the game, on form one of the best players in the league.
Aim for your team: To improve on last season, especially home performances.

Club: Wrockwardine Wood
Captain: Rob Jones
Players Signed: Stuart Clee, Liam Stevens, Andy Jones (all Wrockwardine Wood), Dan Taylor (Donnington Wood)
Players Left: Tom Langford (St Georges) and Rob Fuller (Wrockwardine Wood)
Premier Top 3:
 1st: SJB 2nd: Castlefields 3rd: Newport
Dark Horses: Hanwood
Thoughts on the bottom of the table: Can't see beyond the Bylet, but hope I'm wrong.
Player to watch:
 Own Team - I'll be watching all of them. With increased competition for places this year this will naturally mean everyone has to perform.
 Other Team - Kieran Buckley (Bowring) is a good progressive young player who has moved to Bowring this year.
Aim for your team: Win our home games and as many as possible away from home and see where that takes us in September.