

First Larne Indoor Bowling Club

First Larne Indoor Bowling Club has completed another successful years bowling, the 56th year in our history. Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the sports hall at First Larne during September through to March finds members busy either playing in a match or honing their skills (or at least trying to hone their skills) on the green mat.

Engravers Shield Final.

In February we battled to get through to the final of the Engravers Shield competition, which this year was played at the neutral venue of Raloo, against our neighbours and Friends, Gardenmore Indoor Bowling Club.

Déjà vu

For some of our members this conjured up memories of the 2009/2010 season when in the same competition final at Kilwaughter we played against Gardenmore and lost by just 1 shot. On this occasion it was, as then, a very hotly contested game which we unfortunately lost by only 2 shots. But there's always next year



First Larne – Engravers Shield Final Team 2016

Back row: left to right: John McColm, Steve McCullough, John Magill, Andrew Kincaid, Duncan Gallagher, Tommy Close, Derick Jenkins, Jonathan Millar

Front row: left to right: Rodney Moore, Derek Craig, Ida Woodside, Beryl Stevenson, Rene Gallagher, June Moore, Margaret Nelson, Tommy Porter

Stinson Shield

A commemorative competition Shield was presented by Ivor and Jean Stinson of Gardenmore Presbyterian Church for an annual bowling competition to be played between Gardenmore Indoor Bowling Club and First Larne Indoor Bowling Club. This was first played for in the 1976/1977 season and to date the Shield has been won by Gardenmore on 22 occasions and by First Larne on 18 occasions.

This is always a very enjoyable end of year competition played in a friendly atmosphere amongst friends of long standing.

This year we came out victorious winning the annual encounter at home for the first time in 5 years.



Stinson Shield Team 2016

Back row: left to right: Andrew Kincaid, Duncan Gallagher, Rene Gallagher, Derek Craig Jnr, Roy Craig, Steve McCullough, Derek Craig Snr, Rodney Moore.

Front row: left to right: John Magill, Tommy Porter, Margaret Carter, Evelyn Andrews, Margaret Nelson, Ida Woodside, Beryl Stevenson, June Moore.



The Larne & District Indoor Bowling League Birthday Greetings 2015-16

We'll not bore you with all the details, suffice to say we finished in 11th place behind champions Kilwaughter - it's not all about winning, but participating and enjoying ourselves.

And there's more You would be forgiven for thinking that all our bowling is only of a competitive nature, and up to a point it is. But not always. We try to foster community relations with other Clubs, some of whom do not play competitive bowls. Over the last few years we have arranged games with Carnlough Indoor Bowling Club, Raloo Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church and Ballycarry Indoor Bowling Club.

We were delighted when our Assistant Minister David Kelly joined us on 2nd December for the friendly game at Home against Raloo Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church. We intend to maintain links and where possible forge new friendships.



Club Competitions

But, when we're not playing league or cup or friendly matches the Club organises competitions which are played amongst ourselves. These take the form of singles, pairs and triples.

As March each year approaches this heralds the end of the indoor bowling season and to mark this Club members go out for a meal together. This year we visited the Curran Court Hotel for an end of season dinner and prize-giving. The winner of this year's singles competition was Tommy Close, seen below receiving his trophy from Chairperson Roy Craig.



This year one of our senior members, Margaret Nelson, celebrated a birthday in August. To mark this occasion the Club made a special presentation of flowers to her arranged by club member Ida Woodside.



Margaret has been bowling with First Larne since 1997 and has made an outstanding contribution to the success of the Club during that time.

She first took up bowling in 1970 when the Headmaster of Glynn primary school, Robert Wilson, formed a club there. It appears that the original Glynn village hall wasn't long enough to accommodate a full length bowling mat, so matches had to be played in what was then the old McNeill Hall, in the period before the leisure centre was built. When it closed, Margaret joined First Larne Indoor Bowling Club. Margaret has won (on numerous occasions) every club competition trophy at First Larne. In addition her name adorns many of the competition trophies of the Larne & District Indoor Bowling League. And as they say, *the rest is history*.

Our 2015 / 2016 season was brought to a very fitting close with everyone joining in to sing "Happy Birthday".

Rodney Moore

Summertime bowls anyone ??

Whilst the indoor bowling season is officially finished, we thought we would try something different this year, and have a **fun bowls evening on some Wednesday nights during the summer months**. If you feel this is something you would like to try, then please come along, you'll be pleasantly surprised at how enjoyable it really is. You don't need to have any bowls of your own, just bring yourself along and enjoy the *craic*.

For further details speak to Rodney.

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