



## Christmas Newsletter - December 2023

### A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone

Seasons' greetings everyone. I hope you have been able to participate in some of the many activities that are running to help everyone keep in touch during the winter months. Many members are enjoying some indoor bowling at one or more of the organised sessions or through participating in leagues and competitions. We also have carpet bowls, quizzes and coffee mornings running. A huge thanks to everyone that organises these activities.

#### Social Events

Our festive coffee morning on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December was a very well attended event and a great opportunity for everyone to catch up. The event raised £140. We held two quizzes in December with the second one on the 15<sup>th</sup> being Christmas themed. We also held out Christmas dinner on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>. It was very well attended and a very pleasant evening. Thanks to Diane, Barbara, and Dave for organising these events.



The first two planned events in the new year are.

**Coffee Morning** - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January from 10.30am

**Quiz Night** - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January starts at 7.00 pm in the Clubhouse.

Our "**Green Team**" volunteers have continued with daily maintenance tasks during the winter period whenever the weather has permitted. A continued thankyou goes out to Billy and the whole team for the work they do which benefits every member of the club.

#### Sprinkler System

We have had to dismantle the water tank to find out the true extent of the damage. There were a couple of large holes in the bottom of it and it needs replacing. We have a couple of quotes but the overall cost of the new tank and all the ground work could be over £3,500. We are currently putting together a bid to try and get a grant from the Community Chest at NCC. The bid must be in by mid-January, and we would find out in February if we have been successful. We would really like to be successful so we can also carryout work to level the paving on our paths. Quite a lot of the slabs have moved since they were laid and are becoming a health and safety issue. Thanks to David for all the work he has done and continues to do on this.

## **Club Shirt**

The vote we held in September showed we had a big majority of members in favour of having one club shirt. We are holding one final vote to decide whether the shirt would be plain white or the coloured shirt that we had samples made up to show everyone. I should have included the choice between white or coloured in September so we would not have had to do this again - sorry. Whichever shirt we choose the badge would be printed on by the suppliers, so all the shirts are consistent in colour/shade and the badge is professionally applied in the same position on every shirt. There are pros and cons for each shirt, and everyone has their own preference for a variety of reasons, and this includes members of the GPC. Both the white shirt and the coloured shirt are the same price through the company I dealt with to get the samples. Another big thanks to David as he has managed to organise for Lucy, the talented graphic designer who produced our Centenary badge, set up our website and Facebook, and produced the style of all our promotional materials, to produce a digital version of a Club badge. It is in very good hands. **Please let me know your preference for the Club Shirt by the end of December.**

## **Rink Booking System**

We are going to investigate getting a rink booking system that can be installed on all mobile phones. There are a couple on the market, costing different amounts and offering different functions. We are looking for a system that allows rink booking to be made and allows teams to be identified giving selected players a method of stating their availability by clicking a button within the app. This would let all members book rinks and show their availability to play in teams without having to come into the club. Details will follow when we have them, and support will be organised for any members that needs it, to get up and running with whatever system we adopt.

## **Constitution**

We held a GPC meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December but did not have time to do justice to discussions around the feedback we received from members. The GPC has therefore scheduled a meeting for early in January specifically to discuss the feedback from everyone in relation to our initial suggestions for change.

## **Car Parking**

David and I had initial discussions with the Memorial Hall but were not impressed by their proposals. They are considering charging 50p per hour to park. If you do the sums, you can see this can add up very quickly over a season. We did clearly state that at this price members would just park in the surrounding streets. We have therefore sent in some of our own proposals, which build on the relationship both ourselves and the Tennis club have with them. We are waiting for them to discuss these proposals and get back to us.

From our discussions and investigations David has undertaken around parking charges, we have come to the realisation that we have to look at the status/nature of our Club. The Tennis Club has been set up as a limited company. This ensures that the members that run the Tennis Club do not have any personal liability, if they were ever sued for anything

outside their insurance cover, and there are some rare circumstances where this is a possibility.

The memorial Hall is also a registered charity and this impacts upon their relationship with us as a private club. They cannot be seen to be financially favourable to a private club (with special car parking deals) as it goes against the rules they must abide by as a charity.

We have some more investigating to do, and discussions to take part in so we can fully understand all the issues here before we can suggest a way forward. At the last GPC meeting we felt that some legal advice needs to be sought so we can organise how the Club is run, so that no one running it would face any liability in any circumstance. We would have to reflect any future changes we make to the Club's status within the Clubs constitution.

One other thing we discovered is we do not appear to have an official agreement with the Memorial Hall. Neither they or us have any "official" records of a relationship, signed, and agreed. There seems to be a "Gentleman's" agreement in place up until 2030. This is something else that needs to be addressed. Huge thanks go to David for all his work and research into these related issues and to the members who have helped with information and advice, as understanding the issues gives us a chance of addressing them.

### Promoting the Club

We have produced an ad for Pont News and A4 poster that can be used on the Council notice boards and in other sites, ready to promote the Club in 2024. We have also identified days and times of taster sessions next year.

### GPC Minutes

At the last GPC meeting we decided it would make sense to email everyone the minutes of all GPC meetings. It seemed daft to print them out and then stick them in a file in the clubhouse. Anyone wanting to see them would need to come to the clubhouse to do this. It takes only a few seconds and the click of one button to send the minutes to everyone. It also saves on paper and ink.



**Free taster sessions in April & May 2024**

**PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB**

Ever fancied playing bowls but didn't know where to start?

Why not come along to one of our free taster sessions?

Wednesday 24th April at 10.30am  
Saturday 27th April at 2.30pm  
Friday 3rd May at 10.30am  
Sunday 12th May at 10.30am  
Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm

To book please  
call us: - (07940) 923286  
Email: - pontelandbowls@gmail.com  
or just turn up on the day  
Darras Road, Ponteland, NE20 9NX  
[www.pontelandbowls.com](http://www.pontelandbowls.com)

Get fit  
Get together  
Play bowls

QR code, Facebook icon, Bowls England logo

We hope you all stay safe and well over the Christmas period and have a fabulous Christmas with your friends and family members.

regards & Merry Christmas

from your committee

