



PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB

February Newsletter 2023



Greetings fellow wood chuckers,

Well, the start of the season is rapidly approaching, and we are busy getting ready for another exciting and fulfilling season. Last year some of our teams gained promotion, let's hope this continues this year. We have many new bowlers who will be great assets to any of our league teams and hopefully many of them will get fully involved and strengthen our existing squads. We are still waiting for the ladies' fixture list to come in so the bowling schedule can be completed. Hopefully we will not have to wait too much longer for this information. As soon as I have a schedule that has been checked by the sections I will get it out to everyone.

Attached is a document identifying the bowling opportunities available to everyone this year with a little additional information about some of the competitions and leagues and how to sign up, our newer members will find this useful. Both the Men's and Ladies sections will be holding pre-season meetings on the 31st of March. Ladies at 2,00pm and men at 6.00pm, information will be discussed and shared with everyone at these meetings.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter, much of this is to keep you informed of what is happening within the Club, but some requires your attention ie. Data Protection and the Club's Pre-Season Meal.

There are several attachments as usual, there will be a Word and PDF version of each doc. Everyone should be able to open one of these versions.

Safeguarding Officer

Last year at the AGM you will remember we did not appoint a Welfare Officer. This position no longer exists due to the requirements in the documents issued by Bowls England to ensure all bowling clubs Safeguard Children and Vulnerable Adults. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Allison Storey who has served the Club as the Welfare officer for several years, on everyone's behalf.

The new requirements placed upon bowling clubs, and I would guess any other voluntary organisation, are significant. Having spent two days putting a Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults file together with policy, practice, and guidance I can see this is exactly the same legislation I had to follow in teaching - it is huge. There are significant implications for training, monitoring, reporting and guidance for all members of this club here. A lot more work needs to be done to implement this policy - I have just scratched the surface.

I have discussed the need of having an identified Safeguarding Officer, at the GPC, who knows what is involved, has good communication and ICT skills and who can assist the club

in implementing this policy. I have approached Julie Tough regarding this position as she initially offered me some assistance after the AGM in September and her main role before leaving the police service was Safeguarding. She has also advised the Government on policy and practice. Julie is willing to take on this role.

I am aware that we would need to ratify an appointment to this position at an AGM or EGM but do not wish to call such a meeting for this one issue. So, we are proposing to co-opt Julie into this position and can then ratify her appointment at the AGM in September should she be willing to continue in the role.

We also really need a notice board in the clubhouse that is solely dedicated to health and safety, safeguarding, key contacts, referral forms, guidance, behaviour expectations & standards etc. So, all this key and important information is kept together in one place. In the past it has been placed around the clubhouse on different walls and notice boards or kept in a file. This important information needs to be visible and easily accessible.

Website Update

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be updating the website so all information regarding taster sessions, bowling and social opportunities are accurate and up to date. We will add a tab for "Safeguarding" where all relevant and appropriate information will be found which will include all emergency contact details and what to do if you have a concern etc. Julie will lead on this development. We are also going to add a tab "Our Sponsors" where we can put information from our sponsors - we have two currently offering us sponsorship and I have been in contact with them to see what form this will take.

I have also added a tab under "About the Club" called Honours. In this folder we will place digitised versions of all the Honours Boards that have been displayed in the club house. To digitise and update all the honours board history I had to read may past AGMs and GPC meeting minutes to help identify who served in some committee positions (I still have a couple of gaps). It was interesting to see how far back the issues relating to membership, involvement in running the club and getting teams out go. What was also interesting was no one had suggested doing anything differently, to try and address these issues in a different way from a different angle. I think the adage "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got" is quite appropriate here.

Brian Foreman is now looking after our website and I am going to meet with him at some point during the season to rationalise what we have on the website and where we have up. Currently we have the same information in different areas, and it does not quite make sense. This was due to the speed that we put everything together last year to promote the Club.

Honours Wall

Our current system of Honours Boards is coming to an end and would need to be replaced very soon. Some of the boards do not quite make sense due to the length of time they have been in use and the changes that have occurred in both the structure of the club and competitions run. Peter Kilmister and Allison Storey were tasked by the GPC to look at what options we could consider around how we celebrate and display all Club Honours. At

the recent GPC meeting, Peter presented a short slide show identifying the issues and possible alternatives. These options were discussed by everyone at the meeting and after a vote on a way forward we have decided on the following New Honours System.

1. All honours boards will be digitised and made available through the website. They will be updated annually at no cost. No cost to set up.
2. Quality leather bound Honours Book/s will be used to store/record all Honours (mirroring the information on the website) in the clubhouse. Small cost to purchase the Honours Book £60 and pennies to update the information annually.
3. Establish an Honours Wall - between the ladies and men's changing room where **all** committee members and **all** competition winners are recognised and honoured for their work and achievements.

Whilst the detail of what the Honours wall will look like still needs finalising it is likely to consist of a series of **A2 large picture frames**. In each frame there will be photographs of members being honoured/recognised together with their name and why they are being honoured/recognised. **See attached illustration - the scale is not accurate - this is just an illustration to help you visualise what the wall could look like.**

Frame 1 - The GPC membership.

Frame 2 - Ladies Section Committee members

Frame 3 - Men's Section Committee members

Frame 4 - **All** Ladies Section competition winners

Frame 5 - **All** Men's Section competition winners

Frame 6 - **All** mixed competition winners & any other notable achievements

Two smaller frames A3

Frame 7 - Men's Club Champion

Frame 8 - Ladies Club Champion

Cost to set up (depends on price of frames purchased, they vary) - £120 to £180 + Honours Books (1 for all committees and 1 each for ladies and men's competition winners perhaps - £180?)

Annual cost to update - printing the photos, photographic paper and ink - £40 - £50 (Probably less than this as you would not be reprinting all the photographs)

(The cost of purchasing one new traditional Honours Board would be about £1,000 with annual costs to update it running between £60 and £100 depending on the type of board purchased. A traditional board would also limit how many members would receive recognition/honours)

I personally feel recognising and honouring as many members as possible for their support, dedication and achievements is very important to the club. Without members being willing to get involved, particularly with helping to run the club, we have no club. A couple of years ago Peter Kilmister made a comment that resonated with me and has stuck with me ever

since. "The members of this club will get the type of club they deserve" The statement sums it up in one sentence. We have a fantastic location with excellent facilities, and we have the potential to make our club a fantastic place, where bowling is fun but competitive, the membership is always friendly and supportive, and where we offer a wide and varied range of bowling and social opportunities to everyone. To do this, we need a membership willing to give something back to the club - it cannot be left to the same few members to do this.

So, thank you to everyone who does give something back, Thank you to everyone; serving on any committee, serving a cup of tea and a biscuit, being part of the green team, helping out with the gardening and looking after the grounds, assisting with taster days, supporting new members with their bowling, helping out with repairs, organising club meals, helping with our promotional activities, running winter roll ups, running a quiz and helping the club in any way. Everyone working together in partnership makes us what we are and has the potential to make us the best bowling club in Northumberland.

Data Protection

Many of you will be aware I have been chasing members to complete the Personal Data Permission form. This is national legislation we must comply with. Completing this form gives the Club permission to use your name, telephone number and email address in all club communications/admin following the Club's Personal Data Protection Policy - which can be found in the clubhouse and on the website. There are about 40 current members who have not completed one of these forms. **If you have not done so by the start of the season you will no longer get any emails and you will not appear on any contact lists.**

The Personal Data Protection Permission form is attached to this newsletter, and they can also be found in a plastic wallet on the General Notice Board in the clubhouse. If you know of anyone who does not get emails will you, please speak to them about this and support them to complete the form. If you complete one pin it to the General Notice Board and I will pick it up.

Start of Season Meal

It is coming up to the start of the outdoor bowling season and to celebrate we would like to invite you to the bowling club's annual Pre-season Dinner - taking place at the Golf Club on. **Wednesday 12th April, at 6.30pm for 7.00pm**

Please find attached the menu choices.

Could you confirm your selections with:

Ros - 07775 754054, email roshouse@talktalk.net

(Ros is away 23Feb-2nd March so during this time contact

Diane on 07860 758057 or d51oan@yahoo.com)

If you require a vegetarian option for the main meal, could you please contact Alan at the golf club directly on 07583 565633 but let us know this is your option.

If you would like to sit with friends, please let us know when you send your selection, and we will try to accommodate this. We cannot fit everyone in, so places are on a first come first served basis.

Ros and Diane

Social Events

Quiz - held Friday 10th February in the clubhouse. Great turn out again and everyone had a lovely evening. The two teams finishing first and second donated their winnings, together with a couple of personal donations to the Turkish earthquake appeal - a lovely gesture. Thanks to the Social Committee and a big thanks to Dave Smith our quiz master on the evening for all his hard work, it was very much appreciated by everyone, even non quizzers. The questions still make me feel quite young, though I have been informed questions at the next quiz will include more recent events.

Afternoon Tea - Thurs 16th - another fantastic event -



afternoon tea with delicious cakes and scones served on fine China. The Social Committee



made a brilliant job of setting out the clubhouse. What a lovely way to spend an afternoon amongst friends.

Future Events - dates for your diary - [Attached is the Social Calendar for 2023](#)

Friday 10th March - Quiz night, bring nibbles and a few beers.

Wednesday 15th March - Coffee Morning

Bank Holiday and Special Club Games Dress Code

The GPC discussed this at the last meeting and have agreed the following.

The dress code for the Start of Season, End of Season and President's Day will be white top and either white or grey bottoms.

The dress code for all other Bank Holiday Jumbles will be smart casual.

Use of spare rinks during league games

The GPC also discussed the use of spare rinks when league games are taking place. The men have no objection to spare rinks being used whilst league matches are taking place. The ladies have agreed to trial this for a year. Spare rinks can be booked/used when league games are taking place, but members are asked to be respectful. The league game

has precedence over which rinks they want to use (as does Club competitions over casual play). So, anyone playing on spare rinks needs to speak to the team captain before going on to the green to inform them they are playing, as a courtesy, and to find out which rinks are spare during the session.

If anyone has any feedback or comments on what we are doing, please get in touch. I regularly chat to members when I am out and about and discuss various aspects of what we are doing with members, to make the club more fun, friendly, supportive, and most importantly **sustainable - fit for the future**.

regards [GPC](#)