



PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB

May Newsletter 2023

100 Years of Bowling in Ponteland



Greetings everyone, what an awful start to the year it has been. Our usual Bank Holiday Jumbles has taken a battering due to the weather and the game to celebrate the Kings coronation had to be abandoned. It was not a total disaster however, as quite a few members came along to the clubhouse to eat, socialise, and drink a toast to the King. Thanks to the Social committee for organising this and everyone that came along on the day. It's so good to see the weather has now picked up and that we can now bowl in better conditions.

Centenary Match - Wed 12 July

Operational info

- There will be no charge for the food on the day.
- A light buffet will be available to BE players/guests before match as they arrive from 12.30 in the clubhouse.
- From 1.30 to 1.45 players assemble on the green for a welcome, photo and to raise the flags. The game will start at approximately 2.00 and will last 16 ends.
- Men and Ladies Selection Chair's will select the team to play against the BE side - 50/50 men/women.
- When the game against BE has finished the teams will move over to the Memorial Hall for afternoon tea/presentations and speeches. There will be a buffet available for spectators/members in the clubhouse (bring own drinks or buy from Memorial Hall).
- After having a bite to eat there will be a Jumbles game for members who could not participate in the BE game, if they would like to play on the day. Teams and organisation will depend on how many members sign up to play This will allow members to watch the celebration game, grab a bite to eat and then participate in a fun competition.
- The Bar will be available from 4.00pm onwards for everyone - **times TBC**. After the afternoon tea and jumbles everyone can meet in the lounge of the Memorial Hall for a drink and to socialise.
- Display of history of the club will be put up in the clubhouse on notice boards.
- Dress code for the BE game - all team members to wear centenary badge on their white top with grey trousers.
- We have an alternative plan in place in case of bad weather.

Centenary Badges

I hope you have all managed to get the badge fixed to your bowling shirts. In our up-and-coming celebration match against a celebrity Bowls England side, we are asking everyone to wear a shirt/top with the Centenary badge attached. I know the team from Bowls England

will all be wearing a brand-new strip and will be looking the part. So can everyone selected to play in this game make the effort to ensure they have the badge on their shirt.

If you have not got your badge yet you can approach any member of the GPC, the next time you are in the clubhouse to get one. We are now keeping them centrally.

Lockers

I know a lot of new members have been chasing lockers. We have some that are not taken because we do not have keys. Over the next few weeks, we are going to check all the lockers currently not in use (against the list of members that have paid for a locker), identify spare lockers and where we need keys or new locks, and we will then purchase the appropriate items and get the lockers back in use.

Recruitment and Taster Sessions



Thanks again to every member that has played a part in these sessions. They are without doubt some of the most important work we do as a club. It is no secret that bowling clubs nationally and locally are struggling and more and more of them seem to be closing. Without members we have no club and without members who are prepared to do their bit we limit the social and bowling opportunities for everyone and eventually struggle to recruit as we have less to offer as a club.

Below is an email I received from Sheila Storey the Bowls England representative who attended the last session.

“Fantastic response and can I say the members were absolutely focused on what the day was about. I have a report for BE on what I saw today, and it is all positive. A lot of your potential members were very happy at the welcome they had received and the prospect of taking up a new sport.

Well done Ponteland Bowls Club”

Sheila Storey
BE Junior Vice-President



We are going to put on a few more taster sessions. I have a few groups that could not make the initial sessions and last Thursday we had a stall at the Over Fifties fair at the sports centre and had another eighteen people say they would be interested in trying bowls. Thanks to everyone that helped with the stall.

Floral Displays

As we are now into June it will be safe to put out any pots and troughs containing summer bedding. If you have prepared any for the club to enhance our surroundings, please bring

them along to the club. We can then work out the best place to put them. Could everyone keep an eye on them and water them if they require it. A watering can and taps can be found behind the building.

Website Update

We have worked out how we can place the book written by Bernard Wright detailing the last 100yrs of the history of the club, on the website. Bernard will make his last updates by the end of the season and the full book will then be available to everyone to view, under the "About the Club" tab. I saw the draft version of this, and it looked excellent, you just scrolled through the pages. Thanks to Bernard and Brian Foreman for their work on this task.

Honours Book

The Honours Book in the clubhouse has now been compiled and the full history of the club (everything that was on the old honours boards) and more, can now be viewed here. Our plans to make our Honours Wall more relevant to members, and yet keep all our history intact are coming towards a great conclusion. I hope everyone likes the new look and finds it more relevant.

Pie & Peas Jumbles



R Lyndon, J Pringle & J Benn. Congratulations to all.

Huge thanks to Peter and Marilyn for their fabulous organisation and to Linda and her team for preparing the clubhouse, the pie, peas, and drinks. You made the day possible and a great success.

League Results

We have a mixed bag of results this month due to the difficulty we have had getting teams out because of members not being available for a variety of reasons. Last week was particularly challenging for our selection committees. Thanks to them for their dedication and work to ensure we were able to put out teams. And thanks to everyone who played in our hour of need.

At last, a fine, sunny, and warm afternoon for a game of bowls followed by pie and peas. It was so pleasant sitting outside afterwards chatting and having a glass of wine. The winning team was J Galbraith, C Ling and L Fairweather. Second place went to R Twizell,



North East Ladies League

2nd May away Newbiggin	10 pts won game plus 2 rinks
9th May home Seaton Delaval	10 pts won game plus 2 rinks
16th May away Whitley and Monkseaton	4 pts lost game won 2 rinks
23 May home Morpeth	5 pts draw plus 2 rinks
30th May	Bye

Collins and Shipley Div 1

3rd May away Forest Hall	4pts lost game won 2 rinks
10th May home Whitley and Monkseaton	game abandoned rain
17th May away Burradon	2 pts lost game won 1 rink
24th May home Morpeth	8 pts won game won 1 rink
31 May away Bedlington Dr Pitt	12 pts won game won 3 rinks

Collins and Shipley Div 2

3rd May home Benfield	2 pts lost game won 1 rink
10th May away Seaton Delaval	8 pts won game won 1 rink
17th May home Lesbury	2 pts lost game won 1 rink
24th May away Cowpen and Crofton	10 pts won game won 2 rinks
31st May	Bye

Knight

2 nd May v Health & Security away	Won 14 pts to 0 pts
9 th May v Crawford Park home	Won 10 pts to 4 pts
16th May - Bye	
23rd May v NSW away	Lost 4 pts to 10 pts
30 th May v Heaton Victoria home	Won 14pts to 0 pts

Parliamentary

11th May v Westerhope home	Lost 2 pts to 12 pts
18 th May v Cramlington - postponed	
25 th May v Gosforth GV home	Won 10 pts to 4 pts
1 st June v Benfoeld away	Lost 0 pts to 14pts

Public Utilities

Pont A - played 3 games and won 2
Pont B - played 3 games and won 1

Men's Friendly against Hexham - Ponteland won the game but everyone was a winner as we all had a fantastic afternoon with a great and friendly game of bowls followed by a very nice tea.

Memorial Hall Parking

The Memorial Hall have informed us the agreement with Parking Eye & Good to Go comes to an end on or around the 10th of June. After this and until they have put a new system of parking charges in place, parking will be free. Before you park in the car park just double check that the number plate recognition cameras have been taken down.

Data Protection

We initially chose not to email members' contact details out. This has proven not to be very efficient or effective for club communication. It is very difficult to update lists as new members join, and wastes paper and ink. Hence, we have decided to email contact lists out to everyone in future. We ask that everyone treat this data respectfully and keep it secure and only for club use.

Digital Technologies

We are going to investigate using the phone app from Bowlr for rink booking next year. This will eliminate a lot of administrative work and members will be able to view rink availability and book rinks without having to come along to the club. The app works on both Apple and Android phones. If we decide to implement this, we will ensure we have some training on the apps use, available to all members.

We have also discussed the possibility of having internet access from the clubhouse and the need to perhaps improve the security of the grounds and clubhouse. No decisions were made on these points as further discussion and investigations are required.

Changes to the original bowling schedule

The following changes have been made to the original schedule: -

- The BBQ will be held on Friday 30th June - 1.00 for a 1.30 start. We hope to run a mixed jumbles before the BBQ but we need a couple of volunteers to organise and run it.
- There were two dates for the women's pairs in the original schedule. The women's pairs match will be held on Sat 24th June from 1.00pm. The Women's County C of C 2 and 4 wood finals will be held in the morning before this.
- Sat July 1st - Percy & Lorna Telfer Trophy

It is likely there will be some more changes to a few Saturdays in June. I will let you know as and when they have been identified/agreed.

Green Bins

We have ordered three green bins (which are brown) from NCC to put our grass cuttings and green waste in. They are the same size as the domestic bins and get emptied every two weeks. Whilst this is going to be a big help to the club, we will still need to have the

support of members to help take cutting to the tip when we do a lot of work on the green at the start and end of the season. Also, as it is part of the domestic collection, we will not have any service for Dec, Jan, Feb into mid-March and will need members support to remove the cuttings.

Social Events

Quiz - held Friday 26th May. Thanks to Dave Smith our quiz master on the evening for all his hard work, it was very much appreciated by everyone. It is a very jolly evening.

Future Events - dates for your diary

Friday, 23rd June - Quiz night, bring along some drinks and nibbles.

Friday, 30th June - Mixed jumbles and BBQ (**we need some volunteers to run the jumbles**)
The cost will be £10 per person, this cost covers food and a couple of drinks. A notice will go up in the clubhouse very soon for this event.

Dishwasher

After some discussion we agreed our dishwasher is not suitable for our purposes. We are on the lookout for a decent used domestic dishwasher. If anyone is getting rid of one or knows anyone that is, could they let Peter Kilmister know.

Visitors Charge for playing on our Green

We have updated the charge for visitors playing **with a member** (we should not have any visitors playing without a member present) on our green. The cost is now £5 for a 2hr session. The charges had not been increased for over 30 years. If you do bring a visitor to the club for a game of bowls, enter their name in the visitor's book and put the money in the box provided.

Lights and locking up.

If we do not need the lights on, please do not put them on and if you do, please turn them off when you leave the changing room/office/kitchen etc. If they are left on when you go out to play bowls, they could be on for a couple of hours for no purpose. We are still getting occasions where members are turning up to the club and lights have been left on.

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 them, to make the club more fun, friendly, supportive, and most importantly **sustainable - fit for the future.**

regards **GPC**