



PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB

March Newsletter 2023

100 Years of Bowling in Ponteland



Since the establishment of Ponteland Bowling Club one hundred years ago, there has been many changes to the buildings and organisation as the Club has grown and evolved to meet the changing needs of the local community.



Saturday Evening Jumbles, circa 1947



Official Opening of the Ponteland Bowling Club Pavilion by the President, J. Hilton, 5th May 1934.

There have been a couple of interruptions to normal bowling activities during this time such as the second world war and more recently Covid.

Originally the club was a male only institution with many of the ladies assisting with running social functions but denied bowling privileges.



NCWBA Collins & Shipley League Winners, 1987

Originally the club was a male only

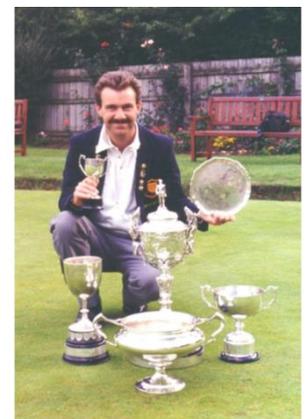
This situation changed in 1967 when a ladies' section was introduced, initially with twenty lady members.



Ladies' Day, 1961

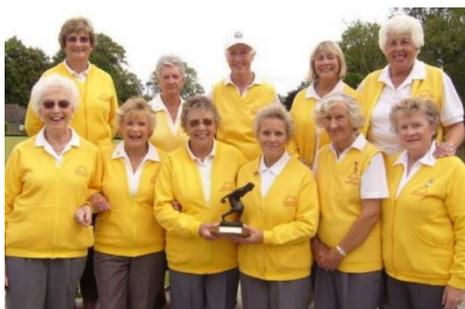
From this point the Club functioned with two independent sections, with their own committees and a treasurer, for around thirty years. Then at the turn of the century the Club was reorganised again to become one club but operating with a Ladies' and Mens' section.

Over the years the Club has had many successes with members winning various leagues and tournaments but without exception our most successful bowler was Michael A Bennett who won numerous competitions within the club, at county level and nationally.



Michael A. Bennett
Ponteland's Most Successful Bowler
with both County and National
Honours, 1994

We have also seen changes in the Club's dress code over the years for both casual and competitive play. Each section has operated with a different kit, and in the case of the men's section even a different



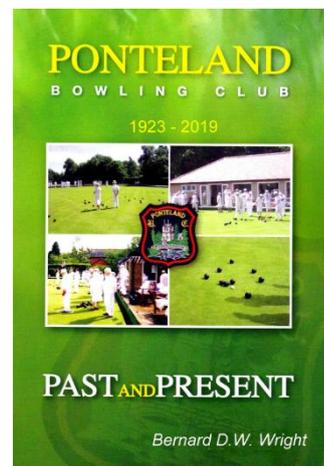
BN Top Club Trophy Winners, 2010



Members participating in BN League Competitions, 2017

dress code for different leagues they have played in. We are looking to add to this history of change by adopting one shirt/set of colours for the whole club, for all leagues and games when representing the Club.

Bernard Wright one of our members has put together a book charting the history of our Club. There is a copy available in the club for anyone that would like to have a look at it. We are also going to display our history in the clubhouse this season through photographs and information collated and provided by Bernard. Huge thanks go to Bernard for all his work in compiling this and making it available to us.



Centenary Match - Wed 12 July

I have had the following communication regarding our celebratory match against a Bowls England side.

"The President has a full team who are coming from all over the country (6 rinks with teams of 4). Everyone is looking forward to visiting Ponteland Bowling Club and savouring northern hospitality. I have asked BE some questions regarding the day itself and once I have the answers, I will have a chat and put you in the picture.

I am sure we will all have a day to remember.

Kind regards

Sheila Storey (BEJVP) - Team Captain

Club Shirt

The vote was very close (one vote difference) in favour of coloured shirt. Both the Ladies and Men's section of Bowls Northumberland are ok with our choice of shirt but we have a complication. We cannot put teams out wearing different shirts in league matches & competitions. This would make it very difficult to gradually introduce a new shirt and selection for league and cup games would become a nightmare.

It would be unfair to introduce a new shirt now, for everyone so close to the start of the season so the GPC has decided on the following actions.

This year to run with the plain white polo shirt with the Centenary badge. To celebrate our centenary **one Centenary badge will be given to every member that wants one.** Additional badges required by members can be purchased at a cost of £5 each.

We are also going to get a couple of samples of the coloured shirt made up, so members can see the quality and what they look like. If members still want the coloured shirt after seeing the samples we will introduce it next year as the club shirt. This gives everyone plenty of notice regarding our intentions and you can plan your shirt purchases accordingly. Sorry for this added complication. Life seems to be full of them at the moment.

Floral Displays - calling all gardeners.

With it being our centenary year it would add great if we could add a splash of colour to our surroundings. If anyone can loan/provide the club with some potted flowering shrubs or annuals it would be very much appreciated. Please do not bring pots/troughs of annuals along until the end of May though as any late frosts would kill them. If you can do something please let me know.

Pre-Season Section Meetings

Both the Men's and Ladies sections will be holding pre-season meetings on Friday 31st of March. Ladies at 2,00pm and men at 6.00pm, information about competitions and how to sign up will be shared and discussed with everyone at these meetings. At these meetings you will also be able to sign up for Opening Day on Sat 15th April. There will also be postcards you can take and share with friendship groups/family members etc, as part of our recruitment drive this year.

Promoting the Club and New Members

If you can do anything to help, please do so. We have some A4 posters available if you know anywhere they would be willing to display one such as: - a pub, hairdressers, community group etc. Thank you also to the members who have already come forward and offered to help with our taster sessions.

Website Update

If you go to the website and click on the tab "About the Club", you will see another tab called Honours. In this folder you can now see several digitised versions of the Honours Boards that have been displayed in the club house. We still have some work to do on how these are presented, but you can get an idea of how they will look when all the different Honours boards we have are uploaded.

Honours Wall

Over the next few weeks our new Honours Wall be going up. We still need to chase a few competition winners from last year for a photograph and I will be emailing them individually. We are hoping to have this completed by the start of the season.

Preparing the Club and Green for the season

We met this week to discuss and agree all the jobs that need doing to prepare our green and grounds for the coming season. There are several tasks that the green maintenance team can be getting on with and these have been communicated to them. We are going to hold two preparation days where we would like as many members as possible to come along and help with the jobs that need to be done.

Preparation Day 1 - either 28th or 29th March (depending on the weather). TBC

Preparation Day 2 - either 5th or 6th April (depending on the weather). TBC

I will email everyone the date we are proposing to do the jobs, closer to the date when we have a clear idea of the weather.

A big thanks to Mike Anderson who has put a lot of time in clearing out dead leaves and rubbish from our borders over the last few months. The grounds and green are all looking great.

Opening Day

A sign-up sheet for this game can be found on the *General Notice Board* in the clubhouse. If you want to participate, please make sure you sign up here or through the section meetings on the 31st March.

Start of Season Meal

The bowling club's annual Pre-season Dinner is being held at the Golf Club on. **Wednesday 12th April, at 6.30pm for 7.00pm.** We have had an excellent uptake for the meal with over 70 members attending - should be a very jolly night. If you would like to attend speak to Ros Anderson or Diane Sloane asap. Huge thanks to Ros and Diane for organising this.

Ros - 07775 754054, email roshouse@talktalk.net

Diane on 07860 758057 or d51oan@yahoo.com)

Social Events

Quiz - held Friday 10th March. Thanks to Dave Smith our quiz master on the evening for all his hard work, it was very much appreciated by everyone.

Coffee morning - Wed 15th - Thanks to the Social Committee for their work in running this event.

Future Events - dates for your diary

Wednesday, 4th April - Coffee Morning

Pre-season meal Wed 12 April - 6.15 for a 7.00 start.

Open Day Sat 15 April - with a Faith Tea

Friday, 21st April - Quiz night

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*