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**PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB**

**January Newsletter 2022**

**Happy New Year to everyone**

We hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and were able to avoid the dreaded bug. If you did succumb to it, hopefully your symptoms were not too severe.

**Social Events**

Coffee Mornings - **Monday 7th February** from 10.00am & **Tuesday 8th March** from 10.00am. On **Friday 1st April** we will be holding a **Quiz night** in the Clubhouse from 6.30pm. Entry will be £5 and there will also be a raffle.

**A BIG Thankyou**

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who volunteers to help keep our club running for their continued support.

* **Green Team** volunteers continue with daily maintenance tasks during the winter period, turning out in the cold and damp when they would prefer to be indoors to ensure we can bowl on an outstanding green during the summer.
* **Men’s and Ladies section committee** members who meet to discuss proposals and agree plans for games, competitions and activities for the season to come, to ensure we all have the best bowling season that we can.
* **Social Committee** – ensuring members can regularly meet up and enjoy activities together, particularly through the difficult winter months.
* **The GPC** who are currently spending a huge amount of time discussing proposals and agreeing developments that will make the Club stronger and better able to promote what it does to the wider community. We are all aware that bowling is facing challenging times, and on average over the last 8 years or so, we have been losing ten members more than we have been recruiting every year. You do not need to be Einstein to work out what will happen to this club in the next couple of years if we do not reverse this trend. We are not only undertaking the developments and changes to attract new members; we also have some responsibility for ensuring that PBC continues to survive as a resource for the Ponteland Community – we are only passing through, we are custodians of a local resource. It has been here for almost 100yrs, the centenary of the club is next year. Making improvements and changes is never easy and the older we get the more we tend to dislike change. There is a comfort in things staying the same but we know we cannot stay the same if the Club is to survive. So, I would like to offer a **very big and special thank you** to all members of the GPC for working, at times outside their comfort zone and for putting in the hours they are to help the Club.

**Reminder** –from late January through to mid-March a local art group will be using the Clubhouse for eight weeks, on a Friday afternoon from 2pm – 4pm.

**About us –** The GPC have agreed the content of the About Us document which will go on the website. This is our main advertising tool and the first thing potential new members will see. Doc attached for info. Please note the formatting of this will change as it is merged into the new Club branding and image.

**Rink Booking** – It has not been allowed in the past to book a rink for casual play in advance. This only happened due to Covid over the last two seasons. A draft policy was discussed and voted upon at the recent GPC and accepted five in favour and four against, as new practice. This document is also attached for information. It essentially allows some rinks to be booked in advance for casual play whilst still reserving some rinks for competitive play each day. Rinks reserved for competitive play can be booked/used on the day for casual play if they are not being used. This is a compromise that will ensure all members needs can be met. It is particularly helpful for any member who has to travel any distance to the club on the off chance of getting an empty rink – they are able to book one in advance.

**Progress on the website and advertising** – attached are a few more visuals for you to see. These are mainly PopUps – a sort of vertical poster 2m high by 80cm wide. We have an issue with using our own photographs as the quality/resolution is not good enough for printing. We are going to have to use stock images to produce the documents we want and then replace them at a later date when we get some taken. We may have to set up some photo/video shoot sessions to do this, rather than just take photos of people playing bowls. David is still working to the deadline of the end of January to have everything done and in place Again a big thank you to David

**Call to Action** – within the next few weeks we will need everyone to help out with our 2022 advertising and recruitment campaign. Please do whatever you can to support the Club in these endeavours. Information on how you can help with follow shortly.

**Mixed Competitions**

**Percy Telfer and Launa Telfer Trophy** – please find attached the format for this competition which will be held over the season on a Saturday morning. I have spoken to a few members about potentially helping to run these mixed sessions. Thanks to Steve Edwards, Carolyn Burbeck & Frank Woodhouse who have said they are willing to be involved. It would be good to have a few more members involved to help share the load. If you would like to be involved in helping to run this session and/or the mixed roll up on the Tuesday this year, please let me know. Any support would be greatly appreciated.

The Tuesday morning session will remain as a mixed roll up as there are also Ladies and Men’s league games taking place on a Tuesday. We will be introducing a few fun formats over the season (several have been written up and can be found in the Club Handbook) a couple of them are attached. If you are of a nervous disposition, I would advise you against reading the Bonkers Bowls!

**Short Jack bowling/competitions** – we are considering running some short jack games this year for members who struggle to bowl to a long jack or play 21 ends. This would allow some of our experienced senior members the opportunity to continue bowling and socialising with friends outdoors. These opportunities could be mixed or male/female orientated – it all depends on the numbers of members interested. We can set up a short jack rink during Nan Maclead, Straughan Salver and mixed sessions so members can join in with these competitions. We could also introduce some singles and pairs competitions that could run throughout the summer if there is enough interest. We need however, to get an idea how many members would be interested in participating in this format before we do any planning for them. This format is also open to all members who perhaps would like to develop their short jack game whilst continuing to bowl with friends and other members. If you are interested, please either email me on the Club’s email or send a text to the Club’s mobile: 07940923286. If you know members who do not have email and will not get this Newsletter, please give them a ring and let them know what we are considering and ask them to respond if they are interested.

**Pre-season Meal** – we are planning to hold a pre-season meal on Thursday 14th April. At the recent GPC meeting we initially thought we would be unable to organise this event due to the rearrangement of another meal organised by the Ladies section. However, after some phoning round and offers of support from Ruth Rochester, Graham Lord and Ian Gordon we are able to go ahead with our plans for a pre-season meal. After the two years we have had it will be fantastic to start the season with some sense of normality. Huge thanks to Ruth, Graham and Ian. I will email members details about the meal early in March.

**Contact & feedback** – if anyone has any comments or views regarding what we are doing to move the club forward or about any of the new games and formats being introduced this year, please feel free to get in touch. You can reply to this email using the Club’s email address and I will get your comments and if required reply.

**Accessibility to Club information** - Newsletters & GPC minutes can be found on the Club notice board so anyone can pop in and read them. If you do so, please ensure that the Clubhouse is properly closed with all lights off, etc, when you leave.

regards

GPC