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**PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB**

**March Newsletter 2022**

**Greetings to everyone**

I would like to say it is good to be back in Blighty, it was good on Sunday playing golf in the warm sunshine but I am not so sure today. However, the new season is fast approaching and I like you am looking forward to a season bowling on grass.

**Green Maintenance**

The green is looking in great shape thanks to the dedicated work of the maintenance team over the winter months. We do however need to prepare the green now for bowling, which will require scarifying and verticutting. We were planning to do this on Friday but the weather forecast is not good with hard frosts expected overnight. So, we have delayed the work until **Monday 4th April, starting at 9.30**. This is a big job so if anyone can help out it would be very much appreciated, even if you can only spare an hour, it will be a big help. In addition to the green we need to get the benches out of the shed so we can access all the signage that needs to be put out to identify the rinks etc.

**Social Events**

**Friday 1st April** we will be holding a **Quiz night** in the Clubhouse from 6.30pm. Entry will be £5, tickets now on sale and there will also be a raffle

**Monday 4th April** from 10.00am coffee morning.

**Bowling Schedule for 2022**

We are still awaiting some last-minute decisions that may affect the schedule to be made. Once we have the final programme it will be available via the website and there will be a hard copy put up in the clubhouse. A fixture list booklet will also be printed.

**Your Bowling Club Needs You** – thanks to everyone that attended this meeting and took away posters and cards to get displayed/distributed. By throwing everything we can at promoting the club we hope to halt and even reverse the resent trends in falling membership. A huge thanks to David and Lucy for all the work they have done to help us promote the club.

**Pre-season Meal** – the pre-season meal will be held on Thursday 14th April – 6.30 for a 7.00 start. If you have not signed up yet and would like to go you have a couple of days to let me know. I will be providing everyone attending the meal with a slip reminding them of their choices and the cost of their meal. £21 for two courses £24 for three (this includes the gratuity). If you are paying by cheque on the night, please bring along a cheque payable to: A & P Catering Ltd. Alan is going to provide a basket for each table for putting the payment in. It would be very helpful if someone from each table could oversee this process. We will also be holding a raffle on the evening. Any donation of raffle prizes would be gratefully accepted. You could pass any donations of prizes to any member of the GPC or leave them in the Clubhouse with a note.

**Car Parking Issues**

Many members have set up an account with goodtogo to pay for their car parking charges at the Memorial Hall. Payment can be linked to a credit card rather than a bank account. Can all members please be aware that if you are paying by credit card and your credit card is out of date or you get a new credit card and do not change the payment card details in your goodtogo account you could be fined. Please ensure the payment details on your goodtogo account are up to date. Similarly, if you have changed your car make sure you update the registration details on your account.

**Paths and hedge bottoms around the club** – when you come along to the club you will see that the paths and hedge bottoms outside our grounds are all neat and tidy. This is thanks to Mike Anderson who has done an outstanding job here to the benefit of all.

**New Competition this year**

We are introducing a new mixed competition this year: The Percy and Lorna Telfer Trophy. It will run throughout the year and will be similar to Nan Macleod and Straughan Salver allowing maximum opportunity for all members to be involved and play alongside other members. The first game will be held on Saturday 30th April. I attached the rules of the competition as a reminder.

**Rink Booking**

We are going to trail a new rink booking system this year that allows some rinks to be booked in advance for casual play but two rinks are to be reserved for internal competitions. If the two reserved rinks are not being used for internal competitions they can be used on the day for casual play. Booking sheets will already have league games etc blocked out. Booking sheets will be found on the notice board and will be made available for booking one week at a time starting every Sunday. I attach the last week in April so you can see what the sheets look like.

**Contact & feedback** – as ever if anyone has any comments or views regarding what we are doing please feel free to get in touch.

**Newsletters & GPC Minutes** can now be found in a folder in the Clubhouse. This will free up the notice board to be used for competition information throughout the season.

regards

 GPC