



PONELAND BOWLING CLUB

April Newsletter 2022



Greetings to everyone

And we are back. It is great to be bowling outdoors again and being able to meet up with everyone.



Open Day – took place on Saturday 23 April. It was a great afternoon with everyone enjoying the bowling and tea & biscuits and chat afterwards even though it was a wee bit cool.

Huge thanks go to Ann and her team for organising this event and to Graham for officiating on the day. Also, thanks to everyone that helped set up all the equipment, the tables and provided the tea.

Green Maintenance

The green is looking in great shape thanks to the continued dedicated work of the maintenance team. We really need the weather to warm up to get the grass growing. This cold spell has lasted far too long.

Green Ranger Notice Board

Changes have been made to the Green Ranger's Notice Board to put all relevant information in one place and give additional information about the status of the green and how to use the protection mats correctly. During our first week of bowling when mats were required to protect the green, not everyone used them correctly. The document on the right is now on display on the Green Ranger notice board area. Also, we have added signs showing the status of the green (**OPEN**, **CLOSED** or **OPEN BUT MATS MUST BE USED**). All information about which rink to bowl on, which direction to bowl and all league, county and internal fixtures are already entered on the rink booking sheets so members no longer have to look at different notice boards in the clubhouse to try and work out if a rink or time slot is free. It is all in one place. Guidance on how to book a rink is also displayed. Attached is a document that shows the main changes and parts of this notice board.

How to set up the green mats to protect the green

Mats need to be pulled tight and held in place with nails to get the full protection afforded by their use. Some mats have nail holes on 3 sides some on 4. Use all the holes on the mat you choose. It is easier if two people do this together.

Bowling mat placed between the green protection mat and the ditch. Not on the large green protection mat.

Leave a gap of at least a yard between the mat and the ditch so bowlers do not step back into the ditch

Whenever the Green Ranger asks for mats to be used to protect the green, please ensure they are used correctly. This ensures we keep our bowling surface in good condition when the green is soft and throughout the season. Mats and nails can be found just inside the large double door in the Clubhouse.

Social Events

The quiz night on the 1st April was a great success. Thanks to Val & everyone involved for organising this event and Dave for providing the questions.

The Social Committee - met recently to discuss organising future events with the biggie being the Summer Barbecue during the Queen's Jubilee celebration weekend. They will meet again soon to firm up proposals for the event.

Pre-season Meal - the pre-season was held on Thursday 14th April at the Golf Club. It was great to meet up with everyone socially once again in preparation for our new season. Good food, good company and a few beers - a jolly evening was had by all. Thanks to everyone who attended and made this such an enjoyable evening.



Bowling Schedule for 2022

We are still awaiting our fixture list booklets to be printed. As I write this, I have the proof to check in front of me, so hopefully we will not have to wait much longer. I attach a PDF of May's fixture list in case anyone needs it. The full fixture list can be found on the edge of the men's notice board in the Clubhouse and on the Club's website.

Recruitment Drive

I have to give a massive thankyou to everyone that has handed out or promotional cards or got a poster put up. And thank you to everyone involved in the taster sessions you have been brilliant - friendly, welcoming and extremely accommodating. Every one participating has thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, several have returned for another go and say they are going to join and several have already applied for membership. It is paying huge dividends. So far, we have had 33 people turn up or who have booked a taster session and these are just the individuals I know about. More turn up on the day of the sessions than have booked in advance. We did lose three people who turned up as they did not want to wear someone else's shoes. Which I can understand. So, we have decided to let people turning up for a taster session to participate **once** in flat training shoes. If they want to attend another session, they will need to wear correct shoes by either borrowing ours or buying their own.

Unused/unwanted bowling equipment

If anyone has any un used or unwanted bowling equipment now would be a good time to either sell it or donate it to the club. We can then pass them onto new members for a small donation. Anyone donating any items can decide if they want the donation to go to the Club or to Ian Cahill's charities. If you have any items, please leave them in the clubhouse on a table with a note attached telling me your wishes. If you wish to sell any items, put a card up on the notice board to the left of the Men's notice board. There are already a few ads there.

Data Protection

A few members have brought to our attention issues related to data protection and the sharing of photographs and telephone numbers. Thanks to these members for highlighting these issues and concerns.

The difficulty here is that we need to be able to communicate with one another to function as a club and we also need to be able to celebrate members' achievements and also promote the Club activities. We have to be able to do this whilst respecting an individual's privacy should they wish it.

We were already aware we needed to update the Club's policies and practices relating to these issues but were not sure whether we should add a statement to existing membership or subscription documents or to produce a separate document. We have decided to produce a stand-alone document covering all the issues that will go out to all members.

If anyone has any issues with sharing their phone numbers or having their photo displayed, can you please let me know in writing what the issues are so that we can act appropriately.

Friendly Competition - against Lesbury - We have a mixed friendly competition away against Lesbury on Sunday 8th May. Game starting at 2.00, we would need to leave Ponteland around 1.00. The game will be four rinks of 4s, bowling two woods each - 16 players in all. It would be good if we could field a mixed team of eight men and 8 ladies. I will put up a sheet in the Clubhouse tomorrow for members who are interested to sign up.

Contact & feedback - as ever if anyone has any comments, views or feedback regarding what we are doing or how we are doing it please get in touch with me. A few members have made some good points regarding how we could improve our procedures and systems and as a consequence, changes have been made to simplify and improve what we do. This is all about our club and how we can make it better for everyone regardless of what their bowling preferences are. If we all take responsibility and play our part in helping to run and improve the Club, both the Club and everyone will benefit. **Ask not what your club can do for you (though that is important) but what can you do for your club (If everyone does something to help out it shares the load and makes what we do sustainable).**

Newsletters & GPC Minutes can be found in a folder in the Clubhouse.

And finally - the weather in Scotland has been particularly mild for Ian's walking challenge. As a consequence, he has been seen trundling through the Glens in the latest summer gear. No excuse for not having a shave though!

regards

GPC

