



# PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB

## April Newsletter 2023

### 100 Years of Bowling in Ponteland



Welcome to the new season everyone. The weather has been a disappointment and it was a shame we had to delay the opening of the green, but it is great to be back on grass. I really prefer bowling outdoors.

Amanda has worked hard renewing memberships and putting together contact lists for the men & women. These have now been sent for printing and should be available very soon in the clubhouse. They will not be out in the open due to data protection, but when they are ready, I will email everyone to let you know where you can find them in the clubhouse. You will need to ensure you look after them to respect everyone's data and ensure they are not left lying around.

#### **League Games**

Our season has started well with the Men's Knight team winning both their matches and the Women's Collins and Shipley A & B teams winning their matches, with the A team having an excellent win away at Hexham. The opening game of the Public Utilities was a very close game between Ponteland A and Ponteland B with Ponteland A winning on the last end.

#### **Centenary Match - Wed 12 July**

We met with Sheila Storey last week who is organising this event for BE. The day should be fun and not onerous or costly for the club. The day is about fun and celebration. What we provide and do during the day should reflect this.

- Game will involve 6 rinks of 4 players on each side (24 players in a team)
- We can decide on the number of ends on the day – weather may play a part.
- If the weather is so bad, we cannot play on the green Sheila will look to book WDIB to play the game.
- 42 people are coming, 24 players with 5 reserves and 13 guests (42 in total) – (1 person requires gluten free and 1 person no fish or sea food)
- Players will start to arrive from 12.30 on the day and we will need to provide a simple buffet of finger food with tea and coffee for them.
- 1.30 – 1.45 invite teams on to the green. Take official photo and raise flags, speeches etc.
- BE President's team to play PBC officials' team – traditional.
- Match starts at 2.00.
- After the match 4.30 onwards move to the memorial Hall for a traditional afternoon tea with tea and coffee for the teams and BE guests (the bar will be open also).

- Six tables of 8 to be set up for the players on each rink and two tables of 9 for the guests and reserves. Eight tables in total.
- There may be a gift swap – we will be informed nearer the date. We will also make a digital photo available for everyone playing and a framed copy can be provided for the president.

### **Points raised through discussion at the GPC**

- Consider sending a personal invite to past members who have made a significant contribution to the club. The GPC to discuss/identify who would be sent a personal invite but are aware that care is needed when doing this and we will have to be clear on the criteria being applied. Some names have already been suggested by the women's section.
- All members, past members and visitors can come along to watch the game and partake in the buffet in the club house, but numbers are restricted for the afternoon tea to players and BE guests. Though anyone not involved in the afternoon tea could move through to the lounge/bar area where they can enjoy a drink and chat.
- Need to vacate the main hall in the Memorial Hall by 6 o'clock but can move through to the lounge area where the bar will remain open.
- We hope to get the Memorial Hall at no cost to the club, and we have asked for free parking for everyone on the day.

Further detail and info will follow

### **Club Centenary Badge**

If you have not got yours yet speak to your section committee. Instruction of how to iron on have been emailed to all members. Some members have reported ironing on a hard surface rather than an ironing board helps. Care needs to be taken when handling the badge transfers when carrying them as they can be damaged - move them around in an envelope.

A couple of sample-coloured shirts have been ordered for members to look at, but firm are ridiculously busy at the start of the season. Our request will not be a priority for them.

### **Pre-Season Meal**



Everyone had a great night at our pre-season meal. It was very well attended, and the food and company as ever was excellent.

I would like to send all our thanks to Diane and Ros for their hard work in organising the dinner for us. It is with the support of members undertaking tasks in this way that we will make the club a successful and great place to be.

## Taster Sessions

We have run our first two taster sessions this week. Sixteen people have come along to try bowling, and most are coming back to another session. Two have already signed up and several others enjoyed the sessions and say they are going to join. Over the next month there are another dozen people coming along that I know about, plus any that turn up on the day. A bit of sunshine would help a little. Thanks to the many members that have come along to support these sessions. They have been very welcoming, friendly, supportive, and helpful which is a great credit to the club.

## First Aid & Duty of Care

We are very fortunate as a club, that we have members who are experienced.



knowledgeable, competent, and willing to support us in the various aspects of health and safety. I know from experience what a mine field this area can be. You will see that the Health and Safety notice board in the clubhouse is getting full. This is to ensure we are following best practice to keep everyone in the club and visitors safe. Everyone has a responsibility in this area to ensure they keep everyone safe. On Wednesday we had

a couple of accidents that highlighted the weaknesses our First Aid equipment. I would like to thank Jeanette Tinnion, who recently attended a first aid course, for reviewing our first aid provision, identifying what we needed to update/improve and then purchasing the relevant items. We have moved the first aid equipment and it can be found by following the First Aid signs - into the storage room and in the pull-out draw shown in the photo.



## Honours Wall

Our Honours Wall is almost complete, just one more photo to add when I get it. I have had a lot of very positive feedback about the look and relevance of the wall and how it is useful to include photographs. Website versions of all Honours boards are being worked on by Brian Foreman - they look much better than the originals and are easy to scroll through. They can be viewed on our website. I still have a couple more to complete and add though there are some issues with the full women's and men's history as they include too many columns for the website to handle in the scroll through format and may need to be displayed in a different format. Over the coming weeks we will also start to populate our Honours Book and display this in the clubhouse. Thanks to Brian for his work on this.

## Green Issues

The green is struggling due to the weather. A lack of warmth and sun is resulting in very poor and slow growth (It's not helping me either). Despite this it is holding up well to being played on even though it is a little heavy. The sand injection last year appears to have helped to stabilize the soil and aid drainage.

We still have issues with nails being left in the green after the protection mats have been used. Please make sure all nails are removed from the mats and put back into the containers.

## **Charges & raffles**

At the recent GPC a discussion took place around the club's use of raffles. There have been concerns raised about raffles almost been used as an entry charge to some meetings/events and the number of raffles that we hold. Some members felt that some raffle prizes seem to be won and then appear at the next raffle again. It seems weird that the same members are providing raffle prizes and then buying raffle tickets to win those prizes to raise money for the club - does not quite make sense. In addition, there is the increase work & time associated with holding a raffle and handling all the money - this can get in the way of the main event. It was felt it would be easier and simpler if the fees were increased slightly to aid club funds rather than hold all the raffles we hold. After discussion the following actions were identified to be put to members for their views.

1. When members are attending any meeting within the club - there should be no charges or raffles as you enter. Members are there to attend a meeting and nothing should deter from this.
2. We should reduce the number of raffles to perhaps two or three a year and that these should be used to raise money for specific charities such as Cancer Research, Macmillan Care etc. Perhaps the Presidents and the Chairperson could identify an event and which charity is being supported.
3. Coffee morning should cost £1 and there should be no raffle at these.
4. If the club needs additional funds the membership fee should be increased slightly

Please feedback your views on raffles. You can speak to any member of the GPC over the coming weeks or email the club and I will pick up your views.

## **Rubbish**

Between the clubhouse entrance and shed you will see bags of grass cuttings and bits of rubbish. These are to go to the recycle centre. If anyone is taking anything to the centre and has room in their car, could they consider stopping by the club and taking some of our rubbish with them. We are trying to remove our grass cuttings as we make them so avoid the need for a skip at the end of the year which would cost between £250 - £300.

## Opening Day



Another well attended session despite the cold and damp weather. With the number of clothes members were wearing the green resembled an Arctic expedition rather than a game of bowls. Well done to everyone for battling through the afternoon. A warm cup of tea went down well afterwards. Thanks to Ann Pearson for her fantastic organisation and Linda and her team for providing the tea,

coffee & biscuit.

## Bank Holiday Specials

I have mentioned several times about the need to share the work load across all members within the club. We can have a fantastic club that offers a wide variety of social and bowling opportunities, but we need members to be willing to give something back. We really need some members to run some of the BH special competitions. It is not a difficult task and members who have done this before can show you what to do and when to do it, offering support on issues such as team selection etc. We could really do with a couple of men and a couple of women who would be willing to take on this important and very popular aspect of our bowling calendar. I am more than happy to talk anyone through what the task entails. Please let me know if you are willing to do this for everyone in the club.

## Social Events

**Quiz** - held Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Thanks to Dave Smith our quiz master on the evening for all his hard work, it was another jolly evening very much appreciated by everyone.

**Future Events** - dates for your diary

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May BH Jumbles - 1.00 for 1.30 start - bring nibbles and drinks

Coronation - Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May - Cheese & Wine & toast to the King - bring addition drinks if you want

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May Quiz Night - 7.00 start - bring drinks and nibbles - works really well.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May - BH - Mixed Jumbles 1.00 for 1.30 followed by Pie & Peas

If anyone has any feedback or comments on what we are doing, please get in touch.

regards [GPC](#)