



## PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB

### Christmas Newsletter - December 2021

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to everyone

It looks like we are heading for another difficult holiday season due to Covid. We hope you all stay safe and well over the Christmas period, and are able to enjoy Christmas with family members wherever possible.

We will continue to monitor the situation regarding all advice and restrictions relating to Covid and will respond appropriately as and when necessary.

**Dotty Dominoes** - on Friday we held our annual Dotty Dominoes event. Whilst I now know what it is I still am not sure how to play it. It is definitely well named. Big thanks to Val, Rita, Sue, Joan, Ruth, Irene & Irene who did an excellent job of organising and running the event on everyone's behalf.

**Coffee Morning** - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00am - (*Coffee mornings are organised and run by the Ladies section to raise funds to subsidise the transport costs for the Ladies away games. They are in addition to the Club's social calendar*)

**Our "Green Team"** volunteers continue with daily maintenance tasks during the winter period. The crows continue to cause damage but the leaves off the trees have finally gone. We had a lot of debris on the green that needed clearing away after storm Arwen and the team did a great job of removing this. Tony our green keeper said our green is the best it has ever looked at this time of year. A continued thankyou goes out to Billy and the whole team for the work they are doing to the benefit of everyone.

**Storm Arwen** also severely damaged the fence that runs alongside the public footpath at the back of the club and tennis courts. It was very unsafe and has been blocked off by the Town Council. Repairs have been undertaken at a cost of £800 and our part of the fence is now safe. The Tennis Club will need to make their repairs before the footpath can be reopened.

**It is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee** this year. To celebrate this occasion there will be an extended bank holiday from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June. We are going to liaise with Ponteland Town Council to run a fun event for all members and also organise a game of bowls against council members over this holiday period. In addition to being a fun weekend we should be able to generate some great publicity for the Club.

**Bowls England (BE)** - the link to our club on the BE website has been updated to include our email address and our new Club mobile number. The Club now has a pay as you go phone that will be used for all incoming enquiries about membership.

**Art Group** - 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.

**Progress on the website and advertising** - we had our second video conferencing session today to look at progress on the website and advertising materials. It is still a work in progress but what I saw looks excellent. They are developing a corporate/brand image for the Club that will go on everything we do. The website is being built in the background of our own and it is looking very professional. We need to populate it with updated content and we are going to be sent a list of things to do/collect for this. David has given his staff a deadline of the end of January to have everything done and in place which includes posters, business cards, pop up stalls, banners, signs etc. A huge task in a short time. I have asked for some visual examples of what they are developing for us I will circulate these when I get them. I would like to thank David on everyone's behalf, for everything he is doing for our Club, it is top notch and will enhance our face to the public.

**Call to Action** - early in the new year we will need everyone to help out with our 2022 advertising and recruitment campaign. Members of the GPC and Section committees will be seeking support from members to undertake promotional activities. We hope everyone can see the benefit this will have for the Club and will be willing to roll up their sleeves, get stuck in and help with all recruitment activities.

**Mixed competitions and games.** At the AGM it was agreed to include the mixed Saturday and Tuesday morning roll ups as part of the Clubs schedule. Peter Kilmister suggested having a mixed competition to honour Percy Telfer and Launa Telfer for their long-term support of mixed competitions. It was felt that this would be a really nice idea for the Club to introduce and it perhaps could run on every available Saturday. We are looking at a mixed team format (teams drawn every week) that will run throughout the season. At the end of the season the man and lady with the most points would be joint winners of the trophy. The details of the competition still need to be worked out. The Tuesday morning session would remain as a mixed roll up as there are also Ladies and Men's league games taking place on a Tuesday. We are also considering having a few fun competitions perhaps with novel formats over bank holiday weekends where everyone can get together, socialise and have some fun.

**Qualified coaches** - we have decided we do not need qualified coaches at present. Coaching is a bit of a cash cow as you need to pay for the qualification and then annually to remain an active coach. We feel have enough skilled members who can support both new and developing members.

**Accessibility to Club information** - we know there is an issue for some members accessing emails. If you know anyone in this position and meet up with them for any reason, could you make a point of sharing the content of the Newsletters with them. Some members use the email address of family members and then get a printout passed on to them. Alternatively, I intend to put all Newsletters in a file in the Clubhouse and to display the GPC minutes for one month on the 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, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from the GPC.

