



PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB

May Newsletter 2022

Hello everyone,

I would like to thank everyone that has given feedback on the work the club has done this year to move forward. It is heartening that everyone I have spoken to is very positive about changes we have made and the direction that the club is moving. However, none of this would be possible without the help and support of our members - thank you everyone, for your efforts in helping to run the Club or events and for helping out with looking after our clubhouse and grounds. I recently watched a webinar by Bowls England which was encouraging clubs to grasp the digital nettle and make sure they were using Facebook effectively to promote their club and that they had an up to date and professional looking website (research showed that a poor website actually put people off even contacting a club). Everything they were suggesting we have done this year thanks to the support of David and his team. Could I urge everyone to link/befriend the Club's Facebook page - [Ponteland Bowls](#) and like and share any posts that are made by the Club. Bowls England recommends making a minimum of three posts each week on Facebook, if these are liked and shared, our Club and what we offer is regularly promoted widely within the community **for free.**

New Members - I would like to offer a very warm welcome to all our new members who are now starting to join in with club activities. We have the makings of some excellent bowlers amongst them with some of them already starting to shine. Could I ask everyone to wear the badges provided so it is easier to get to know everyone's name and help conversations and integration.

Thanks to everyone that has helped out in any way with our taster sessions and induction programme. They have been a great success and a lot of fun to participate in. I am confident our new members are appreciative of our support and have benefited from everything we have done.



On Friday we held a Men's friendly game against Hexham Elvaston and some of our new members participated in the game which is amazing as they have only been bowling for a few weeks. They all acquitted themselves very well and were a credit to the Club. Big thanks to Bob for organising this on the day.

So far this year we have had 36 applications for membership and I think we may still have a few more to come.

On Tuesday at 6.15 we will be meeting with all the new members to discuss a programme of coaching and competition, over the summer, specifically for them and in addition to what the Club has on offer, such as roll ups, Nan Mcleod etc.

Social Events - Jubilee Weekend

Bank Holiday Jumbles - you still have time to sign up for this event, **if you fancy playing get your name down as soon as possible**. The sheet is on the notice board by the kitchen hatch. The dress code is to wear something red, white and blue. Turn up 1.30 for a 2.00 start.

BBQ - immediately after the Jumbles from 4.15 to 4.30 onwards we will be having our Summer Barbecue. There are only a few tickets left so if you want one you need to act quickly as numbers are limited to 80. We will be holding a raffle and if anyone can contribute anything that could be a raffle prize it would be much appreciated and will ensure our day goes well. Please pass on any contributions to raffle prizes to any member of the social committee. We also need more contributions from members in the salad or desert department to accompany the barbecued meat - perhaps a rice dish, potato salad, salad etc. If you willing/able to bring a dish, please add your name and type of dish you will bring to the sheet on the notice board to help coordinate the food.

Party In the Park - Sunday 5th

David Redhead has approached the organisers of this event and is going to set up a PBC stall to continue to promote our club and what we do. If anyone is able to lend a hand for an hour to help staff the stall it would be very much appreciated. Please let David know if you can help out in any way.

Game against the Town Council

We had scheduled to play a game of bowls with **Ponteland Town Council** on Sunday 5th June as part of the celebrations but unfortunately many of the councillors are unavailable due to their involvement in the Town's celebrations, so the game will be arranged for another time at their convenience.

Tea, Coffee and Bottled Water

Tea, coffee and bottled water is available in the kitchen for any member that want to stay and have a drink and chat after playing bowls. We will be putting the bottles water in the fridge to keep it cool. The cost for each drink is 50p. There is a container for members to put their money in. Please wash up and put away all cups and utensils when you have finished, leaving the kitchen area clean and tidy for the next members to use. Please also ensure the water heater is turned off by the button that is on the top of the digital display on the heater itself, do not tun the heater off at the plug. See attached sign.

Book Corner

We have a small book corner where we loan out books. This is next to the Ladies changing room door. The idea is to offer a loan facility to members and have a small revenue source

for the club. If you wish to borrow a book, please make your donation of 20p into the container provided. Please return the book when you have finished reading it. If anyone wants to donate a book to our loan section, it would be very much appreciated. Please use the book loan corner in the way it was intended if it is abused it may be removed.

Bowling Schedule for 2022

Reminder 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 under Fixtures 2022. There are also a few fixture list booklets available by the door (50p) towards the cost, if anyone wants one.

Team News

Ladies leagues

North East League

We have only had one match at Ashington. Sadly we lost 2 rinks and drew the other rink. This meant that we lost the match, overall and only came away with 1 point.

Collins & Shipley League

Sadly, this year we have only been able to put one team out. Historically, we have always fielded 2 teams.

Game 1

4th May at away at Amble.

We won one rink and lost 2 rinks and the overall match. As a result, we came away with just 2 points.

Game 2

11th May away at Lesbury.

We won one rink and lost 2 rinks and the overall match. As a result, we came away with just 2 points.

Game 3

18th May at home to Amble.

(Revenge is a dish best served cold)

We won all 3 rinks and the overall match. As a result, we came away with all 12 points.

Game 4

25th May at home to Seaton Sluice.

We won two rinks and lost 1 rink but we won the overall match. As a result, we came away with 10 points.

Men's leagues

Both our Knight and Parliamentary league teams have had a very encouraging start to their campaigns. After narrowly losing their first game at Souter the Knights are now on a three-game unbeaten run having secured a draw with Astley Park and then two convincing wins over Rockcliffe and Innesfree. Our Parliamentary team has had a fantastic start and is unbeaten and sits at the top of their division. Both teams have been very competitive and our expectations are high for a very successful and enjoyable season.

Mixed league

Public Utilities

The "Public Utilities" is a mixed League which plays on Thursday evenings. The Club currently has two (broadly equal) teams in the League which, for convenience, are called Pont "A" and Pont "B".

We re-entered this League in 2022, (after a 2-year absence due to the Pandemic) and, although we currently play in Division 3, we hope to go higher in the future.

To date, each team has played 3 League matches. Pont 'A' is currently in 2nd place in the League and Pont 'B' is in 6th place. Pont "B" has also played in the P.U. President's Cup, beating Collingwood, and progressing to the next round.

Our Public Utilities Teams are currently rebuilding our pool of players, and we welcome any new players, (either male or female), to add to our resources. The format of this League is particularly suitable for couples who wish to play competitively in the same matches. If anyone is interested in playing in this League, you just need to add your name to one of the lists on the P.U. Noticeboard.

Peter Kilmister

Bowling Equipment for sale

I have put a tentative price tag on the used but still very useful bowling equipment that has been donated by members. All monies raised will go to the club.

Items for Sale - there is a notice board to the left of the Men's notice board where members can list items they wish to sell. If you wish to sell any items, put a card up, if you are looking for any equipment keep an eye on this space.

All the bowls in the office are not for sale, they are there to be used for taster and coaching sessions and by new members who have not purchased their own equipment yet. They should not be removed from the Club (without letting the secretary know) or put into lockers.

Locking up the Clubhouse and Shed

Can the last members to leave the club after any event or roll up **please double check** that the lights are off, the building is secure and the shed is locked before leaving. We have had one recent case of the shed being left open and one instance of the water heater being left on. When you close/lock the door check that it has locked fully by trying the handle.

Ramble into Retirement - a fantastic achievement by Ian for three great causes.



Dear All, since I returned from the charity ramble several of you have been good enough to ask how many miles were covered and how much has been raised, whilst many others have been kind enough to offer donations to support the charities on my return. These cash donations have all been paid into the JustGiving account with sincere thanks.

I wanted to repeat how very grateful I am to all of you for your support, both verbal and financial. As a new member of PBC myself I have been moved by your generosity and it has further served to illustrate what a warm and welcoming community Ponteland Bowling Club is. Please accept my genuine and sincere thanks, you literally helped to keep me going and your donations form the greater part of the total funds raised.

Donations came in from as far afield as Bulgaria, the USA, the UAE and Darras Hall!

The total mileage covered on the various trails was 430 and the total raised by generous donations currently stands at £1,926.70, to which £441.25 has been added by way of gift aid, meaning the total paid to the British Heart Foundation, the Alzheimer's Society and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund is £2,367.95



Thank you so much for your incredible support. Best wishes, Ian

Contact & feedback - as ever if anyone has any comments, views or feedback regarding what we are doing at the Club or how we are doing it, please get in touch with me. This is all about our club and how we can make it better for everyone regardless of what their bowling preferences are.

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

regards

GPC