



PONELAND BOWLING CLUB

November Newsletter 2022

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well and that you are managing to continue bowling indoors. Even though we are closed for the winter months there is still a lot going on at the club that I need to keep you informed about, much of this is in preparation for next year.

Christmas Dinner with a dance afterwards

We are holding a Club Christmas Dinner with a dance/disco afterwards on Wed 14th December. Enough members have already signed up for this event to take place but there are still some places available.

I have had feedback regarding this event that leads me to believe, that some members are not clear what the evening will look like. Apologies if my earlier communications have not been clear and I will try to clarify what we are doing.

Over the last twelve months we have tried to offer more bowling and social opportunities to all members to ensure we meet the needs of both the membership and local community. This helps make the club more attractive to potential new members. The Christmas Dinner with a dance/disco afterwards is part of the widening of social opportunities the club offers to members.

The main part of this evening is a Club Christmas Dinner, affording members the opportunity to meet up socially with everyone and enjoy good food and good company. After the meal is over, we will be putting on some music that members can dance to if they wish (it adds something extra to the end of the evening). Some of our members will be putting the music together and it should be an eclectic mix - something for everyone.

If you would like to come to the Christmas Dinner but not stay for the dance - that is fine. If you want to stay after the meal to enjoy a dance and a few more drinks - that is also fine. The opportunity is there to do either, the key part is that we have the opportunity to meet up and socialise as a club.

So, if you would like to come along for just the Club Christmas Dinner or have the dinner and stay for the dance, there are still some places available. You could also bring along friends, especially if they are considering joining in the future.

For those of you that were unsure what the evening entailed but who may now wish to come along, I attach the menu and information of how to book your place.

Huge thanks to Ros and Diane for organising this event.

Club Centenary Year

Fantastic News - we have been successful in attracting support from Bowls England for our centenary celebrations in the form of a celebrity game against a Bowls England team. I attach the full email from Bowls England but a flavour of what is involved is below.

What should a Celebration Match look and feel like at a club?

- ✓ A fun, enjoyable, sociable, different day for all involved
- ✓ A special occasion - your club should go 'all out', it should not feel like a normal game. The match should be the highlight of the club's year. This could include opening the bar, putting on food and drink for spectators, raffles, activities for young relations of the players, marquees, bunting, music, BBQ, balloons etc, anything to create a festival or party atmosphere.
- ✓ Involvement with the local community - this could include inviting local press, friends and family of those playing, involving local dignitaries, the council, club sponsors - all of this could raise the profile of your club and attract new players
- ✓ Supported and watched by club members / family and friends who are not playing in the match to make this a real club event

This will be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate 100 years of bowling in Ponteland and to promote what we do as a club to the wider community. We will be discussing what we can do next year regarding our celebrations, involving the community and promoting the club at our GPC meetings. At some point though we will be coming out to everyone to seek your help make next year a very exciting, enjoyable, memorable and productive year for everyone and the club.

I will keep everyone informed as and when I get further details.

Painting, Decorating and Electrical work

Apologies for the inconvenience all the work being undertaken has caused, particularly with our winter social programme. The clubhouse is a bare and uninviting place to be at the moment.

The outside of the Clubhouse has been painted and we will be getting the inside painted after the electrical updates have been carried out. The electrical work will take about 3 days and the Clubhouse will be closed from the 21st of November for this, to ensure the safety of everyone. The electrical work will make us legally compliant with current requirements.

Once the painting has been done, we will get quotes for window blinds and get them fitted also.

We then have the task of putting the Clubhouse back together and getting it thoroughly cleaned, so social events can resume after Christmas.

Social Programme

Normal service will be resumed after Christmas. Linda Bolam has kindly agreed to serve as convener of our Social Committee next year. Our thanks go to Linda for offering to do this and to Val Telfer who has agreed to support Linda in getting acquainted with the role.

Green Maintenance



We carried out sand injection into the green at the beginning of October. This was quite an operation with machinery having to be lifted on and off the green by crane. Big thanks go to Billy for overseeing this operation and for Billy and Tony for their work afterwards. We may need to consider some additional sanding in the future, perhaps before the start of next season. We need to discuss and see what



maintenance work we could do ourselves with our existing machinery.

Club Shirt

We have been moving forward with designs for a Club Shirt. David asked Lucy (who worked on our website and Facebook page) to see if she could come up with a design that incorporated our centenary year, as a starting point. Attached is a document showing these designs. At our recent GPC all members were asked to come to the next meeting with any design ideas they may have for a Club shirt. We need to make a decision early in the New Year so we can place orders.

We would also like to get a local business or firm to sponsor our shirts. For this they would get their name/logo on the shirt, website and Facebook etc. If anyone has any contacts with a local business that may be interested in sponsoring our Club shirt, please let David or myself know.

Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship

We are getting round to the time of year where we need to start planning our recruitment strategies for next year. This is perhaps one of the most crucial things the Club has to do every year. In order to assist us in this we need a small group of members 2 -3 to be co-opted to work with the Chairperson and GPC on various tasks. We put a lot of time and effort in last year sorting out our approach but it all needs updating and promoting in the community again. We would also like to develop any opportunities for sponsorship there may be within the community. If you are willing to help out, please let David or myself know ASAP

GPC Minutes - as I am unable to put them in a folder in the Clubhouse, minutes of the last GPC meeting are attached.

regards GPC