



## PONTELAND BOWLING NEWSLETTER – March 2021



Dear Friends,

We hope you are well, and are continuing to stay safe. As Spring approaches, we can all now hopefully look forward to a better year in 2021.

I am pleased to be able to confirm that, in accordance with Government guidelines, we will be able to reopen our Green in April to enjoy some fresh air and leisure and to re-unite with old friends. Of course, in order to ensure the safety of our Members, our return to Bowling will be gradual and the safety of our Members will always be paramount.

Firstly, I have to advise that the General Purposes Committee (GPC) have decided that Bowling this year will be principally focussed on in-Club activities, rather than playing Leagues. Given the current situation regarding Coronavirus the GPC felt that, whilst we can be confident in our own ability to ensure the safety of Members within our Club environment, safety compliance is much more difficult to achieve when travelling to Away games or when receiving Away Teams at Ponteland. Of course our hope is that we can use 2021 to rebuild and recoup, and then get back to League play in 2022.

Our “Staged” approach to reopening the Club this year is closely based on the Governments Covid Roadmap, and guidelines produced by Bowls England, and is likely to be as follows:

### Stages 1 & 2.

We currently expect to reopen the Green on 19<sup>th</sup> April for casual play. The Clubhouse will remain closed, but Members may access Toilets and Lockers so long as Social-distancing measures are followed. This will enable Members to start playing Bowls, either as individuals or in Pairs.

### Stage 3.

From 17<sup>th</sup> May, larger numbers will be allowed on the Green, and we can then expect to be able to start our programme of organised rollups. Further details will be provided in early May.

### Stage 4.

From 21<sup>st</sup> June, we expect to see all remaining Government restrictions lifted. We can then open up the Clubhouse and also begin our programme of social activities. Of course, we will expect Members to continue with common-sense hygiene measures such as hand sanitising and disinfection of equipment.

Please note that all of these proposed stages are conditional on continued progress in controlling the Pandemic, and it is therefore possible that some dates or measures could change.

However, after what seems a long and difficult winter, we can now look forward to reopening and giving our Members the opportunity to rejoin old friends, and get some much needed fresh air and exercise after a long and difficult period! We hope that you will take the opportunity to rejoin the Club again this year and we attach the appropriate documents and we look forward to seeing you once again in 2021.

With Very Best Wishes,

Your Committee