

**BIDDENDEN BOWLS CLUB
CHAIRMANS REPORT 2021/2022**

Once again it is my pleasure to present the annual Chairman's report for Biddenden Bowls Club. With the reduced threat of Covid -19 there was an air of optimism surrounding our return to bowling in 2022 as we looked forward to resuming "normal" bowling activities and the prospect of a full league programme.

I would like to commence by thanking Captain Paul and my fellow committee members for their unstinting support throughout what has proved to be a rather challenging year. My sincere thanks go to the Officers who are standing down and we hope to continue to build on the contribution you have made to the club.

This year we have had to content with severe drought conditions which exacerbated the compression of the ditch and surrounds and I am sure that Paul will be expanding on this in his report. Our small but very efficient maintenance team have provided more hours of labour than anyone can imagine and the COGS landscape team have worked tirelessly to ensure our garden, balcony and surrounds were colourful despite the sun and hosepipe ban. Our toilets and club house have been regularly serviced by another band of volunteers. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment, it has been appreciated and greatly admired by our visiting teams and members.

We are proud of our links to the local and wider community, promotion of the club and the game of bowls was once again very successful thanks to Kim our coach and Paul. These events were made possible with the support of the member volunteers who came along to every session. It was wonderful to see so many young people playing and enjoying bowls and hopefully they will return to further the skills and knowledge they gained next year. During the year Kim gained her level 2 coach award and Paul qualified as an umpire, congratulations to you both, this was in addition to holding their Officers posts and the time and commitment they gave was greatly appreciated. Hopefully next year we will be able to expand our coaching team, so please do speak to Kim if you are interested in obtaining a Level 1 coach qualification.

Despite temperatures of over 30 degrees we once again hosted a very successful Ladies Tournament. Thank you to Barbara for coordinating this event and the sterling team of volunteers who worked tirelessly in the heat and also played in the tournament. Barbara has kindly offered to coordinate the event again next year.

The hot weather did not deter eight new members from joining the club, I hope you found a warm welcome and look forward to you returning next season. The club aims to provide a platform for members to compete at Club, County and National level, several members achieved this in addition to playing in local tournaments. Hopefully next year our new members will be encouraged to take part in these activities. However, we do not just cater for bowlers with a more serious interest in the sport, but also members who just want to bowl for fun!!

The season commenced with a markers course which several of us attended and proudly came away with certificates of attendance. A basic first aid course was also organised and again those who attended came away with new or refreshed skills and knowledge, importantly, everyone was taught how to use the defibrillator that was gifted to the club by one of our members and is located in the club house.

Sadly for the second successive season we have failed to get nominations for significant Officer posts. I am wondering if it is because you are not sure what the jobs entail!! We have provided some job/role description outlining the skills and knowledge required and mentors are available to

support anyone who is interested - succession planning is critical if the club is to survive and take a full part in competitions and league games. David very kindly stepped up last year and continued in the post of Fixture Secretary, a gesture for which I will be eternally grateful.

The posts that are a priority to fill are:

- Fixture Secretary
- Captain
- Competition Secretary
- Vice Captain
- League Captains
- Membership Secretary

Please do not hesitate to speak to myself or a committee member if you are interested in being nominated for a post.

In conclusion, in order to fulfil our bowls programme our families and partners have to endure many absences from home at weekends and special days, I recognise it has been particularly difficult this year to fit in another match and so many of you have had personal challenges but have gone the extra mile to ensure we have not had to cancel a game, so thank you everyone, and I am sure with your continued support the club will continue to go onwards and upwards.

Jeannette