

# BIDDENDEN BOWLS CLUB

## REPORT FOR 2021 AGM 16 NOVEMBER

### GREEN KEEPING and SURROUNDS Paul Buggins

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and restrictions Greenkeeping has continued largely as normal this season. Some jobs, normally done by two people together, such as sarrel rolling have not been completed as extensively as would be ideal. My Thanks to the “core team” who also constitute the mowing rota team... **Jim, Brian, Ralph and Norman** and the daily brushing rota team as well others who have contributed their time. It is important to remember that work on and around the green and within our facilities need on average **35 volunteer hours each week**, this is how our facilities are maintained and **saves many thousand pounds** for the club each year.

You will recall that this summer was not as dry and warm as 2020 and as a consequence our watering and irrigation usage has been much lower, the irrigation system was not used at all in August. We have continued to treat the green for LDP (Localised Dry Patch) which has been less of a problem this year, either due to the work we have done but in part due to the wetter summer. There has been less impact from Crane Fly larvae this season, but they are still there but in lower numbers so we have , or will have applied “Nematode” treatments to maintain control (annual cost is approx. £250). We have purchased all the green maintenance treatments/materials (Cost approx. £2000) to see us through to the end of next season, I am hopeful that we can expand knowledge and get more people involved with applying the products to the green.

Our main Green`s mower has been somewhat problematic this year and has not cut as well as had been expected and has increased maintenance costs significantly. In part the issues have been exacerbated by sand blunting the blades, pushed up by worm activity which has been quite significant this year, a problem shared by many greenkeepers. No worm pesticide treatments are available but we have recently obtained, and applied a treatment that should reduce the level of “casting worm” activity ( time will tell how effective this is) I have met with representatives from both the manufacturer and supplier/maintainer of the machine who accept there are a number of set up issues they need to resolve, I am expecting this remedial action to be undertaken without any labour costs billed to the club, I am proposing this work is done early in the new year.

I am very pleased that we have expanded the team of “Daily Brushers” (this continues 365 days a year) this year but we always need more to share the load, can you help?? In September the committee approved a small project (circa £500) to allow the club facilities (Pavilion and Toilets) to be used during the winter months, for meetings, workshops, coaching, coffee mornings etc.. outside lighting to allow safe passage between the pavilion and toilets as well as some heating .. our thanks to Norman for co-ordinating this work.

As you know we have been looking at ways to improve the ditches and green edges, which have collapsed in a number of places, and have a “run off” on almost all of the green`s perimeter. Several quotations have been sought which range from £15000 to £45000, the most realistic to provide a “long term” solution is around £30000. We have not been able to put a funding package in place as few grant opportunities are available with most currently focussed on “recovery” from impacts from the pandemic. We continue to work on how this project might be funded, including grants ( and possibly a loan) from the Parish Council as well as how much we can commit from club reserves, particularly if funds are left from the government Covid support grants.

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We continue to look at ways to resolve the issue of the club`s drinking water supply, in particular the cost of putting the 50M of pipework, currently above ground, into an underground trench, and backfill of course.

As always **FUND RAISING** is vital both for regular club activities but to help fund larger projects.

*Updated 24 Oct 2021*