

BIDDENDEN BOWLS CLUB

REPORTS FOR 2022 AGM 16 NOVEMBER

CAPTAIN **Paul Buggins**

Thank You to everyone for your support throughout the year. Unlike the last couple of years, it has been a much more “normal” season. Covid restrictions have not impacted us this season although we have all taken the opportunity to fit in some holiday and family “catch up” breaks. I think some of the arrangements put in place during Covid have been positive and have become part of our normal “modus operandi” such as having a small amount of playing equipment left readily available.

I am very grateful to our Chair **Jeannette**, and the broader committee who managed the **administration** of the Club most effectively, allowing me to focus on the Club bowling activities. Additionally, I have very much appreciated the help and support provided by **Ralph**, our vice-captain, this has been invaluable!

A full, and near normal, programme of bowling was put in place for 2022, including 48 Friendly matches, 36 League games and 10 Club competitions See details a little later.

Friendly matches are a big part of our club bowling activities and provide an opportunity for individual improvement in a competitive but comfortable environment. It is important that everyone plays their part in getting the playing equipment ready before matches, staying to the end of matches and taking advantage of the social interaction with both team mates and the opposition. Results this year in Friendlies were significantly better than during 2021 **WON 27 (8) LOST 16 (25)** I continue to be encouraged by the improvements seen amongst our newer bowlers and how those with just a few years’ experience have stepped up to fill the gaps and take on greater responsibility. In all we had 48 Friendly matches scheduled, 5 were not played/cancelled, 27 Won, 16 Lost and 0 Draws. Three games were cancelled by opposition who were unable to raise teams and 2 cancelled due to weather/ playing conditions. We were able to rearrange two matches, Rochester Blind and Ashford Rail, which cancelled on the original dates. As regards the League`’s the Weald B team had a good start to the season in Division 3 but sadly came up just a single league point short of avoiding relegation and will play in Division 4 next year. The Weald A team did not find consistent form throughout the year but managed to finish mid table in Division 2. The Mens Maidstone Triple league team struggled throughout the season winning just 4 of their 12 games and have been relegated to Division 5

I continue to be encouraged by the number of young people and children we have seen at the green this year which I think is great for the long-term future of our Club. It has been great to have groups from John Mayne primary school, Greenfields, as well as many from the summer school run by Sports Route Coaching. I know it took a great deal of organisation by **Kim** and support by many members to run these events my grateful thanks to all. We have continued to run taster sessions and participated in the Bowls Big Weekend and towards the end of the season opened up for “Bowls Bash” all to get more people to PLAY BOWLS !!

Looking forward 2023 I encourage everyone to get involved with Friendly and League matches, as well as our own club events. Many Thanks to **David**, our Fixture Secretary for the last few years, who organised a full programme for 2022 and is well advanced in getting things sorted for 2023. Hopefully we can find a replacement as David is stepping down at this AGM maybe someone will have put their name(s) forward We have again entered a team in the Ashford Indoor Bowls

competition (Classic 77 Trophy), run for outdoor bowls clubs, there will be 5 matches on Sunday mornings during the winter. This will provide us with new opportunities and challenges.

Finally, (at last I can hear you all say!) thank you again for your support in 2022, and hopefully even more people can be involved in taking the club forward in 2023 and beyond....

GREEN KEEPING and SURROUNDS Paul Buggins

My Thanks to the “core team” who also constitute the mowing rota team... **Jim, Gavin, 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 thousands of pounds** for the club each 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, particularly as we are likely to lose a few of our existing team who are moving away from the area. can you help??

The green has withstood the very dry period this summer well, albeit some maintenance activity and treatments have been reduced, a lot of water was used to keep the green irrigated. The autumn renovation work has been completed and included some targeted reseeding. Mowing and aeration will continue throughout the winter months as far as weather allows

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 £35000. We have obtained grant funding of £13000 (ABC £5K, BPC £5K, Kent Community £2K and £1K from VHSC reserve) which along with £10000 from the Club project reserve means the current funding package stands at £23000. In the circumstances an application has been submitted to Bowls England for a loan of £12000 to be repaid over a period of 8 years. If this facility can be agreed and final discussions with contractors are successful it is possible that work can be started at the end of November. We are trying to arrange the work so that some simple activities can be done by volunteers to keep the cost as low as possible, **we will be seeking a labour force to help!!**

The issue with the drinking water supply to the Club has been resolved at a cost of £3000 which was funded by the VHSC restricted reserve.

The **COGS** (Care of Garden Squad) have been busy this summer improving and maintaining the surrounds of the Green / Clubhouse. I am sure you will agree that it looks great many thanks to **Shirley and the SQUAD** for all they have done

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

Updated 01 Oct 2022