

**Milford on Sea
Bowls Club**



**Annual lunch
address**

Dear Member

Today should have been the Club's annual lunch and trophy presentation but as you know we have had to cancel this.

The year has been a very trying one for the Committee due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Income has dried up, play was severely restricted and special arrangements have had to be made to comply with Bowls England rules once play restarted.

Initially however, we did get in a full short mat season and thanks go to Sue Jolin for all her organisation. Congratulations to TGIF (Friday PM) team for winning the league and to Julia Longley and Paul Theobald for winning the drawn pairs competition. Unfortunately at present the new season is on hold until we can use the pavilion again. As soon as we are able we will restart short mat.

We did eventually get to play some bowls albeit in a very restricted way. The take up was not as good as we expected but all those who played enjoyed themselves and we did get 2 competitions in a pairs and singles. Congratulations to Keith Rippingale and Rob Perkins for winning the pairs competition and to Fred Avery for winning the singles. Many thanks go to Richard Browning (Kate's brother) for so kindly sponsoring the competitions and providing and presenting the trophies and lastly Paul Ware-Lane for organising the competitions.

Bowls could not have commenced without our having in place an off-site booking system as advised by Bowls England and we are very grateful to Kate Wall for her efforts in not only setting up and running the system but also for dealing with all the problems that seemed to arise by members not understanding the system.

Over the year the green has presented several problems mostly caused by the birds attacking it. The green is our major asset and many thanks must go to David Hall especially, along with Steve Hill (our contractor) for all their sterling work on the green in order to keep it playable. Also many thanks to his green team for all their work on switching the green and repairing the many holes created by the birds.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused us many problems and a lot of hard work had to be put in in order to get play up and running. Our Secretary Howard Farmer has spent many hours ensuring we complied with all the Bowls England directives and in setting up the sanitisation processes that had to be

put in place. This on top of all the other jobs that fall on him. Many thanks Howard.

The Committee has not met as regularly as normal but things have kept ticking over by e-mail and the Club is fortunate to have a full Committee committed to keeping the Club running. Many thanks to them all.

At the end of the year both Phil Freeman and David Newman stood down as Men's Captain and Vice Captain respectively and our thanks go to them for all their work over the last few years. They will be replaced by Rob Perkins and Geoff Fall, good luck to them for next season.

With the exception of the two just mentioned the rest of the Committee will remain in place for the coming year and I look forward to continuing working with them.

The Committee has authorised certain works to be done during the close season, some have in fact already started. This week the paths around the green and the path from the pavement should have been relaid with resin and thanks go to Brian Applebee for arranging this and for keeping the contractor onside over a fairly long period.

A third shed has been delivered and will be erected by Brian and Derrick Summersby who have already constructed the base. Brian and Derrick are in the process of renewing all the green baize around the green. They have removed all the old baize and will be replacing it over the winter. They have also been tending to all the plants around the green all year. Our thanks go to both Brian and Derrick for all their work that they put in and the time they spend at the Club.

Another job that is being undertaken by members is the raising of the 4 edges around the green. This work is being undertaken by Colin Haupt and Ken Taylor with help from other green team members. Many thanks to Colin, Ken and the rest of the green team. This again will be completed during the close season.

So at the start of next season the green and surrounds should look completely fresh.

During the year Pat Ashley stood down as Welfare Officer and has been replaced by Sally Reed our thanks go to Pat for all her work in keeping in touch with members over the last few years and to Sally for taking on the role.

As you see most of the work that the Committee has approved is being carried out by Club members and we should all be thankful for the work they are doing and saving the Club considerable further expense. You should all be grateful for this. I would plead with you to help out in any way you can for this Club is a self help one and can only survive if members join in the work that needs to be done.

The future of bowls is uncertain but we remain optimistic that we will get a full season in next year and the Committee will be going forward to produce a programme for the new year. You may wonder about next year's subscription

and the Committee will be looking at this in the near future and we will let you know the outcome but please continue to support the Club as best you can. I look forward to seeing you all in due course. Please remember if you have any problems please let me or another Committee member know.

The Club charity for the year has been Oakhaven Hospice but very little was able to be done to raise funds. Before lockdown we did raise some money and during lockdown Kate made and sold face masks and knitted dolls the proceeds of which she donated to the fund and she is currently making some more masks and dolls for Christmas. Other members also did some things that they donated money to for the fund. Many thanks to especially Kate and also the other members for all they have done to help raise £541 so far. Oakhaven will continue to be the Club's charity for next year and I hope we can raise substantially more funds.

Last but not least thanks to Chris for all her help and assistance throughout the year especially with all the COVID-19 rules.

Finally I wish you all good health, keep away from Covid, and have as good a Christmas as the rules at the time will allow.

Tim Capron