

Trentham News

Autumn 2020



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For all your club information

Club News

This has been such an extraordinary year in the life of our Club and it's Members and indeed the whole world. All our plans had to be cancelled from March onward, this included the open weekend, signing-on night, games, tours and social events. We have however, against all odds many feel, turned potential disaster into a small victory and managed to maintain some play and some social life going at the Club. Sadly though, we have to say that the greens and Clubhouse are now closed until further notice. Due to the prevailing restrictions, the weather and the need to start winter renovation work. We also feel it is not possible to conduct short mat bowling this year, or to plan any social events. If this changes we will inform everyone. Thank you to all who supported the Club this year financially and by turning up and playing, we are all in your debt, but, importantly, the Club is safe.

The Treasurers Report

The Covid-19 pandemic could not have hit us at a worse time financially, funds were at their annual lowest after winter and it was just before our Club Subscriptions were due, and there was huge potential for a disaster, as regular bills still had to be paid. Initially the Club was shut down and all measures were taken to trim costs, even the greens were put under minimum maintenance to save money!

Fortunately our marvellous members rallied round, initially paying half fees, which was a massive help. Later, as we started practicing and playing, full subs were paid by players and this together with grants from Sports England and West Berkshire Council offset the lack of revenue from playing and socialising and this has ensured our survival. We are now in a position to carry out full greens renovation work over the winter and to be able to do the myriad of jobs required over the closed season. Thank you all for supporting our Club in these difficult times.

Kind Regards to all,

Rick Hough - Honorary Treasurer

A joint message from our President and Captain

We were both astounded at the success of the in-house weekend bowls. Not only have we been able to get 24 players (and more) most Saturdays and Sundays but we have also been well supported by spectators! These games have demonstrated very clearly the enjoyment of bowls and the importance of social gatherings. In fact, not only have they brought us all together, they have significantly contributed to many members health and well-being. This has clearly been evident by all the laughter and smiling faces. Thank you to all who have contributed to this.

It is 60 years since Trentham Bowling Club was affiliated to Berkshire County bowls association. To make this special occasion Trentham are hosting a county game on 21st June 2021. We will also be celebrating being runners up in the Bowls England 2019 competition of "Story of the year", by hosting a friendly game with a Bowls England team on 18th July 2021. Two important events for your calendars!

Next year (Covid-19) permitting we are also planning to hold all the in-house competitions as normal, and you can enter these Club Championships on signing-on night in April, when the subs are due. These competitions are displayed on the notice boards in the rear corridor and are open to all members.

We would like to finish by wishing you all well and we will look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best wishes,

Brian Heath - President.

Shirley Bampton - Club Captain.

Everybody safely distancing from each other! The Club enforced strict Covid-19 regulations both in the Club House and on the Green.



Your opinion, views and ideas matter - please give them to a committee member

Captain's Update

It's hard for me to know where to start this year! 2019 was a year of such enjoyment many new members loving the sport of bowls. Monday night roll up for the ladies, friendly games on Wednesday evening and weekends not forgetting the Kennet League (KL) the Ladies Thames Valley League (TVL) the Kennet League (KVL) and county competitions. As captain this was a busy time and a very enjoyable one. Then came 2020 and Corona Virus!

This virus has affected so many lives in many different ways. I honestly didn't think we would do anything at Trentham. How wrong could I be! A massive thank you to Rick, Keith and Jules who started the ball rolling in getting the club ready. This was well planned and put in place with consideration of the restrictions for our safety. To Andy and Jules who have worked tirelessly, not only to give us all a great game but to ensure we are all as safe as possible. To Rick, who has worked tirelessly to keep the bar stock up to date, to the bar staff, and to Janet and Brian who have cleaned the important areas each week.

Then of course nothing would happen if we didn't have dedicated team looking after the greens, the repairs, decorating and the grounds. Thank you all so much.

It is with much regret that we are having to close the club house for the time being. Currently it is very difficult to plan due to ongoing restrictions that are forever changing.

Our club is an amazing club, we have many outstanding members who go over and above what they need to do. These efforts have not gone unnoticed, so as captain I would like to thank you all.

Very best wishes to you all and please keep safe.

Shirley

Recruitment

Despite circumstances being against us we had several new members join us this year, and we welcome you all. We hope you have settled in, had a warm welcome from the members and hope you will remain with us for many years to come. Recruitment will start again next spring as we always need new blood as well as the old to keep us healthy! Spread the word, and please feel free to copy and or pass this newsletter on to anyone interested in joining the Club next season. The message will be 'Let's Roll This Summer' (thank you for the slogan, Bowls England).

Don't Forget, Volunteers are always Wanted!

Do you have any skills or experience? If you can help in any aspect of running the club, from helping in the kitchen to maintenance, repair, gardening, cleaning, to working on the Web Site, raising money or organising functions - we need you! Even if you don't have any special skills, we still need you, just ask how and where you can help, let us know what you can do. All contributions, large and small help to keep the club running and keep the costs down. There are many, many jobs to be done both during and after, the playing season. Any good Handymen or Handy Women out there?

Your opinion and views matter - please give them to a committee member



Even the back Lawn was used for pairs games!

The Clubhouse and Grounds

There is much work to be done over the winter and we rely on you, our members to come forward and volunteer to help out. Work such as gardening, weeding, cleaning, fixing renovating, painting, protecting etc, it is all important to the future of the Club and every little helps. If **you** can help in any capacity whatsoever, please don't hang back, let us know. A list of winter jobs will be circulating soon.

Extensive specialised renovation work will be carried out on both lawns this winter

And Finally

Let's hope that all our Members and their families stay safe and avoid this horrible pandemic and on behalf of the President and Committee we hope you all manage to have a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year, we very much look forward to seeing you all when the new season starts in 2021. Please keep safe, follow the guidelines and look after yourselves.

If you can, please keep checking our Website for information, news and photos, updates will be posted as and when, and please keep in touch with all your friends, throughout the winter, on our thriving WhatsApp group for all kinds of news, trivia and amusing anecdotes and stories (check the rules before posting!). Also, don't forget, members can still go to the club to exchange puzzles, books, Cds and DVDs, you must sign in if you do, not forgetting the very small donation to charity.