

Message to all members from Club Captain

As we approach the festive season and look forward to 2025, I feel its time to recognise the hard work members of the club have contributed during the year.

Clubs like ours require members to volunteer to undertake jobs and roles, to reduce costs, and keep membership fees at a reasonable rate. We should also realise we are a members club, not a commercial organisation. We are a group of people who love to play bowls, to enable this we must have a green to play on, and a club house to provide changing and catering facilities. All these facilities need regular maintenance which fall to our volunteers.

I do not intend singling out any individual as people give what they can, but even a contribution of an hour can be as valuable as multiple hours. But I will mention the work that has completed over the year, to make sure we recognise what has been carried out by our friends.

These include the repair of the floor in the disabled toilet, the repair of the wall in the gent's toilet, the stocking of the bar, setting up rooms for functions, catering for events. Also just the simple act of washing up helps the club run smoothly.

The competitions require organising and running on the day. The roll ups require somebody to open the club and make sure all are welcome. Setting up and closing the rinks for these events needs to happen and any help is appreciated.

On the outside there is the gardens which have been maintained by individuals who do not even play bowls. The car park has been improved with the sweepings provided by the council. The benches and bag racks have been treated to prolong their life.

The green, our largest and most valuable resource, requires regular maintenance and suffers badly when there are not enough volunteers to keep on top of the work. Dave requests help regularly, but this is met with varying degrees of success. He is grateful for any time any individual can give. An hour spent sweeping the paths allows another individual to give an hour power washing the green.

Players turning up for a match or roll up have contributed by arriving early and sweeping the green before play. It takes 45 mins to sweep so 4 people only need give 10 mins of their time for the whole green to be clear of detritus, which makes for a better session. If this can happen on a more regular basis going forward, we will all benefit and have a green to be proud of.

Organising representative matches requires dedication and a thick skin. Long hours of planning go unseen but is a necessary function. It is unfortunate that you cannot keep everybody happy, but our success as a club this year is a testament to the team captains. Our tour to Renfrewshire was a great success and will go down in history for various reasons - not all bowling.

Finally, the admin people who look after all the unseen functions that are needed for a club to function. Unseen but not forgotten.

From all the members. Thank you to everyone who contribute to the smooth running of the club. Without you our club could not survive.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas prosperous New Year and look forward to working and playing with you all in 2025.

Graham

Club Captain