

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

(A Member of Bowls England and English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd)

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Date: August 2022

Dear Member

It is usual at this time of the year for the Club President and myself to write to all members giving a summary of the events over the last 12 months, together with an update as to the Club's plans for the forthcoming year, 2022/23.

A. THE YEAR TO DATE.

Following the lifting of the Covid 19 Coronavirus Pandemic restrictions in June 2021, we were finally able to open the Club green for outdoor bowling and to re-instate our Friendly inter-club matches, the County Kennet Leagues (KL and KLV) matches and the Ladies TVL league matches, albeit on a reduced fixture capacity.

Subsequently the Indoor League Fixtures and Club Competitions for 2021/22 commenced in October 2021 and were duly completed on schedule in April 2022.

We have been fortunate in being able to hold some very prestigious events over the last year, namely:

- A round of the Open Singles Circuit on the 29th and 30th January 2022, a bowls event organized by Bowls England. The event was very successful, and we have now re-booked for next year, 28th/29th January 2023. Many thanks to the Shanly Foundation for sponsoring the event.
- In April we hosted the semi-final of the Denny Cup between Norfolk and Dorchester B.C.S
- On the 1st of April we were pleased to welcome Theresa May to the Club to officiate at a tree planting ceremony – all in aid of the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy initiative.
- An Open Day was held on the 28th of May as part of the Bowls England "Big Weekend". This was followed by a six-week Coaching Course. Many thanks to all those who participated in the sessions.
- Once again, the Club's "Away-Day" to Poole Park on the 29th of June was well supported with over 30 members enjoying a day out and bowling at a very attractive location overlooking Poole Harbour.
- We were pleased to host the Amy Rose Regional Final on the 3rd of July. Our green and facilities were much appreciated by all the County players who took part and the Bowls England organisers who were very impressed with the venue and the organization on the day.
- The annual Triangular Tournament between Desborough, Maidenhead Thicket and Maidenhead Town resumed this year, and it was Desborough's turn to host the event. The Tournament was sponsored by 'The Mortgage Required' a local Financial Services company with total prize money of £1,000 – many thanks. I am glad to report that Desborough were the winners overall with Town second and Thicket third. A great day with all matches played in good spirit.

President: John Bucknell

General Secretary: Roger Wyatt

Treasurer: Jasbir Notay

VAT Registration No: 207 7898 26.

Affiliated to: Royal County of Berkshire B.A. Berkshire County Women' B.A. and London and Southern Counties B.A

We have retained our status as the nominated training headquarters for the England Bowls "Elite" squad and the Bowls England Coaching Center for the Southeast - excellent relationships which we hope will help us to attract some of the major National and International Bowls events in the future.

The Malaysian International Bowls team returned to Desborough in July and played matches versus Desborough, Town and Thicket as part of their practice build up for the Commonwealth Games

During the year we have held several Charity Days and other events raising money for the Ukrainian Relief fund, Macmillan Nurses, and the Thames Hospice. Once again, many thanks to our members and sponsors for their generosity.

The catering contract with Fat Tabby was terminated, as from September 1st, 2021, inevitable, due to their lack of quality and service provided following the Covid lock-down. After a period of "self-catering" we were fortunate to find our new caterers, Emanuelas, a local Italian catering family, who took over the catering contract as from October 1st, 2021. Since their appointment we are happy to report that improvements have been made in the quality of service, availability, and the choice of menus.

Likewise, our contract with Wilson Partners, for accounting and book-keeping services was terminated on the 31st of March 2022, following the passing of our Treasurer, Ross Wilson. We have now appointed Ellora Ltd as our accountants with Jasbir Notay as the Club Treasurer as from 1st April 2022.

This last 12 months have been a very busy time with everyone working tirelessly to reinstate, not only our bowling activities, but also to encourage both new and our existing business and charitable organisations to return. The commercial income derived from these commercial lettings is an essential part of the Club's overall finances

We are very grateful to all committee members, management and staff who have helped continue the Club operations and maintain the club premises and grounds over the last 12 months.

B. THE FUTURE

1) GENERALLY

With the Club moving from York Road to our new home at Green Lane on 1st May 2019, there have been many challenges in ensuring that, we not only operate a successful bowling club, but also that we introduce the necessary new procedures and working practices to meet the more complex financial and statutory requirements of the new Club.

The initial 5 - year Business Plan's financial projections were severely challenged by the Covid pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns, however, thanks to our management team and the support of our Finance and Management Committees we have overcome many of the obstacles that have come our way.

We have now formulated a new budget going forward, which we believe is achievable and are now looking forward to working with our Treasurer and our Finance and Management teams to ensure we achieve the agreed financial objectives.

We are currently facing an unprecedented period of uncertainty with high inflation and therefore it is extremely important that we all recognize that changes must be made to ensure financial stability for the future. The financial proposals and recommendations are detailed below in Section "3".

2) MEMBERSHIP

With the effects of the Pandemic, we saw an initial reduction in our membership, however over the last few months we have managed to attract new members from the surrounding areas and would now summarise our current position as: -

Membership Category	2022 Members (Current)	2023 Members (Projected)	2024 Members (Projected)
Full Member	120	126	136
Indoor Full Year	12	12	27
Indoor Season	404	414	425
Outdoor Season	16	22	24
Junior	10	12	14
Social	50	65	75
Life	11	11	11
Total	623	662	712

3) SUBSCRIPTIONS AND GREEN FEES 2022/2023:

We are currently in a major inflationary period throughout the country with basic costs in all sectors increasing substantially. To illustrate the pressures we are currently facing, our electricity costs have increased from £1,500 per month to £3,000 per month (100%+) and with a further increase expected in October 2022. Other items increasing substantially are inter alia, water rates, cleaning, foodstuffs, and other basic items. Due to these increased costs, it is essential that we budget to minimize any losses over the next 2 years and ensure that we break-even by year 2024/25.

To help address the future financial challenges, our Treasurer, Jabir Notay, has prepared various financial scenarios, within a 5-year budget framework, considering the current and potential future increases in operational costs. Various options were then presented to both the Finance and the Management Committees for discussion and final approval.

It was considered essential that any increases in subscriptions and/or green fees should be applied in a proportionate way across our membership with a fair allocation of any increases being made across the various categories of membership.

The Committees concluded that we had no alternative but to effect cost savings and price increases overall to ensure our financial position remains stable over the next 5 years with sufficient cash reserves maintained for future essential expenditure. The recommendations for the year 2022/23 are outlined below.

It must be stressed that, whilst the committee would like to be able to absorb any additional costs, without passing them on to members, we hope you will understand that this is not possible. Even with the proposed increases, bowls is still a relatively inexpensive sport (the new fees will mean Full Members are paying £5.77 per week, Indoor Members £5.00 per week and Outdoor members £6.25 per week. A small price to pay for the excellent modern facilities we enjoy.

Many thanks to all our sponsors for their ongoing support, namely Shanly Foundation, Mortgage Required, A-Plan Insurance and Seema Goyal.

THE NEW ANNUAL FEES PAYABLE, EFFECTIVE AS FROM OCTOBER 1ST 2022, ARE

CATEGORY	2021/22 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE	2022/23 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE	NOTES
FULL MEMBERSHIP	£240.00	£300.00	Can be paid in 2 instalments if required October 1 st 2022- £150 May 1 st 2023 - £150
OUTDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£120.00	£150.00	
INDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£120.00	£150.00	
12 MONTH INDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£170.00	£200.00	
SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP	£40.00	£50.00	
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP	£25.00	£25.00	Under 18's
GREEN FEES INDOORS	£3.00 – 1 hour £4.00 – 2 hours	£4.00 – up to 2 hours	Triples match - £12.00 Rinks (4) - £16.00
MATCH FEES (INDOORS)	£12.00	£12.00	No Change
MATCH FEES (OUTDOORS)	£7.00	£8.00	Increase in catering costs
NATIONAL COMPETITION FEES	£5.00	£5.00	No change
KENNET LEAGUE & KLV TEAMS	£3.00	£3.00	No Change.

(N.B. Locker rental increased to £10 per annum –NOT included in above fees)

THE ABOVE FEES ARE DUE FOR PAYMENT ON OCTOBER 1ST 2022 PLEASE

Payment Methods

Full Members may pay in two instalments if they so wish, £150:00 October 1st, 2022, and £150.00 May 1st, 2023.

All payments can be made by either: -

- Cash
- Cheque
- Credit Card
- Debit Card
- BACS transfer to:
Lloyds Bank
A/C Name: Desborough Bowling Club
Sort Code: 30-95-36
Account No: 00703154
- Monthly Standing Order (S.O. Form available from Office).

4) KEY DATES

SEPTEMBER 3rd & 4th – Desborough Outdoor Finals Weekend
SEPTEMBER 18th – End of Outdoor Season
SEPTEMBER 19th –Indoor bowling will start – Roll-ups
OCTOBER 3rd – Start of 2022/23 Indoor Bowling Season

We are still awaiting further advice from the EIBA as to guidance in relation to hosting Inter Club and County Matches.

5) SOCIAL EVENTS

I would give a big vote of thanks to our Social Committee and Social Chairman who, between them, have completed a very successful number of social functions over the year. The provisional programme for the remainder of 2022/23 is:

Day	Date	Time	Event
Fri	26 Aug	1830	Bingo
Mon	29 Aug	TBC	Bank Holiday Barbecue
Sat	17 Sep	TBC	End of Season Bash
Fri (NEW)	23 Sep	TBC	No Strings Attached - Ukulele band
Fri	30 Sep	1830	Bingo
Sat	15 Oct	1830	Cabaret Night - Abalicious
Fri	28 Oct	1830	Bingo
Sat	12 Nov	1830	Race Night
Fri	25 Nov	1830	Bingo
Fri	9 Dec	TBC	Christmas Songs and Carols
Sat	31 Dec	1930	New Years' Eve Party
Fri	27 Jan	1830	Bingo
Sat	11 Feb	1830	Cabaret Night – Diamond Dolly (Parton)
Fri	24 Feb	1830	Bingo

6) MARKETING AND MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

The next Open Day (Indoors) is scheduled for Saturday, 24th September.

A marketing initiative will be carried out during the first and second week of September to promote the Club overall. Our website is now available (www.desboroughbc.com). You may also follow the Club's activities through its Facebook page. (www.facebook.com/Desborough-Bowling-Club)

7) CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS,

(i) CLUB OPENING HOURS:		
The Club Indoor Opening hours remain unchanged as follows: -		
Monday to Friday	-	0830 to 2200 hours.
Saturday	-	0830 to 2200 hours (unless league game or other prearranged event when closing time will be extended)
Sunday	-	0930 to 2000 hours (or earlier if no events taking place)

(Bar opening hours are scheduled as 10:30 am to 10:30pm however times will vary to reflect and compliment times of matches and other events)

(ii) INDOOR PROGRAMME 2022/23
THE INDOOR SEASON WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2022 - ROLL-UPS
THE "NEW" INDOOR SEASON 2022/23 WILL COMMENCE ON 3rd OCTOBER 2022

(iii) INDOOR LEAGUE PROGRAMME 2022/23
The league fixtures have been programmed for the forthcoming indoor season.
If you wish to play or wish to enter a new team, this would be most welcome. Please contact Mark Peachey
(iv) COMPETITIONS
Club competition entry forms will be available from the office for both men and women and I would encourage all to enter.
Entry fees for competitions should be paid, either, by cheque / cash/credit or debit card and NOT as part of any on-line payment for membership subscription fees.

THE OUTDOOR SEASON FOR 2023 WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 17TH APRIL

8) CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I would advise that the date for the Desborough Bowling Club Annual General meeting (Full Members only) has now been scheduled for **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH 2022, AT 7:00PM**. To be held in the Club Lounge.

I hope you are well and look forward to your continued support.

Kind Regards

Roger Wyatt
General Secretary

August 22

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2022

Dear Member,

Welcome to the start of the 2022/23 indoor bowling season. I hope you have all enjoyed the outdoor season, particularly the very good weather that we have had. The past year has been a very difficult one for all of us, Covid is still making its presence felt, and the war in Ukraine has had a huge influence in the cost of fuel, including gas, electricity, and food.

The cost of running the club has increased significantly, particularly over the last 6 months. And whilst we are trying very hard to keep our overheads down as much as possible, some are still there, whether the club is in use or not.

We have had several finance meetings where we discussed ways to keep our overheads as low as possible, but inevitably, to run the club successfully as members would wish, costs will have to be increased.

We have been told many times, that we have the finest and most up to date bowls club in the country, we of course wish to maintain our club to the high standard that we are used to.

Our social programme has been a great success, many thanks to our social chairman, Brian Harris and his helpers who do such an excellent job and we can look forward to some entertaining events throughout next year. We try to run these at a small profit which helps with our overheads.

The letting of the club for various events is proving very successful and all profit goes to help with our expenses. We hope in the future to capitalise on this.

Unfortunately, we lost our treasurer, Ross Wilson, of Wilson and Partners, to Covid. It was then decided it was in the club's best interest to look for a new firm of accountants. Jasbir Notay is now the Clubs' Treasurer and is proving to be very efficient. Our caterers have now settled in, and their food is proving to be very satisfactory.

We have held several very successful bowls events in the club recently, and we look forward to these types of matches continuing.

I would like to thank Roger Wyatt and Mark Peachey for all the hard work that they give to the club. Also, to Brian, our barman, and Nicola in reception. Thanks to all the members who contribute to making our club so successful.

I hope that you have a very good indoor season, and I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

John Bucknell,

President

August 2022