

# DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

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

10 Green Lane Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 1XZ  
Tel: 01628 629403 Email: [gensec@desboroughbc.com](mailto:gensec@desboroughbc.com)  
Website: [www.desboroughbc.com](http://www.desboroughbc.com)

**Date:** August 2023

Dear Member

I am writing to all members summarizing the Club's performance over the last 12 months, together with an update as to the Club's plans for the forthcoming year, 2023/24.

## **A. THE YEAR TO DATE.**

Last year was the first full year of operations, following the lifting of the Covid 19 Coronavirus Pandemic restrictions in June 2021. We were finally able to play the majority of our friendly inter-club matches, the County Kennet Leagues (KL and KLV) matches and the Ladies TVL league matches.

Subsequently, the Indoor League Fixtures and Club Competitions for 2022/23 commenced in October 2022 and were duly completed on schedule in April 2023.

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

### INDOOR:

1. Open Singles Circuit event held for 2<sup>nd</sup> year at DBC. W-end 28/29<sup>th</sup> January.
2. Semi-final of the Egham Trophy (national mixed club comp) between DOLPHIN and SWALE
3. Wessex League regional final DOLPHIN v BARWELL

### OUTDOOR:

1. Top Club (national competition) last 16 and last 32 DBC chosen as neutral venue. READING v GERRARDS X and READING v GARSTON
2. Double Fours (national comp) last 32 DBC chosen as a neutral venue READING v GERRARDS X.
3. County senior fours quarter and semi-finals held for 1<sup>st</sup> time at DBC.
4. KL DIV 1 AREA FINAL DBC chosen to host again for 1<sup>st</sup> time at end August.

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.

---

**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

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

We have changed caterers and appointed Anna's Catering as from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2023. Since their appointment we are happy to report that improvements have been made in the quality of service, availability, and the choice of menus.

Ellora Ltd continue as our bookkeepers and accountants with Jasbir Notay as the Club Treasurer. Many thanks to Jasbir and her team for their continued support.

These 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 organizations 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.

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

## **B. THE FUTURE**

### **1) GENERALLY**

Since moving to our new home at Green Lane on 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

As our level of bowling and commercial activities have increased, we have now had to recruit several new management and staff members to ensure, we can not only provide an excellent service to our existing clients, but also market the Club facilities to attract new clients.

#### **A warm welcome to: -**

**Debbie Stavrou** – Facilities Manager,

**Rose Kenny and Katie Baker** - Assistant Bar Managers (Replacements for the long-serving Brian Jones who has retired after 27 years)

A new 5 - year Business Plan with financial projections has been approved and thanks to our management team and the support of our Finance and Management Committees we have now overcome many of the outstanding issues arising from our move from York Road.

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: -

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>2023 Members (Current)</b>	<b>2024 Members (Projected)</b>	<b>2025 Members (Projected)</b>
Full Member	131	139	149
Indoor Full Year	95	105	120
Indoor Season	269	279	279
Outdoor Season	7	9	11
Junior	14	4	6
Social	136	146	156
Life	8	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>729</b>

## **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 substantially. Our fixed price contract with Smartest Energy, for electricity, expires in December 2023 and it is estimated that a new contract will see an increase of circa 55%+, rising from £2K to £3.2K per month. Other items increasing substantially are inter alia, water rates, cleaning, foodstuffs, bar drinks 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 the year 2025/26.

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.

The Committees concluded that we had no alternative but to effect price increases overall to ensure our financial position remains stable over the next 5 years with sufficient cash reserves maintained for future essential expenditure.

It was agreed that the increase in costs overall should be met primarily by an increase in annual subscriptions and green fees should remain unchanged at this time at their current levels. The recommendations for the year 2023/24 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.*

**THE NEW ANNUAL FEES PAYABLE, EFFECTIVE AS FROM OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2023.**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2022/23 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE</b>	<b>2023/24 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
<b>FULL MEMBERSHIP</b>	£300.00	<b>£340.00</b>	If paid <b>in full</b> October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023, a discount of £10.00 will be applied i.e., a one-off payment of £330.00.  If paid in 2 instalments: - October 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023- £170 May 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024 - £170
<b>OUTDOOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	£150.00	<b>£170.00</b>	+£20.00
<b>INDOOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	£150.00	<b>£170.00</b>	+£20.00
<b>12 MONTH INDOOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	£200.00	<b>£220.00</b>	+£20.00
<b>SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	£50.00	<b>£50.00</b>	No change
<b>JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	£25.00	<b>£40.00</b>	Under 18's + £15.00
<b>GREEN FEES INDOORS</b>	£4.00 – up to 2 hours	<b>£4.00 – up to 2 hours</b>	Triples match - £12.00 Rinks (4) - £16.00 No change
<b>MATCH FEES (INDOORS)</b>	£12.00	<b>£13.00</b>	No change
<b>MATCH FEES (OUTDOORS)</b>	£8.00	<b>£8.00</b>	No change
<b>NATIONAL COMPETITION FEES</b>	£5.00	<b>£5.00</b>	No change
<b>KENNET LEAGUE &amp; KLV TEAMS</b>	£3.00	<b>£3.00</b>	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 1<sup>ST</sup> 2023 PLEASE.**

## **Payment Methods**

Full Members may pay either, in full - £330.00 (a discount of £10.00) **or** in two instalments: -

£170:00 on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023,

and

£170.00 on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

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**

<b>SEPTEMBER 9th &amp; 10th</b> – Desborough Outdoor Finals Weekend
<b>SEPTEMBER 17th</b> – End of Outdoor Season
<b>SEPTEMBER 18th</b> –Indoor bowling will start – Roll-ups
<b>SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup></b> – Start of 2023/24 Indoor Bowling Season

## **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 program for the remainder of 2023 is:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>25 Aug</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>23 Sept</b>	<b>10:30 to 4:00pm</b>	<b>Open Day</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>24 Sept</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>End of Season Bash</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>29 Sep</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>14 Oct</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Cabaret Night</b>

<b>Fri</b>	<b>27 Oct</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>28 Oct</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Quiz Night</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>11 Nov</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Race Night</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>24 Nov</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8 Dec</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Christmas Songs and Carols</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>31 Dec</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>New Years' Eve Party</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>20 Jan</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Cabaret Night</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>26 Jan</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>23 Feb</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Bingo</b>

## 6) MARKETING AND MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

The next Open Day (Indoors) is scheduled for Saturday, 23rd 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](http://www.desboroughbc.com)).

You may also follow the Club's activities through its Facebook page.  
([www.facebook.com/Desborough-Bowling-Club](http://www.facebook.com/Desborough-Bowling-Club))

## 7) CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS,

<b>(i) CLUB OPENING HOURS:</b>		
The Club Indoor Opening hours remain unchanged as follows: -		
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	-	0830 to 2200 hours.
<b>Saturday</b>	-	0830 to 2200 hours (unless league game or other prearranged event when closing time will be extended)
<b>Sunday</b>	-	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)*

<b>(ii) INDOOR PROGRAMME 2023/24</b>
<b>THE INDOOR SEASON WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2022 - ROLL-UPS</b>
<b>THE "NEW" INDOOR SEASON 2022/23 WILL COMMENCE ON 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023</b>

<b>(iii) INDOOR LEAGUE PROGRAMME 2023/24</b>
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
<b>(iv) COMPETITIONS</b>
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 <b>NOT</b> as part of any on-line payment for membership subscription fees.

**THE OUTDOOR SEASON FOR 2024 WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> 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 10<sup>TH</sup> 2023, 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 23

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2023

Welcome, we are looking forward to another year at Desborough and hope that you have all had a good outdoor season and if you have been away on holiday that you have enjoyed good weather.

Covid has certainly changed the way bowls clubs now operate, with most outdoor clubs no longer offering meals with matches. Whilst I can see the reason why this is happening, here at Desborough we must employ our caterers the whole year. It hasn't been easy with many clubs not wanting to pay for a match meal.

As I am sure you are all aware, the cost of living has gone up considerably over the last year. We at Desborough are not immune from this, especially with heating, lighting, insurance, coaches and so many other factors to consider. This is why letting off parts of the club for various other activities is so very important. Our social chairman, Brian Harris, is doing an excellent job with the social activities throughout the year. The money raised from these activities helps with the running of the club, so please carry on supporting these activities. Many thanks to you Brian and your team.

You'll notice some new faces joining our management team. Ellie Walsh, Reception/Administrator; 2 Assistant Bar Managers, Katie Baker, and Rose Kenny to replace Brian Jones, who has now retired. Also, we have now taken on a Facilities Manager to take some of the work load off of Roger and Mark. Some of you will remember Debbie Stavrou from when she played at the club a few years ago, I am sure that she will carry out an excellent job. We now have new caterers, Anna's Catering, so please give her your support.

I would like to thank all the various committees for all their work to ensure that the club runs efficiently. Also, thanks to all the staff at Desborough for their hard work and in particular to Roger Wyatt and Mark Peachey who have both put in so many hours at the club.

As you probably know, this will be my last year as President. I will be handing the reins to someone else at the full members AGM in November. I have served as your President for a total of 19 years. It has been a privilege and a great honour to have held the position. I suppose the greatest thing that I was involved in was the many meetings we had regarding the building of the new club and the move from York Road. Little did I think when I joined the club in 1982, that I would be involved in the building of this wonderful club. I would like to wish my successor every success.

Having been involved in open days and coaching classes for 33 years, I will no longer be involved. It has been a great pleasure to instruct new people to play bowls and become members of our club.

I wish you all a very good indoor season of bowling.

John Bucknell

President

August 2023