

## Yearly Round-Up

The Round-Up for each year usually begins with the AGM. However, this year I have written it slightly earlier due to handing over the website in early November to the new Webmaster. All information is therefore up to date at the time of writing - October 2022.

### **In Remembrance of Lockwood Members who have passed away this year.**

Roy Hunt, Mike Walsh, Malcolm Titcombe, June Davison ( Social Member),  
Charlie Hewitt, Graham Andrews and Rod Maxted

### **The A.G.M. The Committee.**

The A.G.M. Will take place on Saturday 26th November, 1.30pm at the Clubhouse.

At which time the new Committee for 2023 will be voted in.

At the start of the season and after the A.G.M., it was disappointing to find that we had no President, Vice - President, or Bookings Manager.

In April, the Club decided to hold an E.G.M. in order to try to fill these positions.

Many thanks must go to Joan Barton and Coleen Money who stepped in to fill the positions of President and Vice President for the rest of the 2022 season. Pat Downes, a new member, took on the role of Bookings Manager and we were very grateful.

### **Fixtures and Fittings.**

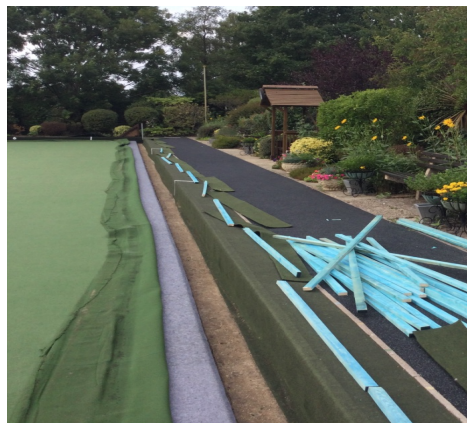
At the beginning of the year, the dishwasher finally gave up the ghost and after fifteen years of faithful service it was decided to invest in a new one which was installed in the Spring of 2022.

In August, Bob Prince enlisted a team of willing helpers to paint the new shed, Sherborne building and all the benches around the green. The helpers diligently worked through the heatwave to get the job done. A big thank you to them all and the club grounds look very smart and remain the envy of all our visitors.



Over the course of time the green had become filled with a lot of dirt and was starting to look patchy, even with the efforts of the maintenance team treating it with moss killer and shampoo. It had also started to wrinkle and show signs of needing to be stretched. The Committee agreed it was time to get Greengauge back to stretch it.

At the beginning of September, Greengauge returned but unfortunately on lifting the green they found that all the softwood battens had started to rot.



Therefore all of these were replaced, new grippers were fitted and the green was stretched. It is now much better and once the hose pipe ban is lifted it is planned to finish the maintenance of the green as advised by Greengauge.

This year also saw the Bookings Manager John Windust relinquish his position. This was disappointing as John had been a hard working member who had given a lot of time in many areas to the club. The Booking System had been set up and used by John who had found it awkward to administer and at times proved difficult for the membership to use.

On behalf of the Club we would like to thank John for all the time and effort he has put into Lockswood Bowling Club.

The Committee at this time needed a new Bookings Manager and at an EGM called in April Pat Downes agreed to take over. Pat and a small team of Committee Members reviewed a new Booking System used by other clubs and went about setting up the BowlsR system. A much more simple and user friendly way of booking.

Since then, Pat organised and set it up and it went live on the 24th September 2022.

At the Warsash Festival this year it was noted that most stalls were flying stand alone flags to identify their stalls. It was proposed by John Beaumont that we should purchase two such flags to advertise the club at this event and also, special events and open days at the club. This was agreed and we now have two such stand alone flags which look very smart.

### **Club Website**

The website has continued to be an important source of information this year.

The Webmaster, Carol Windust, is stepping down from the Committee at the A.G.M. in November and therefore, has to relinquish her position as Webmaster.

However, Pat Downes has agreed to take over from Carol at the beginning of November. This means that Pat will be able to manage the site in conjunction with the new Booking System.

Carol has run the website for the last four years, continuing on from John who set the original site up back in 2015. She has also been on the Committee for the past five years and has enjoyed contributing towards the decision making and the running of the club on behalf of the members.

Many thanks Carol and John for all your hard work.

## **The Bowling Year**

### **Club Competitions**

The Spring Triples saw a good uptake in competitors with enough entries to support twelve teams over eleven weeks. The competition was fierce and on the last day three teams were in contention for the top spot. The Willcocks team needed a score with a shot difference of thirteen against the Grants, who only needed a win to secure the title.

It was very close right up until the end. The Grants were playing The Accumulators and lost twelve shots to fifteen, whilst the Willcocks Team won their match with a shot difference of thirteen giving them sixteen points to go joint top. After all the calculation of scores The Willcocks Team won the Spring Triples by one shot overall. This was especially tight, as the Captain of The Grants was Neil Fletcher and the Captain of The Willcocks was Maxeen Fletcher!

Lovely for Carol also as she was in her Mum and Dad's (Willcocks ) team.

The winners were Maxeen Fletcher ( captain), Carol Windust, Charlie Hewitt, Nigel Harvey, John Ferber and Jim Adcock.

### **Winter Singles.**

The Winter Competitions ran to plan this year and as usual were hard fought over the five months from October until April.

The Pairs Final took place on the 9th April between Pete Edwards and Rob White versus Les Chantler and Mike Walsh. Pete and Rob were the victors.

The Singles Final took place on 23rd April between John Beaumont and Neil Fletcher. with Neil winning his first competition of the year.

### **Internal Competitions.**

This year saw a drop in numbers of those entering club competitions. This was disappointing as it meant that some competitions could not be contested due to a lack of entrants. The Goater Cup, The Ted Green Trophy, The Terry Rye Cup and The Myhill Cup. The Goater Cup is a competition for members who have never won a competition, so is an ideal competition for all new members to enter. The Terry Rye Cup is a mixed two wood singles competition, The Ted green Trophy is a handicapped competition and The Myhill a drawn Mixed Pairs. It would be lovely to have more entrants next year so that these competitions could be run again. There is something for everyone across our Internal Competitions so have a go!

All those who did enter had a perfect summer of weather in which to complete the rounds and the finals took place across the weekend of the 13th and 14th of August. Full details of winners and runners - up can be found on the Club Honours Page.

Our Men's Singles Champion this year is Alan Jackson and our Ladies' Singles Champion is Maxeen Fletcher with Neil Fletcher winning the President's cup.



**Alan Jackson**



**Maxeen Fletcher**



**Neil Fletcher**

Neil Fletcher also won The Willcocks Cup and The Three Woods Seven Ends, so, a very successful season personally for Neil.

#### **Friendly Fixtures.**

As Friendlies Secretary, Stewart McCabe arranged a very full schedule of Friendly matches over the season. There have been a few difficulties in making sure that these matches went ahead. At times, Stewart had to cancel the fixtures because he could not raise a team, other clubs have cancelled or, fixtures have had to be arranged. There are already Friendly Fixtures arranged for next season so hopefully next year will see all these fixtures completed.

#### **Southampton and District Men's leagues.**

##### **The Championship - Division 2.**

After an indifferent start to the season, with four of our first five fixtures being away from home, it looked as if it was going to be a tough battle to avoid relegation.

However, in the second half of the season we found a rich vein of form and achieved some creditable results to finish in a respectable mid - table position in the league.

##### **The Combination - Division 2**

This was a very similar story to that of the Championship, with a poor start and a strong back end to the season, and again finishing comfortably in a mid - table position.

##### **The Combination Triples - Division 1**

The Men's Triples Team had a very good season as they did last year, bettering their result by one position to win the League! They are the Champions for 2022 and have a new trophy for our cabinet. They finished the League two and a half points clear of Hedge End who finished in second place.

Congratulations to all the team for a good job Well Done!

##### **The Ken Marsh Trophy**

The Ken Marsh Trophy this year was made up of players from the Championship, Combination and Combination Triples Teams. Lockwood had a bye to the Quarter final.

where we had a resounding win against Follands. We then played Sports Centre in the semi-final, narrowly losing to a team renowned for their 'professionalism' but, nonetheless we gave a very good account of ourselves.

### **Southampton and District Women's Bowling Association**

For the first time Lockwood had one team in the Rinks League which this year only consisted of one League, and a team in the Triples "B" League. This was due to the lack of numbers within the ladies' section.

#### **Rinks League**

2022 proved to be a difficult season due to injuries and holiday commitments, which meant it was often difficult to field a team. Consequently, the ladies could not sustain stability and consistency within the teams. Unfortunately, therefore, we finished at the bottom of this league with just sixteen and a half points. Better luck next year ladies.

#### **Triples league**

The ladies' Triples Team fared better and it was lovely for the teams to have introduced some new ladies into playing for the team. The Triples finished in fifth place out of seven with seventeen points.

### **Gosport and Fareham League**

#### **Division 1**

The Red and Gold Teams both played in this division. They had a mixed season with the Golds finishing in sixth place on eighty two points ensuring that they stay in this division next season. Unfortunately the Reds just missed out on staying up and finished eighth on eighty points. They will be playing in Division Two next season.

#### **Division 2**

The Green Team struggled at times to find a full team this year. It was frustrating for the Captain and consequently contributed to the team finishing at the bottom of the League. This also means that they will be relegated next year to Division 3.

#### **Division 3**

At the beginning of the season the Silver Team were promoted from Division three due to a team from another club in the League pulling out. Everyone was excited especially, the Captain, Rod Maxted.

After a couple of matches where Rod found that he couldn't raise a team and it became evident that this was likely to be a recurring trend, he had to make the decision to pull out of the League altogether. This was very sad news, not only for Rod but also from the point of view of Lockwood bowling Club.

#### **The Matchmaker**

The Annual Matchmaker Competition took place at the end of June at Portchester between four clubs from the Gosport and Fareham Area. The competition consists of teams of Mixed Pairs, Mixed triple and Mixed Fours.

Lockwood's winning pairs team were Trevor Turner and Jean Bury.

Winning Triples team was Stewart McCabe, Gill Grindey and Ann Bryant and in the Mixed Fours one team drew and two teams won.

Final results of the accumulated scores on the day were

Portchester	14 Points
Fareham	11 Points
Lockwood	8 Points
Crofton	3 Points

### **The Castle Cup**

This Annual Competition between Lockwood and Portchester took place at Lockwood in July. Last year Portchester won the cup at Portchester so, it should have been an opportunity for us to win it back.

However, unfortunately after a very close match, Portchester retained the cup for another year.

### **Bowls England Competitions.**

This year we had representatives in three of the National Competitions.

As Club Champion, Peter Brown entered the Champion of Champions Singles.

Carol Windust and Maxeen Fletcher played in the Senior Pairs.

And Maxeen and Neil Fletcher played in the Mixed Pairs.

### **Bowls Hampshire Competitions**

#### **BH Men.**

Unfortunately no Lockwood Men entered the Bowls Hampshire Competitions this year.

#### **BH Ladies**

Lockwood Ladies were well represented in these competitions. Maxeen Fletcher entered the Two wood Singles, Four Wood Singles, Pairs and Triples.

The Two Wood Singles were played this year as a day event. Maxeen was beaten by Bridget May from Banister Park. In the Four Wood Singles she reached the second round. Along with Carol Windust, who played with Maxeen in the Pairs. After winning their preliminary round against Waterside, they got to the third round. They beat pairs from Parkside and Banister Park where Maxeen got her own back on Bridget.

Gill Grindey and Sylvia switzer, also entered this competition. Much to their surprise they got to the second round beating a team from Romsey at home but lost to Waterside away in the next match. Gwen Green and Kay Walsh entered the competition but unfortunately, had to pull out for various reasons.

Luckily, Gwen had a chance to to play with Maxeen and Carol in the Triples from which she gained valuable experience even though we lost at Mayfield Park. Eve Aitken and her team also had a tough first round draw against Janet Williamson and her team from Andover.

In the Senior Fours, Gill, Sylvia, Sue and Janet had a loss against Waterside whilst Lockwood entered four teams in the Golden Girls under the initial leadership of Kay Walsh, Muriel Goodrodge, Gill Grindey and Jackie Barnes.  
Well done to all those who entered and gained much experience.

### **Thornbery.**

This is a Bowls Hampshire knock out competition consisting of two teams of rinks. In the first round we were drawn against Hyde Abbey away. This was a great match, very close all the way through and overall it was very exciting. Everyone played well and frustratingly Lockwood lost by just one shot!

### **Mixed Top Club**

This is a competition for both Men and Women but comes under the Ladies' Section of Bowls Hampshire. Lockwood won the first round at home to Banister Park. In the second round it was a very close match against Andover and Lockwood narrowly missed out.

### **Dolly Gore**

This is a Bowls Hampshire Competition held at the end of the season between teams from the north, south, east and west of the County. Lockwood Ladies put a team forward. Jackie Barnes, Maxeen Fletcher, Sue Coates and Sylvia Switzer, to play for the South. Overall teams from the South came fourth and won the wooden bowl! Many thanks to the girls for representing the club.



### **Southampton and District Men's Competitions.**

Unfortunately, There were no entries from the men's section this year.

### **Southampton and District Women's bowling Association Competitions.**

There were not many entries for these competitions representing Lockwood Bowling club. Maxeen Fletcher reached the third round of the Four Wood Singles before being beaten by Jane Gould of Mayfield Park.

Janet Haynes and her partner entered the William Day Pairs but sadly were beaten by Janet Ballard and her partner from Waterside.

Maxeen, Jackie Barnes and Janet Haynes won their first match of the Triples away at Hyde Abbey and beat Sylvia Moulds team. Lockwood girls did well and this was the first match in this competition for Jackie and Janet who were very excited and pleased to have won on their first attempt. However, they lost in the second round to Pat Tribbeck and her team, also from Hyde Abbey. Congratulations girls on your representation of the ladies from Lockwood.

A big thank you to all those who represented the Club at the different levels of Competition.

### **Gosport and Fareham Competitions**

Gosport and Fareham Competitions are run as Singles matches. Lockwood had two entrants this year. Walter Metcalf entered the President's Shield where he was drawn against Keith Allen but lost out in the first round.

Neil Fletcher entered the Secretaries and Treasurers Cup. He progressed a little further, beating Rose Benyon in the first round but unfortunately went out in the second round to John Wilkinson seventeen shots to twenty one.

### **Other Events.**

#### **Ladies' S&DWBA East v West Friendly**

This event was run by the S&DWBA but hosted at Lockwood. It was a very successful day with six full rinks of players from members representing the east and west of the County. The winners on the day were the East who beat the West by fifty five shots to forty four. This was followed by tea and cakes after the match.

#### **Visit of Hertfordshire Ladies.**





On the 21st June Lockwood ladies had a visit from a team of ladies, made up of players from Hertfordshire who were on tour. It was a lovely afternoon and was made even better when the scores added up to a win by Lockwood of 114 shots to 71. The game was an enjoyable one and was, followed by tea and biscuits afterwards. It gave everyone an opportunity to chat before the visitors had to board the coach to return to Bournemouth where they were staying.

### **Jubilee Celebrations.**

This year saw the Seventieth Year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2's reign. The longest reigning monarch in history. Lockwood Bowling Club celebrated this big event on June 3rd. It was decided to combine it with our Three Woods Seven Ends Competition Day and to follow it with a cream tea afterwards. Julie Barker made a large celebration which was served along with a glass of Champagne to toast the Queen who was the patron of Bowls England.

The winner of the Three Woods Seven Ends was Neil Fletcher. (Please see the Gallery page for photographs of the day.)

It was very sad that just three months later we were all paying tribute to Her Majesty following her death on September 8th.

### **Lady Captain's Day.**

This was a lovely day and the weather was kind to us. All the ladies wore their best Summer dresses and everyone enjoyed a fun game of bowls, helped along by the free flowing Pimms! The game was followed by a three course meal where the men traditionally cater for,



and wait on the ladies. The ladies thanked Sue for all her hard work throughout the year as



Lady Captain and presented her with gifts and a rose for her garden. All proceeds from the day and throughout the year came to a total of £632 towards The Asthma Charity. Well done Sue and Thank you!

### **President's Day**

President's day was held later this year on the 25th September. Again, the weather was kind. A lovely game of bowls was enjoyed by all. Joan's charity was the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, and Joan was pleased to present a cheque for £300 to Judith the representative and guest speaker for the charity.



### **Gardens**

The club gardens have continued to be maintained to the highest standard, along with the aforesaid upkeep of sheds etc as previously mentioned.

The gardening team has increased in size this year and who are continuing to help on a regular basis. It now includes several new members who also enjoy the lovely cakes made by Julie Barker on a Tuesday morning!

Many thanks to all those who are helping to keep our surroundings the envy of all who visit.

### **Catering**

A massive THANK YOU to Gill Grindey and her team for providing the catering throughout the year for all the various club events. Gill has had limited help at times but has come through with flying colours. This job requires many hours in planning and organisation and on behalf of the membership we thank you, it is very much appreciated.

### **Rod Maxted**

Our Competitions Secretary Rod Maxted deserves a massive THANK YOU also.

Unfortunately, over the past year Rod's health has deteriorated to the extent that he has not been able to get to the club to oversee his competitions and events. This has not deterred him however from keeping in contact with the club and has managed all the competitions from home and done a sterling job. I am sure he would wish to thank all those who have helped him along the way by putting up details on the noticeboards, running the events on his behalf and notifying him of all results.

Rod has been dedicated to his position on the committee and has always had the good of Lockwood Bowling Club at heart. He has realised that he can no longer act as Competitions Secretary after the A.G.M. which saddens him deeply. On behalf of all the members Rod, we would like to offer our thanks for all you have done and send our very best wishes to you and your family.

31st October 2022. It is with great sadness that since writing, Rod has passed away. A kind and generous man who worked very hard for the club. A really lovely person who will be greatly missed by all members of Lockswood Bowling Club.

Rest in Peace Rod

### **Membership numbers**

At the time of writing our Membership Numbers are:-

Full members	162	108 male and 54 female.
Social members	25	6 male and 19 female.
Life Members	2	
Non-playing members	2	

### **Summary and food for thought.**

The positives for this year are that we are managing to recruit new members, who have been regularly coached by Maxeen and Neil, which is good news for the future of the club. However, a recurring theme which we have heard throughout the season is that Captains have not been able to get enough players for teams, and there has been a lack of entrants to competitions etc.

This is very sad. There are various reasons that have been mooted as to why this is. Covid and Lockdown have possibly made people feel they have found new interests and would like to pursue other things. It has been difficult to encourage members to come back into the competitive side and represent the club by participating in leagues, competitions and internal events generally. Other clubs are experiencing the same issues, and people have said that it's the same everywhere, but does this mean it has to be the same for Lockswood?

Lockswood Bowling Club is the biggest in Hampshire and has the largest number of playing ladies but despite this, we still have not been able to field a team or find reserves at times. We had to play short, we had to pull a team out of a league due to lack of numbers and the men had to overlap players across some of their league games.

Plenty of players are present at Wednesday Roll-Ups, Autumn and Spring Triples etc, this is fine if members wish to take part in social bowling. However, we also need players to begin joining the leagues and competitions to improve the status of the competitive side of the club. Playing in these situations improves your game and by playing in leagues and competitions players can meet new people and learn about how the background to bowls works.

As the largest club in the County it appears that we may not be fulfilling our potential and therefore, not achieving comparative results against smaller clubs. At present the competitive edge seems to be lacking.

We are trying to provide new social events such as a social evening once a month and Jacks Cafe on Friday mornings in order to bring the membership together and integrate new members with old and get to know each other.

We have had a Commonwealth Games this year and many people were involved in watching the progress of the England team who won medals across the board. This was very inspirational for the sport. The only member out of 162 who represented our club

across all leagues and competitions was Maxeen Fletcher! Well done Maxeen you truly are a star!

Maxeen will be the President of the Southampton and District Ladies' Section next season so, let's show her some support. This does not mean that members have to enter everything, it is still a choice.

We have the advantage of being able to play all year round at Lockswood, we have the numbers to play and hopefully commit to "having a go " at competing in the future. For many up and coming members there is the opportunity to play in many of these. So, how about committing to one new team or competition next year? Please consider having a try and maybe next Season we will be able to raise our competitive game!

For the future of our club, let's help by getting involved.

31/10/2022.