

Annual Summary Report for the 2019/2020 Season.

The report for this season is an unusual one in that the Bowling Season was affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic, also known as Covid – 19. Therefore, some sections will only be identified with subheadings as there is very little to report.

In Remembrance of Lockswood Members who passed away this year.

Ross Riddett, Dave Burden, John Campbell, Lillian Prior, Brian Spendlove, David Douglas and Colin Orpe

The A.G.M.

Due to Covid – 19, Committee Meetings were held as normal until March. No Committee Meetings were held in April and May as the whole country was in lockdown. Meetings were resumed in June via Zoom links with all members of the Committee.

As a consequence of events, and the way our Constitution is worded an AGM was not mandatory in this instance and the Committee were called upon to vote on – “Committee Members being prepared to remain in their respective positions until such times as an AGM could be held”. With Trustees present at this meeting, all Committee Members agreed to stay in position.

The Committee.

In June, our secretary Sheena Mack, resigned as Club Secretary. We would like to thank Sheena for all her hard work and effort during her time as Secretary. We wish both her and Charlie all the best for the future.

At that time Rob White stepped in swiftly to the position as Acting Secretary and is continuing to guide us all through these difficult and challenging times.

The rest of the Committee remains the same until an AGM can be held. Details can be found on the website. Many thanks Rob for all your hard work.

Covi-19 The Pandemic.

There has been much legislation from the Government and Bowls England during the year to read, digest and act upon, in order to keep our members safe and healthy whilst still being able to bowl. Rob White has read, inwardly digested and led the Committee with all updates and has informed the Members swiftly, by emails and website instruction and continues to do so. Many thanks Rob for all your hard work. Bob Prince, aided by Christine, Rob and members of the Committee have worked tirelessly to ensure all correct procedures, health risks, track and trace etc have been adhered to and put in place according to all guidelines.

Initial Covid Measures required a lot of work, the implementation of which was led by Bob Prince, Jan Collins, Neil Fletcher, John Beaumont to ensure the contact areas and distancing markers were correctly set up, along with all the appropriate sanitisation guidance. The webmaster's role was to inform and update all guidance and instructions to maintain the safety of the members and still enable bowling to take place.

The Summer and early Autumn had blessed us with warm dry weather but going into the Autumn it was time to consider shelter for times when the weather became more inclement.

Jan and Ron Collins spent much time at the club, measuring up and planning out socially distancing areas and extra sanitation provision, for when members needed to take shelter. Many thanks to them for their diligence.

The club is very grateful for all their efforts in maintaining Lockswood and enabling bowling to go ahead in these difficult times.

Fixtures and Fittings

This year has seen a big change in our grounds. The priority for the Mission and Vision Group was to replace the existing shed, so as to house the “green” equipment and bowling equipment more safely. It was always the intention to extend the base of the existing shed and erect a larger one, split in the middle, for “green” equipment to be housed at the front and bowling equipment at the back. After a lot of hard work by the Mission and Vision Group, not helped by the lockdown and the ability to contact various suppliers, they achieved their objective.

This meant the old shed needed to be dismantled and removed in order for the new base and shed to be built. It was found, on doing so, that the old shed was still in pretty good condition and that there was enough wood to rebuild and replace the old tin gardening sheds, in the border next to the Sherbourne Building. This would save ordering a further new shed at a later date for the gardening equipment. Thus, saving the club more expense.

So, at the end of August, Bob Prince, John Windust, Carol Windust, Rod Maxted and John Beaumont set to with hammers and screwdrivers to dismantle the old shed and rebuild a new one using the wood.



John Beaumont dismantling the Electrics.

This was done and then painted to match the Sherbourne and with the addition of matching roof tiles it all looks much smarter and provides a good size gardening shed with plenty of room for all the equipment.



Photo showing old shed site and new base extension.



Reconstruction of new gardening shed

The remaining wood was cleared from the old shed site and the extended base was laid. On 7th September Abbey Buildings arrived and erected the new shed. All that remains is for the new shed to be roofed with matching roof tiles and all will be done. The shed will be painted to match the other two buildings at a later date when the wood has settled and seasoned.

On behalf of the club, we would like to thank all those who have helped in the planning, dismantling and rebuilding of this project.



New shed completed 7th September 2020

Leaves on the green have been a particular issue this year during the Autumn. It was a full-time job for Bob Prince on his own to keep the rinks in a playable condition. Therefore, emergency help was required in order to share this on-going job. After advertising for this it was great that so many people offered their support. The volunteers were divided into teams of four who have been working on different days of the week to ensure the rinks are clear and in a condition to play. Many thanks to all those who have offered their time and help.

Club Website.

The website took on quite a different role this year during the period of lockdown.

As there was no “bowling action,” there was nothing to report except for all the rules and regulations surrounding the pandemic. Jan Collins, our President, was concerned about members who were alone, and she was mindful of the well-being of the members. She wished to keep communication going between members and to provide some fun and interest. It was suggested that we provide items of interest surrounding what everyone was doing at home, games and puzzles, articles and photographs. It became a magazine website and a lifeline for some.

It proved very popular and many items were provided by members in order to keep the website fresh and interesting. There were many favourable comments about how it gave people something to look at and an outlet for people to connect with friends from the club.

Regular contributors to the website at this time were, the webmaster, John Windust, John Beaumont, Stewart McCabe and Rod Maxted.

Online Booking System.

This year also saw a very big move forward into the modern era, by the introduction of an online Booking System. This was trialled by Rob White and John Windust who spent many days looking at the advantages and disadvantages of how it could be implemented along with some quite stressful phone calls in order to get it off the ground.

Their hard work eventually prevailed and in September it finally went “live.” It has so far been a success and there have been relatively few hitches. Apart from the second lockdown preventing bowling, booking is set to resume and hopefully it will continue to be easier to manage matches and competitions for players without the need to leave their armchairs.

For those not lucky enough to own their own computers and to ensure members can check and book matches from the club, Rob has installed a laptop for this very use in the clubhouse. Many, many thanks to Rob and John for their hard work in setting this up and we appreciate there may still be some unforeseen problems but, they will be overcome, by their expertise and problem-solving skills. Great job Rob and John.

Also, thanks, must go to Bob and Christine Prince for all their hard work and commitment in managing the diary and booking system this year, in order for bowling to resume in June through to the implementation of the booking system in September. We hope you are enjoying more evenings off!

THE BOWLING YEAR

After planning what started out as a very busy bowling season for Lockswood, it quickly fell by the wayside in March with the National Lockdown. All bowling ceased and indoor and outdoor events were cancelled through to next year.

We were, however, lucky enough to be able to begin some social bowling in June, this initially began with the Wednesday Roll Up initiated by Bob Prince, Jan Collins, and Rod Maxted.

Rod arranged and managed the booking system for Wednesday mornings and to date he has received a steady number of players to fill both the two-hour slots.

Also, as the Ladies' League Teams had already been decided upon, Eve Aitken the Ladies' Captain devised a Thursday afternoon friendly competition. She divided the ladies into two teams, The President's and The Captain's teams. Each team was divided into pairs and pairs from The President's and Captain's teams played against each other each week to give everyone a game. They played from the end of July and throughout August. This was to try to keep the ladies' spirits up and to make up for the fact that there were no league matches being played. It was very successful, and Eve's Captain's Team were the overall victors.

Internal Competitions

The Spring Triples ran as usual until 9th March and then had to be cancelled.

The Winter Pairs and Singles were played until the Semi – Final stages and then were postponed indefinitely.

The Covid Challenge

The Internal Club Competitions did not take place but instead, to give everyone some interest and a little competition, Rod Maxted, the Competitions Secretary, also initiated by Bob Prince and Jan Collins, devised

a new competition called The Covid Challenge. This took place during August and was a pairs knockout competition with the losers in the first round going into a Covid Plate Competition. This ensured that everyone got two games.

The Final took place on Sunday 20th September and was between Stewart McCabe and Murray Gorman versus Carol and John Windust. Stewart and Murray emerging the victors of The Covid Challenge.

The Covid Plate Final was between Vi Oliver and Jim Jupe versus Pete Edwards and Rob White with the winners being Pete and Rob.

This was a very enjoyable competition and thanks go to Rod Maxted for his hard work in organising the event.



Covid Plate Winners



Covid Challenge Winners

The Semi-finals and Finals for the previous Winter Pairs and Singles, took place in September and October. The finals were played on Sunday October 25th. The winter pairs took place between, Stewart McCabe and Alan Jackson versus Carol and John Windust.

After a close game at the beginning and then some excellent play by Stewart and Alan they emerged the victors, to take their first ever trophy. Congratulations to them both.

The Singles was contested between Roger Wellstead and John Beaumont. This match was very close and went to the wire. Eventually, John pipped Roger to the title by just two shots. This was the longest ever wait for a final to take place and we were already playing matches for the 2020/21 season at this point!

In September it was decided that with social distancing being managed across the rinks, the Autumn Triples could be played. So, on the 21st September they began. Everything was going according to plan until the government announced that the numbers of Covid cases were rising and so we embarked on another National Lockdown for the month of November. This meant that the Triples were abandoned two weeks earlier than planned.

Southampton and District Men's Leagues.

All Cancelled

Southampton and District Ladies' Leagues.

All cancelled

Gosport and Fareham Leagues.

All cancelled

The Matchmaker and Castle Cups.

All cancelled

External Competitions

Bowls Hampshire

This year all competitions were cancelled.

Dolly Gore

This competition did not take place.

Southampton and District's Men's Competitions.

Guess what! Nothing to report.

Ken Marsh Trophy

Correct! Nothing to report.

Southampton and District Ladies' Competitions.

Not one took place.

Gosport and Fareham Competitions.

All abandoned.

Lady Captain's Day and President's Day.

Were also non-starters.

Lockswood Gardens.

At the beginning of the year and from June onwards the regular gardening team have been able to operate in their usual manner on Tuesday mornings keeping socially distanced in the borders and on the green. We did not enter any competitions this year for the obvious reasons, but the team have managed to keep the gardens looking just as lovely as always and the gardeners are really appreciating their new shed.

Membership Figures

As of writing this report the Membership Figures are as follows:

Full members 159 (104 M & 55 F).

Social members 39 (14 M & 25 F)

From the 1st January our full membership has dropped by 29 and female social membership by 8.

The Committee Positions.

At the time of writing the Committee is still short of Vice President, Vice Club Captain and Catering Manager. It would be beneficial to the whole membership to have these positions filled. Please, as we go into 2021, and hopefully get back to normal life, consider the future of the club. It does not run by itself, and we need people to step up to continue the future progress of Lockswood. It is an opportunity to make a difference!

In Summary

This has been an extremely difficult year for many of us. At the beginning of the year, we had high hopes of a great season with Neil as Bowls Hampshire President and Walter Metcalf as the Men's S&D President in the Southampton and District's Centenary Year. There were to have been extra events, some of them quite prestigious, which would have definitely raised the profile of Lockswood Bowling Club. However, it was not to be.

Luckily, both Neil and Walter are carrying their presidencies forward to 2021 along with some events that they have planned. Let's hope that all or some of them will take place.

Although there has been very little bowling in 2020, we have for most of us, remained healthy and safe. Please continue to look after yourselves and we must all look forward to renewing our "normal" bowling lives next year.

