

Bowls Report – Hungerford Club AGM 2021

Thankfully I am able to report a much improved 2021 Bowls Season under COVID rules. Our membership level remains stable as we gain a few and lose a few each season.

Once again all Leagues were cancelled for the first half of the season. However, working within the Bowls England instructions re safe play we were able to arrange again, with Newbury and Thatcham Bowls Clubs, a mini-league for our men so that they were able to play matches of 3 Triples. Each club played 8 matches in a round robin fashion.

An application was again made on the Good Exchange to raise £1,710 - 6 months of our Green Maintenance Contract. Thanks to the generosity of the Hungerford Town Council who gave us a grant of £433 and donations by bowls members together with the match funding obtained on the Good Exchange we raised the whole of this amount.

A few of our Friendly matches were cancelled early in the season but on the whole we enjoyed some excellent games. We were still not confident about having after match meals inside the Club House but on a number of occasions we were able to enjoy drinks and snacks outside the Club in the sunshine. Our thanks go to Debbie and Gary for their help in this respect. A couple of highlights during the season were President's Day and the Mixed Pairs Open Tournament. On President's Day we played against an invited side. The match was played in a very good spirit and enjoyed by everyone. Afterwards we were able to sit together outside in the Croft and were each given, by the President Vic Lardner, a picnic box full of goodies to eat. This went down very well!!

The Mixed Pairs Tournament also proved to be an excellent Day. 20 pairs from Clubs such as Thatcham, Newbury, Ramsbury, Lambourn, Calne, Gloucester and Hungerford played a Round Robin competition, the winners Diana Kelly and Terry O'Neill being from Newbury. On this occasion we did venture indoors to enjoy an excellent lunch again provided by Debbie and Gary.

Our Weekend Tour based on Weston Super Mare was a great success. This is a joint venture with Newbury BC. It is intended that we arrange a similar Tour in 2022.

Towards the end of the season we held a Charity match amongst our own members. We were supplied with delicious cakes and tea half way through the game. President Vic had obtained the most wonderful collection of raffle prizes from businesses around the Town.

We managed to raise the most amazing amount of £675 which when entered onto the Good Exchange Fund raising page of President Vic's chosen Charity – Lambourn Riding for the Disabled Association, was match funded making it worth £1,350.

We continue to have the major works on the Green undertaken by outside contractors. The initial winter work has now been completed. The Green has been scarified, solid tined, seeded and treated with lawn sand. Micky has again worked tirelessly alongside them and we are very grateful to him for all his hard work. We now see the excellent results of all the work completed by the contractors, and particularly in the way the green drains after heavy rain.

Our thanks go to President Vic, Captain Peter and all the committee who have worked so hard to make sure we had the very best of seasons in the current situation.

Jennifer Bartter
Secretary/Treasurer
Hungerford Club – Bowls Section