

2020 Chairmans report

It hardly seem to be a year year since I became chairman without knowing what to expect or what was expected of me . It has been an interesting and enjoyable year and I now have a wider understanding of the club and what it means to the members

Firstly is the realisation is that our club is facing the same problems as many others are namely an ageing population and bowling patterns changing

We are experiencing a shortage of players prepared to commit to the higher level competitions . This is particularly true of the Ladies section and is beginning to be an issue with the Gentlemen. The Weekend friendlies have been only attracted one new player this season

The success of our teams in these external competitors is very important and is a measure of the clubs wellbeing and I would encourage the new bowlers who have finished their training to find the courage to give it a go in some of these games

The evening leagues have also been badly affected and there is a school of thought that says that the increase in number of day league games is contributing to this. A group of senior experienced bowlers has been asked to review this and make recommendations to the Council

We will need to develop a plan to implement some or all to these recommendations

At this point is is worth mentioning our disappointment at the poor response to the recent planned Gala day. A lot of work had gone into organising a fun afternoon with some bowling challenges to improve our game and in the end it had to be cancelled

Secondly is the amount of unseen activities that are necessary to keep our club running. Peter has been busy setting up teams to do these activities and whilst the process is not complete we have several well organised groups beavering away to keep the club running happily and safely.

We need to formalise these arrangements, detail the responsibilities and appoint leaders to make the roll of secretary a more manageable one

We should all ask ourselves how we can contribute to these teams and the old adage that many hands make light work is very appropriate. Any commitment need not prove to be too onerous but will make a difference

One of these teams to whom I would like to express a special debt of gratitude are the ladies who organise our social activities which are always great fun and much enjoyed by the attendees. If you haven't been to one you should try the next one. Within this group I must make special mention of the Raffle Ladies who take your money with a smile and help grow the funds for the Chairmans Charitable Donation which this year is to the local Samaritans Thank you all fro your donations

Thirdly whilst we are a bowling club many people join it not only too play bowls but also to meet and socialise with others and the benefits of this comes into sharp relief in times of need. It is encouraging to see members checking up on others when they fail to show up for a few times just to make sure they are well or to offer support

As you will hear from Peter we had ambitions to have called an EGM for the members to vote on the transition to a PLC before now but for a variety of reason this progress has been slower than we would have liked but I am tempted to say that we are almost there

John Favell.

John Favell