

NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO. 3 - SEPTEMBER 2020



Summer Season 2020

What a very strange year we have had! When we sent out the last newsletter, little did we know what was around the corner.

Well we sat out the end of March, April and most of May but we were so pleased to be able to open the green again on 22nd May.

It took a lot of preparation keeping to the Government and Bowls England guidelines and also trying to buy hand sanitiser, which was like gold dust.

We eventually managed to purchase everything we needed to keep everyone safe and set about marking out 2 metres between seats and tables and the storage shed.

After a few weeks we all became familiar with wiping everything down, the same as many were doing going into supermarkets. Then the Government eased the restrictions some more and we were able to open the clubhouse and we set up the 'bar' in the gents changing room.

Thankfully the weather has been very good to us through the season and members were able to play friendlies. It was at this time Martin Askham and Dave Giles set up a competition for all members of Caer-Glow and the Co-op, and it was named 'Lockdown 2020'. It was based on a league table which meant you were able to play more than one game to qualify, which kept everyone's interest going, and the finals day happened on Saturday 5th September.

The Singles game was won by Steve Spencer and the runner up was Charles Wallace.

The Pairs game was won by Marcia and Martin Askham and the runners up were Chris and Malcolm Williams.

The Triples game was won by Steve Spencer, Terry Payne and Jason Roberts and the runners up were Martin Askham, Dave Giles and Malcolm Williams.

Well done to everyone who entered, and the general feedback was that it was great fun.

Our thanks goes to everyone that helped in making the Summer play happen, to the members that helped with the cleaning and to those members that played keeping the enthusiasm going for continued play at the Sisson Road ground.

Finances

Some of you might be wondering how we have managed to stay afloat this year.

At the very beginning the Government announced that any 'businesses' that paid business rates would receive a grant to help them through the Covid situation. We were very pleased when we had a grant given to us of £10,000. This money has meant that we have been able to keep our new green keeper, Duncan employed throughout the year and pay our usual running utilities costs. We will be forever grateful for this windfall. It certainly enabled us to sleep easier at night.

Also during this period, the committee applied for a grant, again Covid related and keeping our members safe during this time, and we were lucky enough to be awarded £1,500. We said in our proposal that the purchase of 4 new pushers would support all members but especially those who use walking aids while on the green and have difficulty in gathering the bowls with their feet. We have purchased the pushers so no more having to move the bowls with your feet.

We also requested the funding for 14 new comfy seats inside our clubhouse which would enable our members to continue to use the facilities during the Autumn and Winter, and enable them to be with their friends and socialise. If we are able to open the club house during the Autumn/Winter, we will need seats that can be moved apart, which the bench seats don't allow us to do. This will enable us to meet the safe distancing rules that are required.

We have now purchased these seats and they will be with us by the end of September. We were also fortunate to have sold the old indoor bench seats and with the money we raised from that we have purchased new outdoor 'garden' seats, these will be available for the start of next year's outdoor season.

Autumn/Winter Activities

There are a few people who are willing to run the Short Mat, and I'm sure by now you have been contacted about this. If you would like to join in with the short mat please contact one of the committee who will be more than happy to refer you to the relevant members.

JMC Committee members:

Co-Op JMC members: Liz Giles, Dave Giles, Martin Askham, Christine Williams

Caer Glow JMC members: Maureen Richards-Smart, Sara Shortland, Lyn Brighty, Andy Price