

Cardiff Athletic Bowls Club Chairman's Report 2021

Our season began in April with the opening of the green by our club President, Mr Bob Williams, accompanied by his daughter Sue. We also used the occasion to present the trophies for 2018 as we had been unable to present them last year because of the pandemic. The event took place outdoors because we were still prohibited from using the clubhouse and changing rooms but the afternoon was a great success and I must thank the members for their support and Bob for presenting the trophies.

We experienced very mixed weather throughout the season and this coupled with the continued reluctance of some members to play because of covid made the job of team selection very difficult indeed. However, through the hard work of the team captains and their deputies, we managed to fulfil all of our fixtures, turning out two teams most Saturdays and teams on Wednesday for the Mid-Week League and on Tuesday for the Alliance.

We struggled early on in the Carruthers competition and in the PG1 league where we were competing against sides in Division 2 following our promotion in 2018. The team under the captaincy of Billy Gould and his deputy Alick Rayer had an extremely good finish to the season winning the last 3 games which secured our place in Division 2 for next season.

The A team with Captain Howard Evans and his Vice Captain Phil Edwards had a difficult season but they fulfilled all their fixtures, often with a reduced side. They finished around mid-table which was a very creditable performance and I congratulate them on their resilience in a rather difficult season.

The Mid Week League and the Alliance also provided some keenly contested games. The Mid Week side are to be congratulated on achieving second place in the league, only losing out to the eventual winners in the last two games. I am indebted to Billy Gould, Phil Edwards, Terry Ewington and Mike Cosslett for their captaincy of these teams.

The annual bowls trip to Torquay and Glastonbury arranged by Peter Christian and Ray his wife, with support from Alick Rayer and Peter Cross was a great success. Our own team was augmented by some players from Cardiff Bowls Club. The weather was reasonably kind to us and the friendship and hospitality provided by the two clubs we played was very good. Peter Christian has already begun the arrangements for next year and I am sure it will be equally as successful as this year.

Sadly, this year we lost Bob's wife Jean. She was a lovely lady who often accompanied Bob to the club and on the bowls tours. We also lost John Webber after a long illness. It was so sad not to be able to attend their funerals because of the covid restrictions but our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

We were able to play our club tournaments again this year after the cancellation last season. Peter Christian took on the mantle of Tournament Organiser and stuck manfully to his task in spite of the reluctance of competitors to complete the various rounds on time. Next year we will adopt a far more disciplined and rigorous approach to ensure each round is completed on time.

Congratulations to Peter Christian on becoming Club Champion for the second year. Congratulations also to all the other singles and pairs competition winners and commiserations to the runners up. The finals were played over three days and were well attended and the spectators enjoyed the competitive but friendly spirit between the bowlers.

The semi-finals and finals of the South Glamorgan County Championship were also held at our club this year and we received a very complimentary thank you from Paul Mitchell, the organiser, for our assistance in making these a great success. I must also thank Ray Bridges and Peter Christian for helping me to man the bar during the games.

Alick Rayer and Billy Gould also arranged special days for the Scottish Under 21s rugby players and past rugby players of Cardiff RFC to play bowls at our club. They too enjoyed themselves immensely and who knows we may attract some new recruits to bowls.

We are planning a recruitment drive to attract new players to the club for the coming 2022 season because we are an ageing population and need fresh blood to carry us forward.

I would like to place on record my appreciation to the officers and Committee Members for their invaluable support throughout a busy year for the club. Again, I have to say that without their work the club would not function. My compliments go to Peter Christian for his efforts as Treasurer, to Kevin Bush for his work as Fixture Secretary, Phil Edwards and Les Hazell as Secretaries and to John Stephens for managing the club website.

The club members also owe a huge debt of gratitude to Alick Rayer, Ken Thorne, Billy Gould, Peter Christian and myself, for maintaining the green and its surrounds and for oversight of the ground maintenance contract. My thanks also go to Ray Bridges and Peter Christian for assisting me in running the bar.

To those of you who joined the working parties, it was a great help and showed that we have one of the best greens in the league.

Finally, I hope you all winter well and have a safe and happy Christmas with your families and I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Chris Barrett

Chairman