

NEWSLETTER

Hello Everyone

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who came to the AGM last week.. It was a good session and we were able to give you an update on our finances for 2026. We would like to thank our outgoing President, Len Hillier, and welcome our new President for the next two years Ted McDonnell. We also voted in our new Vice President who is Carol Goddard. We also wish to welcome Mark Hiner who has agreed to join the GMC. Mark Hiner has been in the Club for around three years so we are hoping he will bring some new ideas wish him.

The Committee consists of-

Ted McDonnell, President and Chair

Paul Allcock Treasurer,

Carol Goddard General Secretary

Steve Shepherd is in charge of Projects

Dave Bennett assists with Projects and oversees Boat Maintenance

Graham Lyke is our Membership Secretary and has volunteered to be our Almoner

We also have Janette Devlin who is Ladies Secretary and Member of the GMC and Mark Hiner

At the AGM we had discussions regarding the requirement to get the moorings repaired. This area is where Caversham Boats moored their boats. The decking is in very poor repair and the planking needs replacing amongst other things. Any help with this work on a Monday morning would be very welcome.

The work party meet at around 9.00am and work till around 2.30pm. They have a tea break and a lunch which is the Clubs way of saying thank you to them. If you can help please join us. Everyone is welcome. We can always find work for ladies to do so it is not just for the men to join our work party. We have Cathie here on Mondays already.

The work party is also taking up some of the broken paving slabs and resetting them. The paths have been rickety in some places now for some time so this is definitely a job well done. This needs to be completed before the season begins so we would ask for you to come along and help on a Monday morning.

Next I wish to say thank you to all the people who do the work on the Island. It is very difficult to point out individuals as they all did their bit. However,, if you were at the AGM you will have heard Derek Parsons telling you about his efforts to make the green clear of goose poo. He hasn't found the perfect solution yet but he is working on it. He was also the leader of the team that repaired our river bank on the North side. The team saved us thousands of pounds and they will do so again when they repair the South side where Caversham boats moored their boats.

The ladies changing rooms are coming along. The walls have been painted in the Away changing room and we will be getting the benches covered and curtains at the windows. This should brighten up these rooms.

The taps in the toilets are also being changed. We are removing the hot water boiler from the cupboard and putting in instant hot water taps on the two basins. The men will also get

an extra instant hot water tap in their toilet. This will be cheaper to run than keeping a boiler running 24 hours a day.

Signing on Day

Friday 3rd April is our **Signing On** day. How quickly that seems to have come around. We will be at the Club from 9.30am to collect fees and Kevin O'Connor will be there to put your names down for club competitions.

We will also have the first few weekend friendly match sheets put on the wall in the annexe. Please put your names down to play in these games. We don't want to be chasing around every week trying to get players. We have had difficulty in getting someone to take on the Club Captaincy as they are concerned it would be too much work. Derek Parsons has agreed to be Club Captain and Malvern Costelloe is Vice Captain. Please make their jobs easier by putting your names down to play in our weekend fixtures.

The Ladies have 7 friendly matches this year. Two of them are harlequins. These are special with our ladies playing against 3 players from 3 different clubs. I have promised a cream tea at these matches.

We are also playing matches at home against Hurst, Suttons and Palmer Park and away against Caversham and Tilehurst..

Future Dates

We will have a busy weekend ahead of us. On **Friday 17th April** we have **Club Supper**. This will start at 5.30pm. The evenings are getting lighter so no excuse not to come along and have a meal with your fellow bowlers. It is intended to present the prizes for last year's finalists. It is a shame that we didn't have a presentation last year but there was relatively little interest. Please put your name down to come along or send me an email. Everyone is welcome including family.. It will be £5 per head for a two course meal.

On **Saturday 18th April** we have our **Cleaning Day**. This is a time when we freshen up the Club and make it look good for the start of the season. There will be lots of jobs to do so the more the merrier. There will be a list of jobs so please put your name down for one of them. We usually have a bacon butty and a cup of tea available.

On **Sunday 19th April** we hope to have the **Green Open** for roll ups. Most of us will be a bit rusty so it is a good opportunity to have a practice before the tour which will be leaving on the following Friday 24th April for the West Country.

Best wishes

Carol