

WICKHAM MARKET PLAYING FIELD BOWLS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH ANNUAL MEETING: 12 APRIL 2024

The Playing Field Bowls Club has been playing green bowls on our outdoor green just beyond the Playing Field children's play area for over 70 years since its formation in 1952. We are a small but active, friendly and welcoming, club which is still thriving having, at present, 24 registered players. The outdoor green bowling season runs from early May to early September.

Bowls is often characterised as a game for the elderly but this is a total fallacy for it offers opportunity and activity for both sexes and for all age ranges from upper primary school through secondary school to Senior Citizen. We had a very successful season finishing fourth (of eight) in Division C of the Wednesday evening Ipswich Triples League – against much bigger clubs having scores of members. In the Thursday evening Fynn league, which we use for new players who are still learning the intricacies of bowls on grass rinks, we managed to win two (of ten) games – again generally against bigger clubs. Our weekly informal Monday evening club night, which is just for fun, goes from strength to strength.

Once again members have put their shoulders to the wheel in the necessary maintenance and improvement of the club's buildings and facilities – green maintenance, repairs and decoration of the pavilion etc being notable examples of many hours of voluntary physical labour.

This help was particularly welcome as we are unable to get grant-aid for similar work through the normal channels as we currently have no security of tenure. Lease negotiations have been ongoing, at least theoretically, since 2015! We sincerely hope that this situation can be resolved in the near future.

Nevertheless we look positively to the future. There is a buoyant spirit and a happy and co-operative atmosphere in the club and there is plenty of space on our membership list for any who would like to join.

We offer experienced bowlers to assist newcomers to the sport and can also loan all necessary equipment apart from footwear. We have a number of sets of bowls of various sizes (including smaller bowls specifically designed for young people or those of smaller stature). All you would initially need to provide are flat soled shoes (most trainer type footwear will be fine). Why not come for a 'roll-up' (bowls speak for a practice/ trial/ taster session)? **You can do this at an Open Day to be advertised towards the end of April or for a one-to-one session at times for your convenience. Contact details are in the excellent Parish News.**

Bruce Laws: Club Secretary