

## CBC News

[www.corstorphinebowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.corstorphinebowlingclub.co.uk)

**February 2016**

**Dear Members**

**John McPhail.**

At the recent Annual General Meeting, John decided to have a rest from all his official duties at the Club (and a well earned rest too – (new editor Jim Connor)). John has been on the Management Committee for a number of years including his 3 years as Vice President, President and has now completed his year as Immediate Past President. In addition, he has taken on roles as Social Committee Convenor and for the past 4 years has been Editor of our own CBC News, a vital service in communicating news to our members.

If you are in the Club any Monday morning, a small band of members can be heard “jamming” and John is to the fore playing the guitar and singing (???). I have been tidying up the bar on many a Monday morning and found it to be a very ~~painful~~ pleasant experience. John is long overdue a visit to Australia to see his daughter who is about to build a new house in the remote North West and John will be picking up his didgeridoo and heading over there for a long break in the near future.

Thanks for everything you have done over the past few years John and have a great holiday.

**New Office Bearers**

The next few paragraphs cover the various meetings over the last few weeks and although they were well attended, it is important that every member is informed of the changes.

In our Centenary Year of 1991, Kenny Logan was proposed for President by Gordon Birnie. A young Kenny delayed his wedding in order to carry out his Presidential duties. In our 125<sup>th</sup> year **Kenny is honoured to be our President again**. He has waited for 25 years, but has eventually got his own back and **Gordon Birnie** is our new Vice President.

Ladies Section. Congratulations to **Jean Meiklejohn**, the new Lady Captain, and to **Ann Douglas**, Vice Captain.

Gents Section. Congratulations to the new Gents Captain, **Bernie Callaghan**.

Senior Section. Congratulations to the new Convenor, **Sandy Macniven**.

**A few notes on the AGM.**

Chris Bentley said that she had thoroughly enjoyed her year and the honour of being the first Lady President of the Club (Ed.- but not the last, Ladies!)

Treasurer, Sandy MacKay, advised that he was happy to recommend annual fees remaining static for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row but will monitor income over the coming year. The Club still had a significant amount of Members' loans to repay. He forecast a drop of around £5,000 in income in 2016. Bar takings so far seemed to bear this out. Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April have been set aside for

fee payment nights where booklets will also be issued.

Sandy also thanked those members who had managed to pay this year's fees early. Sandy is now off on holiday to Lanzarote for 3 weeks!

Bar Convenor, Jim Connor, thanked all of the bar volunteers, and the savings in wages helped the bar to make a profit of £30,000. More volunteers are always required so speak to me if you can help out. I also asked all members to consider using the Club throughout the year. There are a wide range of soft drinks available so come along and keep the volunteers busy. **Everyone** benefits from the bar income so please help to contribute to it.

Bill Cumming presented the Green Ranger's report on behalf of Gordon Munro. He thanked all the volunteers who had assisted on and around the green, especially Tom Mitchell. It was felt that the green was firmer than previous years and this had reduced damage from "bouncers", meaning fewer repairs and less need for the protective sheets. The heads had remained in better condition. He had used 24 patches in 2014 but none in the year just past. Gordon is convinced that the use of the 6/7 rink settings had greatly helped this situation. He pointed out that the main 6 rink setting had been actually used on 108 days last year as opposed to only 46 days in 2014.

Bill Cumming then also advised on the work done in the Club over the last year. The main projects were the repairs to the original tiled roof and some of the flat roof. The Fire Exit route over the Library ground to Kirk Loan is complete and a big thank you was due to Ricky Stevens for making the gate and saving the Club a fortune. Have a look at the gate next time you are walking along Kirk Loan – what a talent. Planning for the future includes Hot Water provision in the gents toilets, improved audio equipment, repair/replacement to some upholstery and the Green irrigation system which is now quite old.

### **Constitutional Changes**

One of the things that could not be implemented at the AGM was the changes to certain parts of the constitution which require at least 100 members to either be present or use their postal/proxy vote. 75 members were at the AGM and 14 postal/proxy notes were received bringing the total to 89, falling short of the required number. This situation does not affect the Club at present due to our healthy membership but the Management Committee feel they owe it to future members of the Club to pursue this amendment so look out for more communications on the matter in the next month or so.

Basically, if membership of the Club were to drop below 100, we could not vote to change the objectives of the Club, disband it or even sell it, as the constitution currently require 100 members to be present in the Club when a vote is taken. The proposed changes were to introduce a formula where 80% of the current members, if numbers drop below 120, could vote on the proposal. If we can't change it, the Club could cease to function at some time in the future. Clear – eh!

### **Getting Ready for the New Season**

As Winter draws to a close, hopefully, it's getting to the time for doing the odd jobs in and around the Club so if you can spare a few hours, give Bill Cumming a shout and I'm sure he'll find something for you to do. The next time you hear someone shout "fox", don't just look at the green. Look up also as we seem to have inherited some "flying foxes" who are using the roof of the Club as a toilet – by the bucketsful. Bill is using sonar deterrents, spray and plastic spikes to try to get rid of them.

## **The Flying Scotsman**

If you were passing by the Club last week, you could have been forgiven for thinking that that great piece of steam engineering, the Flying Scotsman had continued on its journey north from York and was passing through Corstorphine such was the engine noise and smoke coming from behind the hedge. It was actually our own flying scotsman, Gordon Munro trundling up and down the green at the steady pace of about 10 yards a minute, pushing the tining machine. The machine has seen better days but Gordon managed to solid tine the whole green. Solid tining spikes the green to reduce compaction, helps the ground to breathe and encourages the grass roots to grow. The recent frost has put other work on the green back by about 2 weeks but if the ground heats up a bit in March he will be back on schedule for Opening Day which is 16<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Corstorphine Public Hall**

Members may already know that the CPH Rebuild Fundraising Appeal was officially launched on 28<sup>th</sup> January. More than £1 million has been obtained to date and planning for the first phase has been submitted. About £500k is needed for subsequent phases to create a building fit for the next 100 years. The Bowling Club is very active in assisting with this Appeal with David Sutherland and Frank Ross directors of the CPH, and the Club premises have been used for many meetings over the months. If you wish more information why not pop into the Corstorphine HUB at 191 St John's Road (along from the old Woolworths) or visit [www.corstorphinepublichall.org.uk](http://www.corstorphinepublichall.org.uk) Why not "buy a brick" for just £5.

## **Social Activities.**

On the Social front, Marcia Norton is the new Social Convenor. She is currently forming her committee and planning activities for the next year. As I write, the Blues/Motown Night is scheduled which I hope everyone enjoyed.

**Nifty Fifties Night** – the next Social night will be Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March when a host of Bowling Club talent will be strutting their stuff in the spotlight, some old faces, some even older, plus a few newcomers. If you can, why not come down in fancy dress 50s style, or bring out the old school tie. A prize will be awarded for the best 50s outfit.

My wife says I haven't changed my style (what style?) in over 50 years so if I come dressed as normal I must be in with a shout.

## **Visitors Book**

We had a routine visit from Police and Licensing Officers on a recent Saturday night at about 11pm and we await a report on their findings. One issue they did highlight at the time was that entries in the Visitors Book did not comply with the Licence Requirements. There were entries without a date, others without an address – (note, just putting Edinburgh is not sufficient) There are 2 notes at the Book indicating what is required but clearly some people choose to ignore this. Repeated failures to comply will lead to sanctions against the Club with the ultimate being the loss of our drinks licence. So please, when signing a visitor into the Club, ensure that you enter the date, the name of the visitor, followed by a full address and then sign the entry.

## **New Members and Birthday Greetings**

We welcome the following New Members this month, John Barrett, Alex Ellis, Val Mather, Jim Melles, John Simpson and Ian McLaren. Doug Taylor has a significant Birthday this month which means he should have more time on the Green in future!!

## **Competition Entries**

Just a reminder that Ladies' forms should be returned to the box in Club by 11<sup>th</sup> March or by email to Marcia – [marciamartin42@gmail.com](mailto:marciamartin42@gmail.com)

Gents entries should be returned to the box by 25<sup>th</sup> March or by email to David Sutherland

Senior Competition sheets for the 2 single competitions are on the Seniors Notice Board in the locker room.

Next issue in about 3 weeks.

Jim Connor (Editor) – [james773@btinternet.com](mailto:james773@btinternet.com) for any suggestions.