



Chardstock Bowls Club

2022 Season • Newsletter • September



Chardstock Ladies doing what they like best - after bowling of course!

A Very Good Year

2022 has been a very good year for our club. After the horrors of 2020 and the uncertainty of 2021, we are now back to some kind of normal.

This is a time for celebration and looking forward.

We have:

- Completed a full programme of friendly fixtures home and away
- Competed in the Mens' Over 60s league, Foxlands and Topclub
- Competed in the Ladies Triples League
- Enjoyed our own Club League
- Managed a full programme of Club Competitions
- Been well represented in County competitions and challenges
- Organised two "open day" events and recruited 13 excellent new members
- Completed Phase 1 of our clubhouse development project with applications for over £10,000 of grants made to the National Lottery Fund
- Obtained a Clubhouse Premises Certificate and opened a bar!
- Continued improvements to the green, equipment and facilities
- Improved our Website and Facebook page
- Trialled new online management systems for match fees and match sign-up
- Developed and improved our coaching opportunities
- Maintained a healthy financial situation to look to the future with confidence

It is my responsibility as Chairman to thank all members of the Club who have given so generously of their skills, time, experience and humour to make all this possible.

Thank you

Jon Pratt Chairman

This was a first for Topsham ladies to visit charming Chardstock, this delightful place set in rural eastern countryside of Devon.

Well done Chardstock, we look forward to you visiting our club in the near future.

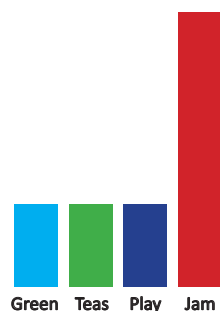
Topsham BC Facebook Page

"There was a wonderful surprise for the Seaton team that traveled up to the charming Chardstock countryside to play a 4 rink-friendly, expecting the usual difficult green to play on, they found instead a very much worked-on and vastly improved surface."

"I never have any trouble getting players to sign up for Chardstock. The list is always filled up straight away."

"I have been coming here for a number of years but I can't remember the green ever being as good as this!"

"We always get a good welcome here, but now we get a drink as well!"



Reasons given by clubs for coming to Chardstock

Coaching

We are pleased to say that it has been a busy year for Coaching and we have had 11 people who have come up to the Club to try out bowling – either through the Chardstock Open Day, the Chardstock Big Bowls Weekend or through existing members - and then go on to do the coaching sessions



Under the guidance and tutelage of Gordon Bodily (Club Coach), Debbie Manley has achieved her Coaching Level 1 Certificate with English Bowls Coaching Society. Well done Debbie and our thanks to Gordon!

Coaching and Practice sessions take place every Monday evening during the season from 6.00-7.30pm. All our members can ask our coach for individual help and coaching to develop their game.

Further information about the coaching sessions can be found in the "An Invitation to Bowl" which is published on our website.

The Bar

Welcome to an update from Copp's Bar (named as such because Mike spends a lot of his waking hours here!)

It was decided by the Committee to trial an open bar this season to see whether it was beneficial in terms of club atmosphere and whether it could break even (or even make a little profit).

I am pleased to say that it has, so far, been successful in exceeding both targets.

I think you have all been able to see the impact of the bar (especially with the fine weather of late) with visiting teams staying on for drinks (friendlies and league games) and our own members utilising the bar on rollup evenings and during club competitions.

There were some initial costs in setting up the operation including the cost of an Alcohol Premises Certificate (and associated local press advertising of this licence) and purchasing sturdy dishwasher proof plastic glasses.

Those who have used it know that we also have a card payment reader so contactless payments can also be made at the bar. Despite paying a small service charge per transaction, I am pleased to say that nearly £300 bar sales have been paid directly into the Club account via this route.

Overall, the bar is making a profit which can only be good news for the Club.

Keep drinking!

Green & Premises

Over recent weeks any mentions of a "slow running" surface have been banished to history! Our green has stood comparison with the best in the area, and according to visitors has substantially bettered those of our neighbouring clubs! Many thanks go to the fine weather, but also to the dedicated greenkeeping team who often cut the grass in the morning before bowling in the afternoon.

Regarding Premises Development, Phase 1 (car park, perimeter fencing and garden area) is complete for the first two items, but hot weather and bowling commitments has meant that the garden area and "rockery" activities are still to be carried out.

The Club is now looking at options for the next phase of development. Depending upon whether we receive a grant, the value of it and when it becomes available, we are looking at a number of smaller activities and options

that will keep the momentum for improving the Club moving forward.

The various options will be presented at the AGM later in the year.

Winter Indoor Matches

We have arranged 16 winter indoor friendly matches from October 2022 to March 2023, which is part of your annual subscription.

These all take place away at clubs in Devon (Budleigh Salterton, Honiton, Madeira, Sidmouth), Dorset (Bridport) and Somerset (Ilminster, Taunton Vivary, Yeovil) See the Winter Indoor Friendly Matches fixture list for more details.

If you are interested in participating in these matches, please sign up in the Clubhouse. You will then be contacted by the Captain on a match by match basis. Transport arrangements will be suggested by the Captain.

Format: Matches are almost always rinks/2 woods per player. Some clubs have 2, some 3 and one 4 rinks to play on. All matches take place away.

Rink fees: These depend on the host club but are generally between £3.50 and £4.50 per person per game. This is paid to the host club on the day. Players are asked to bring cash to pay their match fees. We are unable to use our Club's cashless match fees system to pay these match fees.

Contact: Gill Campbell

