

Hexham Bowling Club

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Les Carter Chairman

It is with a degree of satisfaction that I present this report on the functioning of Hexham Bowling Club Ltd for the year 2021/22.

The year has to say the least been a very testing one for your Board and Management with COVID 19 striking at various times throughout the twelve months. With limitations and restrictions imposed upon the club by both the government and health and safety concerns of your Board we have been able to survive most major and extended lockdowns and interruptions to our business. Whilst many clubs and other businesses across the nation have seen forced closures or dramatic losses, we have been able to ride out the storm so to speak. Yet despite the degree of uncertainty in the community our membership continues to climb with an average of more than 150 new member applications coming before the Board for approval each month.

Our financial position is sound as we are debt free, our Wastewater Treatment plant is in place and at the time of writing going through the final stages of ticking off all EPA requirements before pump outs will cease. We have more cash on hand than we have seen for many a year despite the uncertainty and the interruptions to trade. Every year we get the critics saying that depreciation is not taken into account and therefore we are losing money. I should point out that previous accountants and boards –from where most of the criticism comes did not declare the club's position after depreciation and yet they throw up past comparisons with our current position where depreciation is openly declared. However, we are in a position where we are able to undertake a staged extension without taking out loans and effecting our financial position so we can't be doing too badly. Our before depreciation profit of some \$335,317 which is a touch down on the previous 12 months but our cash on hand is over \$1.4 million.

The DA for the proposed extension has been lodged some five months ago with the Newcastle City Council and as I write this report has been granted. The plan includes taking one rink from our eastern green and laying a slab with foundations for extending our current building sideways. Initially the slab will house an "al fresco" area with shade umbrellas and seating. We would love to have the first stage well underway if not totally completed by the summer months. Also, we plan to re-site our cafeteria to where our current bowls office is and extend it from the office area to the emergency door. The cafeteria will be able to serve meals and snacks both directions internally and to the alfresco area. It is also envisaged that they will be able to serve bottled and canned alcohol to these areas. The bowls office will then be relocated to another area downstairs. It is envisaged that stage two will involve extending our current downstairs area outward over the alfresco area. We have the money on hand to commence and cover work on the first stage.

We have started on a general improvement program which members will see being rolled out gradually over coming months. The first of these improvements will be the installation of toilets beside the greens – something that has been needed for many years. Also, the fencing of our Wastewater Treatment Plant and greens area with security fencing that looks both eye-catching and strong will give our al fresco area and greens a more professional appearance as well as the protection against theft of our outdoor furnishings etc.

The Board and Management received a fair amount of criticism from sections of our bowling fraternity by recommending the closure of our ladies section and requesting they and the men amalgamate. Many of the diehards vehemently opposed this but it should be noted that the two state associations i.e., Men and Women have amalgamated.

There have been no changes in the bowls programs offered to our members , in fact they have since been enhanced. There has been no animosity on the greens with several women successfully competing in championship and gala events. It is quite pleasing to see how both sections are embracing the change.

Our upstairs function area is becoming more and more popular as a wedding venue with more being held there this past year and with more booked in the future months. In a way COVID assisted us as several local wedding reception venues were forced into closure and we were able to provide an alternative venue at a reasonable price. The success of those wedding receptions has been a fine marketing tool. We must really thank Barbara and Scott who have embraced the organisation of these events and work so hard to see their success.

We are looking forward to hosting several events in the latter part of 2022 such as the NDBA Presentation Night and a Filipino Ball which will see not only large crowds but the accompanying financial gain. It is hoped that this area continues to grow.

I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our General Manager, Jennie for her contributions towards growing the club over the past year. Her work and the results that we have been able to achieve have been outstanding. I also wish to express the Board's gratitude to the staff including the staff of the Riverside Bistro – especially Ricky and Lily – for their efforts in maintaining the standards of service and in ensuring that the name of Hexham BC is retained. And finally, I must extend my thanks to my fellow directors for their input to the club over the past year. I must say that all have contributed to making my task so much more enjoyable and somewhat easier.

I look forward to a bright and prosperous year for the club in 2023.

Sympathy

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our sympathy to the family and friends of our members who passed away in the last twelve months. To those who are currently ill, we wish you a speedy recovery and good health

Les Carter - Chairman

IN REMEMBRANCE

Suzanne James
Una Russell
Norma Braithwaite
Darby Waterman
Noel Hughes
Joy Henderson
Allan McNaughton

Peter Young
Robert Brooker
Allan Wickham
Robin Wilson
Kenneth Barlow
Gaye Essex
Neil Bramich

Irene Maher
Karey Carter
Suzanne Bennett
Ian Price
Krystina Cook
David Hartree
Roy Carter