

## THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2023

Well, I started this newsletter as May was closing and I started with a cheery welcome to our new members. A few hours later, now June, and we receive the sad news of the loss of a one of our longest serving members, how a few hours can change things.....

It is with great sadness I write after hearing we have lost Sheena McKenna who passed away following her recent illness. She was a legend in the club not just as a bowler but character too. She was competitive not just at club level but county as well. If you did not know her well, she was one of the Ladies who 42 years ago decided to venture from the Lodge Plugs factory up to the club and search through the old wooden bowls to find a set and start playing. Thanks to Ladies like her laying down the foundations we have a bowls team today. Always willing to share not just her opinion but advice and tips on the game. You will be missed, and I am sure all are thoughts of with your family at this time. God Bless Sheena long may you rest in peace.

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We would like to welcome to the following new members, Jennie and Mathew Weston, Jane Walton, Natasha Curtis and welcome back to Sue Davies and Jean Cheshire lovely to have you all. If you need to know anything just stop and ask the nearest member, I am sure they will help you.

On another membership note, it has been brought to the committee's attention by several members that when attending our club, they see unfamiliar faces. There are after all quite a few of us who enjoy membership at the Grange now and be it bowler, tennis player, skittles player or social member, adult or junior, or man or woman none of us know and recognise every other member. This causes us to hesitate a moment at times for example, when leaving and seeing someone unfamiliar on the site, or on a Friday night when someone unfamiliar walks in, are they a guest who should sign in or a member? So, the committee has come up with an idea to help with this....

**NOTE** – We would like all members to have their **current membership card on their person when they attend the club**. Please do not be offended if you are asked to show your card, and please do not worry about asking someone to show you their membership card if you are not sure who they are, it's a good way to meet and greet your fellow member.

If you have not got a card do not worry Dave Knee our membership secretary is at the club nearly every Friday evening from 7.30, he will set you up with one. Thank you for your support with this new scheme, we hope it helps.

**Tennis** – Many of you have taken advantage of improved weather to get out on the courts and the matches are well under way. Please remember the tennis social sessions are open to all full members and you make get a bacon butty too!!!

**Bowls** – We are doing quite well the Ladies have had a few games winning 3, lost 2 but start there Sunday Trophy league games and the county Top Club campaigns over this next week.

The men have so far won all 5 of their friendly matches including a good result at home against Wolvey where the Watney Plate is contended, putting them in a good place for the decider away match. Elsewhere, whilst they did not have much joy in the Cov 6 Cup or Finch Cup this year, the men have made good progress in other comps. The National two fours are still going strong well done so far! The Top Club they contended well against the Rail but were stopped when they came up against a strong Rugby Club side. There is also a team still in contention for the Iven's Cup, all this and the Cov 6 league games yet to get started - keep it going lads!!!

The mixed matches we have won all 3 and this year the local Friendship Cup is mixed for the first time and getting underway very soon.

For your information the Cov 6 Cup finals day will be held at The Grange on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, please come along and watch or better still spare a little time helping us host this event. It starts at 10 am there will be Bacon and Sausage baps at the start and at lunchtime a selection of rolls will be available.

**Maintenance** – Our volunteers are continuing to work hard to keep the club up to scratch. You may not see the work going on at the moment because it is mainly involving the club Electrics. Appliances have been PAT tested to meet the necessary regulations; earthing work is being undertaken plus some work on the greens irrigation system. So, lots going on many thanks Doug and his supporters for looking after us.

We are looking for help and support to join our clean team who spruce the club up usually on a Monday but this can be flexible. They do one in every 4/5 Mondays but the more volunteers the better. If you can help, please let us know. Don't worry someone will show you the ropes. Thanks

**Bar** - Whilst the bar prices been increased due to the 'cost of living' impact's we are all facing, we are still offer very cheap drinks compared to other clubs and especially pubs. The bar committee work really hard shopping around, fetching and carrying to make this possible for us all so please support them by stopping by and having a glass or two!! Remember, we are open every Friday evening so it's a good night to practice your sports.

With quite a few events on across the year as well as matchdays and Fridays the bar team are looking for more willing bar staff to help serve. If you are able to do even just a couple of shifts it would help, please let a member of the committee know if you can. Thanks.

**Social** – The Coronation Weekend came the club looked very well dressed with all the bunting and I hope you spotted the Union Jack flying from the flag pole.

The Crazy Bowls event was very quickly adjusted to a Crazy Indoor Fun Day due to the weather. All teams turned up in great spirit and got stuck in especially to the very welcome Roast Beef rolls, potatoes, cream scone and cheese and biscuits. Special big thank you to Christine for over seeing this on the day. Many thanks to my game's assistants, the scone makers and all those who donated those wonderful raffle prizes. It was the red team who triumphed on the day but much fun was had by all and this was well captured thanks to Owen's camera skills. If you have not seen the short film, he put together yet just ask a fellow Crazy bowler to share. Thanks again Owen for this. The day was intended to be a day to bring members together for fun - it did and it also raised £377, Great!!!

Then last Sunday was the second ever Grange Summer Fete with lots going on from Target Bowls, Archery, Penalty shoot outs. Splat the rat, tin can alley, guess the name of the bear, guess how much was in the coin jar plus the always popular Tombola and the Raffle. Many came to take advantage of the BBQ, Tea and cakes and of course the bar. With stalls to browse including White Elephant and Plant Stall. There, were also puzzles and books on sale in aid of McMillan.

A huge effort went into this, organised by Pat Hall, the social committee and comrades. It was a good day for members and the local community, some of whom expressed interest in joining the club. The weather was a bonus but so was the fantastic £943 raised. Thank you to all those who came along to support big kids and little ones. A bigger thank you to those who gave the great donations.

Lottery winners since the last newsletter, include Bob Page, Lillian Harris, Jo Waugh and Sue Boyes well done don't spend it all at once as they say. There are still numbers left if you want to join this fortnightly draw. Speak To Pat Hall for details.

Well, there is always something going on at The Grange, we have the upcoming Stan Cheshire Triple Tournament on the bowls green on Sunday 2nd July then the Ladies Gala on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

In the meantime, come and join us on these lighter nights every Friday, where there is always someone up to something.

Brenda B