

## THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Well, tis' the season to be jolly, as Christmas is looming upon us again, I hope you are not working too hard!!! If so, take a break and read your latest Grange news here...

**Christmas Fayre** - which was held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November and was well attended again.

The club looked well dressed in festive spirit with a choice of stalls to browse and shop at, a nice variety of gifts and crafted items to choose from. Plus, a chance to have a go on the chocolate or bottle tombola, try and guess the weight of the cake( won by Ian Box who guessed it was 5lb 12oz) or, name a friendly lion. Many tried their luck with the raffle with a good choice of prizes up for grabs.

I think everybody took advantage of the refreshments on offer. It was a lovely afternoon with a nice Christmassy feel. Thanks to Pat Hall for all her hard work in running this event again and all those who helped her along the way.

The day raised an amazing £877, thanks to all that supported the afternoon.

**Sunday lunch** was held last Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Now these dinners have always been well received, and this one was no exception.

For me it was special to see those of you who gave up your time on Saturday and willingly got stuck in, going about your jobs around each other with such a happy team spirit. Watching friends pull together for the benefit of others like that for me is the best of the Grange.

On the day itself, we were treated to a succulent Roast pork dinner with all the trimmings, 4 veg, yes four! The jury is still out as to which trifle was best the Raspberry and Sherry or the Mandarin and Amaretto. All followed by cheese and biscuits for those who had some room left.

The usual Quiz, Bingo and Raffle followed, plus choccies. Many thanks to Christine for taking this all on and with her team putting it all together. We raised £701, and now we have had a bit of a rest are planning another dinner in the New Year, details later.

**Bar** – is ticking along alright, boosted by the two social events. Unfortunately, at the Friday social evening on the 8<sup>th</sup>, we discovered the card reader was kaput! Two days before the Sunday lunch. Thanks to everyone for bringing cash whilst we sort this problem out, you can't beat the old-fashioned stuff.

We have contacted the company who have advised us the machine is out of warranty and they no longer sell the model we have. We are looking into replacement options and will rectify the problems as soon as we can.

In the meantime, please bear with us and keep bringing cash. We will send out a message when cards can be taken again.

You may like to know, we now stock Heineken zero.

**Website** – Our Grange website has been up and running a while now. At the recent committee meeting we had positive discussions with David Alabaster, who has very kindly created the site and is working on it, for all our benefit. We have come up with ideas how to make the site more attractive to users and how we can get more out of it. If you have any related photos or news, you are happy to share, please pass them to David, who will welcome them. All members should have received an invitation to join the site, if you have not done this, by joining you will have access to useful info, latest news, match details and more. If you need more details on joining contact David or any of the committee for details. The website is on [grange-rugby.co.uk](http://grange-rugby.co.uk).

**Now for an ad break** – We are also considering making space on our website and or banners or boards available on site, to any persons or business that would like to advertise. If you know of anyone or business that may be interested in advertising for a reasonable fee, please pass their contact details to anyone on the committee to follow up on. This is an opportunity for them and us, the extra revenue it could bring in would be very useful.

**In with the New** – Yes 2024, is fast approaching. We are looking at ways to attract new members for next season. If you know of anyone who may like to join us socially or to bowl or play tennis, please send them along.

We are also looking to recruitment one of you to become membership secretary. If you would be prepared to help out, or would like to know more please ask. You will be under no obligation. Ideally, we would like someone to come forward early next year so they can get an understanding for the role and take it up in April 2024. Please give this some consideration. Any of the committee will give you details. Thanks

Also, the maintenance team, a merry little bunch would like to hear from any of you that can support weekly or even occasionally with the many tasks they have. More merry little hands the better.

**Next Page** – No, not a next page but Bob Page. Bob has done a really useful piece of work in putting together a great welcome booklet. These will be available to new members starting from 2024 onwards, the committee felt that as a member joins, we never really explain everything about the club to them and if we did, it is a lot to take in. For example, it is really important when leaving the club to ensure it is locked up securely, there is quite a bit to check, if done properly. These booklets will be handy, informative guides going forward.

I just wanted to let you know about this fantastic piece of work, the committee all work hard to keep the club on track and ensure it is at its' best for all our existing and future members. Bob has demonstrated that throughout his efforts here, and at a later stage some of the guidance he has put together will be added to our website for all. Thanks, matey.

**Upcoming social events** - The fun just keeps on coming, we will be open for the last social night before Christmas on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, but we will be closed Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. But, do not worry because the best value party night in town will be at The Grange on New Years Eve for a mere £3 entry, (to cover our costs), PPPaarrrrty music, dance, drink be merry and whatever else you can think off as we see the New Year in together. You are welcome to bring along your own food, however, please note the kitchen is out of bounds on the night but the bar will definitely be open!!!

We have a Quiz night on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024, teams up to 6 persons at £7 members £8 non members including a supper. There is a sheet on the notice board for you to add your name too, or contact myself, Christine or Pat Hall.

On Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>, we are planning another Sunday lunch, as mentioned earlier, details of this will be posted over the next few weeks.

Plus, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March we will be holding the another of our popular Race nights.

Get these dates in your diary and watch this space for further updates!!

Finally, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and good wishes for the New Year. Let's all have a good one!!

Brenda