

FRESSINGFIELD BOWLS CLUB

Report for the Annual Parish Council Meeting 2023

The Fressingfield Bowls Club, established over 100 years ago, continues to provide opportunities for local bowls players of all levels to enjoy the sport – an activity that allows players to remain healthy and mobile, and promotes strong social connections within and across communities. We are affiliated with the English Bowling Federation through our membership in the Suffolk County Bowls Association.

We welcome local players to participate in our weekly ‘roll-up’ sessions, an opportunity for players to take part in relaxed matches every Tuesday (1.15pm for 1.30pm start), from April to September. New players receive informal coaching, and our aim is to provide at least one formal coaching session open to all members each season.

Additionally, those who are interested in more competitive matches at a higher level are invited to participate in league matches (currently as part of the Mid-Suffolk League and the Saxmundham & District League) and various club tournaments, played regularly each week during the season. We are also offering a series of club tournaments for members during the 2023 season, and are hosting our own Club Tournament on 4th June, as well as the President’s Cup Tournament in September.

The club has seen a revival of interest since the pandemic, swelling its numbers to 37 in 2022. As such, our finances remain in good order, allowing us to pay league membership fees and maintain the green.

We do continue to seek out new members as, inevitably, former players step back from regular play with age or illness, or move from the area. In 2023, we are holding a number of events to attract new members: our Open Day on Saturday, 15 April (10am – 2pm) and an Open Session during the Coronation Weekend Celebrations on Sunday, 7 May (2-4pm). We continue to advertise in *Six Sense*, on the village website, with further details available on our new website, fressingfieldbowls.crd.co, as a way of reaching out to new members.

The club also promotes an active social life for our membership, including regular social meals and drinks during the playing season from April – September. We also host monthly drinks at the Sports & Social Club (SSC) during the ‘winter season’ from October to March, and actively support other events at the SSC from time-to-time.

The club committee meets at least quarterly, with an Annual General Meeting for all members in October each year, at which committee positions and plans for the following year are agreed.

Submitted on behalf of the Fressingfield Bowls Committee: Warren Albers, Norman Ansell, Elizabeth and Ray Estall, Kay Hardy, Barry and June Hopper, Barry Jones and Trevor Orchard.