



## **Report for the Annual Parish Council Meeting 2024**

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 (1.45pm for 2pm 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 may be 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 during the season. We are also offering a series of club tournaments for members during the 2024 season and are hosting a Club Tournament for teams from around the county on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Two recent grants from the Parish Council and Mid-Suffolk District Council have helped keep our membership fees low, and our finances in good order. As well, two new benches have been sponsored by Christine Vincent in memory of Bill Vincent, and Phil, Madge and Rachel Dobson in memory of Keith Dobson – both of whom were long-standing members, and fondly remembered.

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 2024, we are holding an Open Day on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April (10am – 2pm) to attract new members. We continue to advertise in *Six Sense*, *Fress Express* and on the village website as a way of reaching out to new members.

The club 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, Ray Dorling, Elizabeth and Ray Estall, Kay Hardy, Trevor Orchard, Roger Shipp and Jeff Young.