Oakley Bowling Club

Report for the Parish Council

May 2022

Although the Bowling Club is now fully operational, we have emerged from the Covid lockdowns a lot weaker than before. The club has lost quite a few members and we are not attracting any new ones. Financially we are still viable and we are managing to achieve a surplus each year, but it may not be enough to meet the future cost of recovering the outside green when that carpet wears out. And it is unlikely that we will be able to improve the facilities at the outside green for a considerable time.

Short Mat Bowls which we play in the Village Hall, twice weekly in the winter months and one weekly in the summer months, is not as well attended as it used to be and we have not had any new members for over two years. On occasions, we have had to run some sessions at a loss.

In last year’s report, I mentioned that we are not strong administratively and I fear that this situation may worsen as I will not be standing for the club’s committee next year and we have no one who has experience of how to run an accredited Bowls Club. Currently, the club operates as a Community Club and is not affiliated to Bucks Bowls Association. One of the benefits of affiliation is that OBC would be able to play against other bowls clubs for both friendly and competitive matches, but to become affiliated, OBC would have to provide better facilities.

*Frank Ashurst*

*Chair and Secretary*