

Chairman's newsletter No. 4

The weather was kind on our silver jubilee main event, the "Hog Roast and Fun Day" held on Sunday 21st July. The feedback from members and guests has been positive and even our Treasurer is happy. Over 100 people attended on the day and took part in the many events. A big thank you to all those who helped on the day as well as those who supported the event and made donations.

Our next 25th anniversary event is the coach trip to Exmouth to play against the Maderia club on Tuesday 20 August. There may still be room on the coach for additional trippers so please see Ken Maynard for details. Please also check your name is on the list in the Pavilion with pick up details etc. Ann Boaden has kindly stepped forward to organise us on the day and hopefully entertain us on the coach.

The saga with Bristol CC rink maintenance charges continues (and probably will not be resolved quickly!!). Roger, Val and myself attended a meeting at City Hall with the Deputy Mayor in attendance where a breakdown of costs was produced. Thank you to all those members who filled in the questionnaire. The data was invaluable in preparing our reasoned arguments to the council where our written presentation was well received. As we lease our clubhouse, the cost to Begbrook would come down from the initial £18k to c.£12k. The other clubs, including Ardagh, are probably in more worrying situations for various reasons. The committee have agreed to send two "observers" to a meeting of the affected clubs arranged by Avondale. Canford have declined the invitation are going it alone. Following this we shall be arranging a meeting with Bristol CC to further our ambitions and we look forward also to hearing the results of their consultation exercise.

The irrigation system is up and running and has not hit the accounts too hard due to the self help by members and the grant from the Ibstock Enover Trust.

Finally on the bowls front, the season is now over the half way point and the internal competitions are heading towards their climax on finals day on 7th September. Please do your best to support this.

I am pleased to report the two men's teams are doing well in their respective leagues and the ladies are causing a few surprises in their higher league. Please remember to fill in your availability sheets for the friendlies.

Finally, the nights will soon begin to draw in so please support your club night on Tuesdays. If you have a friend (or even more than one! - then bring them along and let them have a try). There may even be a reward if you introduce a full member. Our thanks to Josie & Colin Smith for their sterling efforts in organising Live Wire.

John S.