

Since becoming Club President many moons ago I have had no problem in producing the Annual President's Report for the AGM. Some members have hinted that it was usually too long and drawn-out, in some cases setting the alarms on their watches for a ten to fifteen minutes snooze until I had finished!!! Well this year, because of the arrival of a New Member, Mr Covid, there is very little to report.

Looking back over the year the highlights were GHBC completing the season 'undefeated' and my winning the men's singles !! I do accept that word might not have reached everyone informing them of the date for the final. I have been told that quite a few completed competition forms have been found in Donald Trump's Whitehouse office. Anyway, with no other members around I presented myself with the trophy!!

In the real world we, like all other bowls clubs, were taken by complete surprise by this unknown virus and it became a battle to follow every instruction issued by Bowls England and HM Gov in order to participate in bowls of any description. However a combination of hard work behind the scenes and the will-power of a good number of members determined to send their woods up the green kept the club's blood flowing.

Without dwelling on the non-events of the last year I offer the club's thanks to all members who have contributed in so many ways. We are aware of the usual volunteers and some of the major tasks performed, but particularly as things are now, every offer of help from groups or individuals will be another 'brick in the wall' of returning to normal. Every single offer of help, no matter how small will benefit the club and its members.

The reopening of the clubhouse would be a highlight in the coming year, not just because we would be able to open the bar (reluctantly'!!) and reboot a social programme, but more importantly it would indicate that if it was safe to be in the enclosed space of the clubhouse then the outdoor area, particularly the green, would have been declared as 'clear to play' beforehand.

Assuming we get the clearance to 'open up' we would need to instigate a massive drive to enrol new members. A few of our bowlers are carrying injuries which will restrict playing for a short while and unfortunately some, too many, of our friends have passed away.

We are normally given the chance to remember those we have lost at the beginning of the AGM so assuming the club remains closed we will need to make an alternative arrangement. Perhaps stopping for a one minute remembrance at the time and date it would have been, wherever we are.

Finally it can and probably will be a vast improvement this coming season. Even if there are fewer clubs able to play fixtures we will have in-club competitions to keep everyone reasonably happy!!

Things may seem slightly confusing at times, if so then have a word with any of the committee, we are all on e-mail, telephone or dread to say it – Zoom. Whatever means, it's better to sort your problems rather than let them spoil your time at the club, particularly on the green.

Wishing you all the best and hoping for a bowling fiesta 2021!!!!!!

Graham.