

Lancaster Bowling League Secretary's report 2024 season

Following the formation of the new committee in January 2024, I believe the Lancaster Bowling League had a successful season.

We lost Slyne A following the team numbers decision at the last AGM but managed to gain a new Slyne C team to bolster our lower divisions.

The season ran smoothly with most clubs managing to maintain player numbers and some attracting new blood. This is critical to our bowling future and whilst it is not for me to sway anyone's decisions, decreasing the number of players in a team shouldn't be an excuse to avoid recruitment or retention of players. Janine Bebbington will make a small presentation later to encourage recruitment.

The NLFCBA along with the BCBA are looking to promote our sport more heavily and will be seeking increased membership fees to support their marketing programmes. These will be recognised in our own fees.

Much work has gone into the background of the league and how we run. This is critical as we seek funding support in the future, we have to demonstrate we run effectively and I wish to thank Julie Norcliffe for the volume of work she has undertaken to ensure we have documents and policies in place for today's world. In addition to this, Julie is progressing an initiative called Social Prescribing. This involves individuals who would benefit from some light exercise, either due to physical or emotional needs, being signposted to the league from GP surgeries etc. This stemmed from Julie's work with the indoor league but she saw the opportunity to include our league clubs as well. It's early days but let's hope this leads to our league flourishing with an influx of new players.

The sad and untimely loss of our president, David Hoyle encouraged us to ensure we delivered for you and the success of the UAL trophy, in David's memory and well hosted by Slyne BC, showed there is an appetite for competitive bowls outside the top divisions. I would also like to thank Tony Hunter for his recent support in managing the LBL Trophy but with Tony leaving the area, we now need to consider how we manage this event. It has been traditionally hosted at Parkside but I would welcome any approach from others to host.

I am delighted to announce that Bruce Alexander will take on the role of League President for the forthcoming season and as such, Quernmore will host the UAL Lower league trophy hopefully on Sat 16th August 2024.

We had the misfortune to be badly managed in regards to the presentation night and my thanks to Gill Simm for her efforts in ensuring we were able to hold our event slightly earlier than planned. We will move the date back and at present, it is hoped to hold on Friday 24th October at Skerton Liberal Club. The 2024 presentation evening was a success and we will look to follow this format.

The league management committee continues to meet at regular intervals and we post our meeting minutes on the Bowls Results website. If anyone has issues they wish to raise, then we are happy to try and assist where possible.

Thank you all for your support in 2024 and here's to a successful 2025 season.

Regards
Mark Norcliffe
Secretary