



**Bantham & Ongar Bowls Club**

# **NEWSLETTER**

**March 2016**

**Issue 83. Contact: Francis Czuba 01277 362955 Newsletter@banthamandongar.org.uk**

### **Newsletter**

The closing date for submissions to our next issue (84) is 9th July 2016

Please visit our website for our latest news, photos and to see our on-line calendar for fixture and event details on [WWW.Banthamandongar.org.uk](http://WWW.Banthamandongar.org.uk)



PS. We're also on facebook



# £54,530



**Life changing<sup>®</sup>**



**SPORT  
ENGLAND**

We've been bursting to tell you but after a fortnight of keeping mum we can finally shout it from the roof tops. We were successful in our bid to secure funding from Sport England for a replacement artificial playing surface. Yes, we are going to get a new green !!!!! It will be in place for next season (2017).

### So what happens next.....

- First we must accept the award, we are then entering into a legally binding contract with Sport England.
- There are very strict Terms & Conditions, most importantly we can only use the grant to pay to remove the old green and put down a new one. We cannot ask for more money; we have agreed to contribute £7000 partnership funding towards the total cost, this will be drawn from our green reserve fund.
- We must put the work out to tender and obtain 3 quotes. All work must be completed by 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
- We must make our best effort to deliver on our Sports development Plan and our business plan. These have previously been circulated. Sport England will monitor our efforts for 5 years after the green has been put down, we have to provide throughput numbers every six months. These are expected to increase by about 80 visits year on year.
- Delivering our plans means that we must raise sufficient income to enable us to have a green reserve of £73,112 in ten years time.
- There are also directions regarding signage, publicity and use of logos
- We have been allocated a case manager by Sport England, she is there to help us with the process should we need it.

### Francis, our chairman, says.....

I got a call from Sports England on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, as the last time they phoned me in September 2015 to tell me our first bid was unsuccessful I expected the same; but no, the caller congratulated us on an excellent bid. Apparently only one in 5 were successful, so we did really well. At last weeks committee meeting I was thanked for all my hard work and we had a glass of bubbly. I, in turn, thanked the committee, it's been a joint effort. When I became chairman, I did so because I wanted to turn things around, step 1 is getting a new green, step 2 is to increase the membership and our financial viability.

Now we have the money we still have a lot of work to do. The committee has agreed to set up two groups to see the project through, one will oversee the tendering process and ensure that all works are carried out properly; myself, Jim Heppel and others will be on that one. The other group led by Sue Czuba and Roger Minnis will organise the publicity, arrange the opening events and follow through on the sports development plan. We will be approaching club members to help out on these groups, but if you want to volunteer please let me know.

Thanks to all members for their support and for keeping the faith.

**Francis**

## Throughput and how you must help.

Sports England intend to monitor our progress by checking our attendance figures against the targets we set ourselves in our application. Attendance means visits to our green to play or roll-up. So for example on a Monday evening when the men play at home in the B & D league, there would ordinarily be 24 visits (i.e. 4 triples games); in fact on last Monday evening there were 25 visits, as John Alderson who was reserve stayed for a roll up. Last year we calculated there were 1618 visits and our projection through increased membership etc was that this figure would rise by 80-90 year on year.

We suspect that as a large number of bowling members left at the end on last season attendance will be lower rather than higher this year. We currently have 44 members and of those 36 bowl at home. We have an opportunity to alter the base line figure (1618) prior to the start of the 2017 season, and need to base it on actual visits for this season. We have therefore started monitoring the visits since this season began, Jim Heppel will be keeping records of the league and friendly games based on information supplied by our club league organisers and the captains.

**Where we need your help** is keeping a record of people playing competitions, rolling-up and coming to events played on the green (e.g Ongar Wine Circle) and open days. We have decided the easiest way for us to record such visits is to write them into the club diary on the day you play, if the club is closed then the next time you visit. The diary is on top of the chest in the entrance hall.

THANK  
YOU

Thanks go to Bruce Hopking for putting up new 'Danger' signs around the lagoon (pond); and to Geoff Hyatt for filling and tarmacing the pothole in the car park.



*You may have spotted a new 'Tubz' sweet vending machine in the club, we have taken it on trial at no cost. Give it a go, some money goes to charity but 20% of any money taken goes to the club*

## Feedback

We often try new things at the club, it would be great to get some feedback. What do you think of the new banners and padlock light on the front gate, have you used the honesty fridge?

HALL FOR HIRE

The Club House

Available to any Member

**Contact:**  
Roger Minnis  
Tel: 01992 611815

Caterer & Bar can also be arranged



Volunteers are needed for the next  
**Open Day**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
please see the noticeboard

More opportunities are coming up to help out. In the summer we hope again to host **The Ongar Wine Circle**; and confirmed again **The Barclay Charity Bike Ride** stop-over in early September.

Please support these events, they raise money for the club and help to recruit new members

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## More about the Grant

As part of the terms of our award we must publicise our good fortune, that benefits not only Sport England and the Lottery but also our club. You will see that I've attached a copy of the press release we sent out, so you might hear about us on the radio or read about us in the local press. We've also written to our local council, MP and Parish Council. We have not had replies from everyone yet but hope to, here's some that have:-

*From Sue Deluca, Clerk of North Weald Parish Council:*

**Susan Deluca**

23 May (2 days ago)

to me

Dear Francis

Congratulations on your successful award

I have passed the email and letter on to Cllr Hawkins

Kind Regards

Susan De Luca

*From Sir Eric Pickles, M.P. :*

Dear Mr. Czuba,

Sir Eric has asked me to thank you very much for your letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> May regarding the club's successful bid from Sport England's Inspired Facility Fund. This is fantastic news and Sir Eric would be delighted to attend the launch day, diary allowing.

Please convey Sir Eric's congratulations to everyone involved with the club.

Kind regards.

Karen Sheehan  
Parliamentary Assistant to  
The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP  
Tel: 020 7219 4428



**BRIDGE** We have fun but are competitive. If any member knows of a friend or neighbour interested in a weekly friendly game direct them to the Club on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Cost £2.00 per session including refreshments



**CRIBBAGE**

The Club also runs a weekly session of Crib held on Thursday mornings from 9.15am to 12 noon Cost £2.00 per session including refreshments.



**WHIST DRIVES**

The club runs, where possible, fortnightly Whist Drives. These are held on Saturday evenings from 7.30pm to 10.00pm. Details of when the Drives are held are shown on the Bar counter.



**YOGA**

Yoga sessions run by Amy Bramble who is a qualified coach are held on Friday afternoon from 12.00 noon to 1.30pm; And on Saturday 9:00 to 10:30, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for children. Details are on the Notice Board.



As well as all the above, other groups hire the club hall for other activities and these are advertised on the club notice board