

What a brilliant year we've had on and off the green

This time last year we had a tatty pavilion with very basic facilities and greens that had been neglected

Now, thanks to the hard work of a lot of people we have facilities to be proud of and much better greens to play on

We have so many people to thank, Terry and his team who have spent many hours working at the pavilion. Peter and Tilly worked really hard, including getting a grant from Active Rother and working hard to get the bar up and running. Douglas and Julian have liaised with Bexhill in getting the greens maintained and up to standard. And Julian continues to maintain the surrounds of the greens and changes the rinks round each week. And we have to thank John Crone for his work on the lease

We have shown off our new facilities at various events during the season.

It started in April when we held our opening day and the Mayor came and cut the ribbons to officially open the pavilion, he brought the town crier along with him and I'm sure everyone who was there enjoyed his speech wishing us good luck for the coming season. It was quite a spectacle.

In June we held President's day. We are proud of Peter Copper who was this year's Sussex county President and in his honour our club hosted a match followed by a lovely meal that was enjoyed by all. And once again thanks go to our brilliant band of helpers

We also had the opportunity to show off our new facilities for the Bexhill Open tournament week when we provided the food. It was hard work, and we were grateful to all those who helped but everyone was very complimentary about the food and cakes on offer and a good profit was made.

And this year we held an open mixed triples competition, 16 teams took part from Polegrove, Gildredge park, Staplecross, Sidley and Bexhill. It all went well with teams asking to be included next year as they enjoyed it so much - next year we are planning on holding the event earlier in the season, May 31st, so we hope attract some more entries.

We held a couple of social evenings of bowls cricket with refreshments and invited Bexhill to join us on the second evening which was a great success. And it was lovely sitting watching the carnival fireworks after.

Our fund raising committee have continued working hard and hold a quiz evening every month, now we have the pavilion we can continue in there over the winter. The next quiz is on November 12th so come and join in the fun

A date for your diaries is December 13th when we are planning on having a Christmas party in the pavilion.

BOWLS

At County level, the ladies continue to dominate the Sussex competitions. Rachel won the county singles, champion of champions and 2 woods and joined Nina, Lesley, Rosamund and Marie to win the senior 4s. Rosamund, Alison, Jo and Sue won the county 4s and Alice, Jo and Lyndsey won the county triples – these teams all went on to represent Sussex at Leamington in the national championships which is a fantastic achievement. The ladies also won the County top club competition for the 4th year running. Our table at the County presentation was once again filled with our silverware! And Sue, Jo and Alison have earned enough County points to be awarded their badges next year so congratulations to them. It was also great to see Polegrove represented in the unbadged competitions, hopefully we will see even more entries next year

At national level John Boon and Julian reached the last 32 in the men's foundation pairs. We also reached the last 16 in the over 60 mixed double rink after some excellent results. Rachel reached the last 16 in the mixed pairs and last 32 in champion of champions. We also had an excellent run in the club two 4s losing in the area final to Sidley.

The ladies retained their Bexhill and Hastings league title despite having two games rained off. The men had some better results but we still need the men to commit to playing the league games regularly- it's great experience

We had success in 3 open competitions this season, Terry, Tilly and June took the top spot at Parade and were awarded a huge cup. Trudy, Sandra and Bjorg won the ladies open triples at Ninfield and Terry, Gerry and Clive won our own open triples day – well done to them all

We have entertained some touring teams who have enjoyed our hospitality and it's been great to be able to offer them a drink from the bar after the game

The Tuesday evening triples league was a very close finish this year with the final places being decided on the very last game.

Triples day went well and it was good to see a lot of the newer bowlers taking part and also winning prizes

Our lovely June Pollard took her marker's assessment and is now qualified to mark at regional level – well done June, we are very proud of you

We have welcomed a lot of new members this season and it's lovely to see some of you here tonight. Next year I am hoping more of you will enter competitions and you may be picking up a trophy yourselves.

So, well done to all our hard working committee, we are all volunteers and do our best. It's been a great first season in our new pavilion so let's hope we can continue to progress and enjoy our new facilities for a long time to come