

Old Newton Carpet Bowls Club.

Chairperson :- Mrs. Christine Bullock.

Treasurer:- Mr. Tony Arnold.

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 27th APRIL 2022.

Mr. Chairman,

The game of carpet bowls has been played by members of the Old Newton Carpet Bowls Club for over forty years. It is a testament to the resolve of those members that it took a global pandemic to halt play.

For most of those forty years the Club has been a member of local leagues and played fixtures against teams from neighbouring villages in both the West and East of the county.

The last league game to be played, however, took place on 3rd March 2020. After that date, both the 2020 Summer League and the Winter League of 2020/2021 were cancelled by the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association to comply with Covid 19 restrictions.

To anyone who is not familiar with the game of Carpet Bowls it is important to explain that the requirement for 'social distancing' is impossible when as many as six people gather together within a space of about three metres square at the end of a mat, as they wait their turn to bowl.

At the time of the cessation of play in March 2020, the Club had seventeen members.

Members of the Club, however, were not going to be cowed into submission for ever, therefore, on 21st September 2021 a total of ten intrepid bowlers met to resume their pastime. League games remained impossible but 'friendly' matches were arranged to rekindle the competitive spirit. Otherwise games continue to be played amongst Club members in a very sociable atmosphere (fifty percent bowls and fifty percent catch-up gossip). New players have been recruited and the membership now stands at fourteen.

Whilst the Covid virus remains within local communities, members have decided to continue on a non-league basis. This is in common with many other Clubs, therefore, additional 'friendly' games will be organised in the future.

Tony Arnold.
Treasurer.