

**SOMERSET BOWLS ASSOCIATION  
SBA AGM REPORT - OCTOBER 2023  
MEMBER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO**

**WEBSITE**

1. The website hosting has been moved from Carn Gerrish to SiteGround. This was actioned following a review of the Carn Gerrish contract renewal terms, conditions and costs. SiteGround were then chosen on a best value for money basis are now providing web hosting services at a lower cost and improved performance along with a 24/7 support package. Since the changeover the web performance and availability has improved dramatically.
2. Many improvements have been implemented on the website some visible to end users, some effected behind the scenes so not immediately visible to the end users: -
  - a. visible user functions have been added: -
    - i. Improved Diary
    - ii. Addition of On-Line Application Forms for all Matches
    - iii. Improvements to presentation of Team Selections allowing viewing and downloading.
    - iv. Presentation of County League fixtures and results has had major revamp giving the end user a more detailed and improved presentation of related information.
    - v. Introduction of a Breaking News banner.
    - vi. Addition of the Comps Booking Portal to give users the ability to enter competitions and use a pay-on-line system for card payment and receive receipt of payments made.
  - b. Not so visible to end users:
    - i. The way we use OneDrive functionality to record and present comps has had an overhaul resulting in major reduction of the Comp Sec effort.
    - ii. Various software module additions that improve the way the website is structured and maintained or enable the new functionality discussed above. Suffice to say these, albeit at a cost, improve the performance and ease the maintenance activities necessary to update and maintain the website.
    - iii. The compilation and collection of County League related data has been totally redesigned and restructured. Special thanks to Craig Doughty for this effort.
    - iv. Design work has been completed and a Competitions Portal created to allow on-line entry and collection of payment for County & National applications and collect other Club related fees such as Fear Cup, Turnbull and County League etc. This successfully launched 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2023 ahead of the projected planned date of 2024/2025.
    - v. Notwithstanding the above there has been a major effort expended performing “under the bonnet” activities in reviewing and making changes to how the website is organised and managed. Suffice to say several changes and additions have been implemented and tweaks, changes and a bit of fettling has undertaken to improve the website engine performance!
3. A final note to thank all those who use the website and to those who provide feedback, input, inspiration and ideas to make the website what it is today. We start a new season soon, so we go again!

**MEMBER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO TEAM INPUTS**

**ARCHIVING**

Objective – A watching/advisory brief.  
Ed Hopegood (Bristol BC) fills this post.

Thank you Ed for your input in performing this task.

Ed continues to operate the archiving in the background, silently and relentlessly gathering the related archive data and filing it away. A tedious but necessary job. Thank you, Ed!

### **LUNCHEON SECRETARY**

Objective – A watching/advisory brief.

Don Bridges heads up the organisation of this annual event.

The 2023 Event was formally launched Don Bridges again in the hot seat. It has again been necessary to increase the price to £29.99 per person this year due to the usual inflationary increases imposed by retailers etc but notwithstanding that ticket sales progress well as I type this report. We could always benefit from more attendees. Again, as usual Don working hard getting the luncheon organised and in place so we can enjoy ourselves and celebrate the moment. Thank you, Don, for your tireless and expert input.

### **PRESIDENTS' TOURS**

Objective – A watching/advisory brief.

For 2024 – the prospective Presidents for 2024 Mixed tour to Cyprus has been well supported and numbers who have applied and paid to date are 24.

### **GREENS ADVISOR**

Objective – A watching/advisory brief.

Martin Tibbs occupies the post.

Martin has been approached by some Clubs and provided advisory assistance and in some cases visited Clubs. He has asked to remind Clubs he is there to assist, all that is needed is an initial contact with him to get the ball (bowl?) rolling. Thank you, Martin, for the help you generously give.

Bob Dickie – Oct 2023.

SBA MWP