

SOMERSET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING; NOV - 2021

MEMBER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

WEBSITE

During the first part of (what would normally be) the playing season much time was spent attempting to support Board Members – principally Competitions and Match Secretaries, in tracking the myriad of date and schedule changes being impacted by Covid-related issues. Then match details firmed up with consequent increased activity in posting and amending Team, Competition and Match details. OneDrive was fully populated with Competition and Championship draws.

The usual seasonal team and match reporting began in earnest in July as second-half-of-season play schedules took off. No news was good news for the use of the OneDrive containing Competition and Championship draws - no reports of snags or mis-operation this year! Later in the season there was a high level of activity reporting Somerset fortunes at 2021 Leamington Championships. Great to see our delightful Amy Rose team gracing the BE website Home Page.

Lowlight is recent (12th Sept) complete loss of service for our website due to our Host Company's Server being demolished by a massive ransom cyber attack. We were advised that recovery action for the Server (and hence our website) could be a long time coming. We, with the superb assistance of Carn-Gerrish Creative, devised a back-up (simplified) version of our website, which went LIVE on 15th Sept 2021 on an alternative Server. Funding for this activity by Carn-Gerrish came within the scope of our EXISTING WEBSITE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT. I'm still awaiting my reward in Heaven (or from Andrew)! As usual, our Hon. Sec. provided great help to me during this tricky situation. The contents of this temporary website were progressively back-filled in essential areas only. We have most recently taken the decision to bring this version up to a more-or-less fully functional capability, again with the superb support of Carn-Gerrish Creative – following the conclusion that the resolution of the cyber attack could still be many month away. An enhanced two-pronged back-up regime for the website code/data has also been devised.

A review is due to be undertaken through the closed-season on the future role of an SBA website alongside the Social Media opportunities from our Facebook account and other similar sources.

ARCHIVING

Very recently we have been fortunate to receive an approach from a superb candidate volunteering as our new Archiving Officer.

LUNCHEON AND PRESENTATION EVENT

Following a review of the prospects and risks for this event this year, it was decided to launch the Luncheon with a £25 ticket price, a clear target of AT LEAST 200 paying guests, and a detailed review of the scope of the free lunches we offer to special guests. On that subject we hear that the BE Principal Guest this year will be President Paul Robson with his partner. Don Bridges reports recently that we now have some 260+ bookings for the Luncheon.

PRESIDENTS' TOURS

Objective – A watching/advisory brief.

For 2022 – next year's Presidents have proposed a Tour centred in Wales. Numbers carried forward from previous years' bookings give good foundation for this event.

For 2023 – the proposal from 2023 Presidents-in-waiting for a Mixed UK tour to Hampshire is now well developed with hotel and match schedules identified. Feasibility is being kept under review but some sort of “return to normal life” is very much hoped for by then.

GREENS ADVISOR

Nothing to report this period. Our most eminent County Greens Advisor remains poised to provide advice and support to any and all clubs where requested.

Ken Leamon – Nov 2021