Men's Section

Benevolent Fund
Charity Registration
215632

This years report is a snapshot of this year and 2023, against a backdrop of the austerity and increased cost of living rises which have affected everyone.

As well as Club donations, the Mens' Benevolent Fund also depends on special events and matches held throughout the County. Year-on year, we have seen a 60% reduction in income from these events, with the majority of missing funds due to the demise of the Greenwood Cup which last year contributed circa 15% of the events donations. The Benevolent Fund Committee would like to thank all those who remain involved in these events and help raise monies for the Fund.

Despite the economic conditions, Club donations were level with 2023 and it is encouraging to note that 46 clubs donated this year versus 23 last year. This suggests a positive impact for the Benevolent Fund with Clubs using the Bowls Leicestershire M.A.T.C.H. system.

As you know, the Benevolent Fund is a Registered Charity and we don't receive funding or donations from any other sources than the Counties bowls clubs and affiliated associations. Therefore, the support of all the bowls clubs within the Leicestershire County, who are affiliated to Bowls Leicestershire, is essential.

In line with The Charity Commission guidelines, the Benevolent Fund would like to ask that clubs consider donating £2 for each male bowler affiliated to Bowls Leicestershire. This remains at the same level as last year, despite the increased costs in postage and administration.Equally, the Benevolent Fund Committee do not claim any personal expenses for attending meetings and administering the fund and carry out their roles on a purely voluntary basis.

Last year 70% of nominees were granted awards. This year, to date, 90% of nominees were granted. A clear view that the revised nomination criteria for 2024 has had a positive effect.

The clearer, simplified nomination criteria introduced in 2024, will therefore remain unchanged for 2025.

Nominations are considered/reviewed against the following criteria:

1. Male bowlers who are currently incapacitated and to whom an award would be a sign of their Clubs' support.
   Individuals can be nominated for a maximum of two years in total, in this category.
2. Male bowlers who are no longer able to bowl due to sickness or long term ill health and to whom a cash grant would be helpful as opposed to a gift.
   Individuals can be nominated only once within this category.
3. Widows of full members who have passed away during the current calendar year.

Nominations should be sent the Fund Secretary at blbenevfundsec@yahoo.com

Throughout 2024, where possible we have tried to make awards more personal. This has involved sending a gift rather than the One4All gift card. I know from letters of thanks from recipients these have been well received. So, when making your nominations please include any information about the nominees other interests or hobbies, so that we can select an appropriate gift.

For those of you bowling indoors, I wish you a successful season and the Committee look forward to working with you next year.

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Report details correct as at 31st October 2024