

FLEET SOCIAL CLUB

MENS CAPTAINS REPORT

AGM 19th FEBRUARY 2022

It was rather a late surprise taking on the role of captain last February – I hope I have served to your satisfaction. As many of you know I have many other interests I am involved in as well as bowls which does divert my time, but thanks to the support of the committee and many other members I believe we have had a very successful season.

Looking at our most important asset the Green. Mike W has led our work with the ongoing maintenance and liaison with outside contractors and I would like to thank him for all his work. The green is not perfect, but we are, I believe seeing gradual improvements – bearing in mind the particularly challenging weather conditions last summer. Our main problem is the fox and bird damage which we continue to explore solutions for. With increased membership we will continue from time to time play across the green to even out wear and tear as we did this season.

Its is our Green and I would just ask members to please put down mats when weather conditions or bowler's actions merit protecting the green, continue to look after our equipment as it does cost to mend/replace and ensure all doors are locked up when you are last to leave the green.

I would like to thank the mowing team and the swishers, and those who regularly maintained, painted, and repaired as needed, as well as everyone who came along to support the pre-season and post-season work party weekends. Indeed, the support and camaraderie on these two weekends was probably the highlight of my year.

On the playing side we enjoyed our friendlies and by just having a drink and crisps did not detract from the overall experience of the matches. Thank you to all the captains of the day – this does seem to work and share the workload. We played 14 matches with a record of 7 wins and 7 losses, 2 were cancelled due to weather – and on top we did beat Kirkby our touring visitors.

We held a very successful open weekend and as a result we have had many new members join which has been great – all of them integrating into the club so well. Welcome to all. I would like to thank everyone who made this event so successful from planning, preparing, leaflet dropping and helping over the weekend.

On top of the bowling activity Ben has led some fantastic social events over the year and kept us all in touch with events held over the winter. These events also add to our coffers so if you can please come along in 2023. Many thanks Ben and all those who helped make these such enjoyable occasions.

I would like to thank all the committee for their support, everyone works hard to make the club a success but I would like to particularly thank Maggie for the tremendous amount of work she undertakes, usually behind the scenes to keep everything going so smoothly.

When I took on the role, I did seek a vice captain and Steve P kindly stepped up to undertake this informal role. Thanks Steve, your support across a wide range of activities in the club from work around the green, captaining matches and generally being around has been fantastic.

Time does not permit me to thank everyone personally for what they have done for the club this season so another big thank you – you know what you've done, and it is really appreciated by all the members.

Looking towards the 2023 season it will be a momentous year as we celebrate our centenary. Celebration matches and events are being arranged so let's make it a memorable year.

Many people have already stepped up to the mark to take on roles for 2023, many thanks to you all. I do think it would be sensible for us as a club to review the structure of club roles as with a growing membership we need to ensure we deliver for all our members in a seamless manner. I also think it would be sensible to build a longer-term succession plan to ensure we have people ready and willing to step into roles if needed.

Here's to a great 2023.

LEAGUE MATCHES

Aldershot & District

With both teams gaining promotion in 2022 we achieved our aim of staying in the new higher divisions albeit it went to the last game of the season for the B team. With a large number of newer bowlers I think we can be proud of what was achieved, and with the experience gained boding well for 2023.

The A team finished 5th of 8 in Division 1 – winning 7 losing 7, the B team finished 6th of 8 in Division 2, winning 5 losing 9.

Thanks to all those who captained matches and to the selection panel of Ben, Mike G and Jeff – the latter who led our administration so well.

All matches will start at 6.30 p.m. in 2023, with only 18 ends this gives more time for players who work to get to games. You may also see some ladies playing as the league have ruled they could play – basically after a plea from clubs who are struggling to field full teams at times.

Stan Hardman

We were of course so sad at the loss of Roger P during the season. Roger had taken on the running of the team successfully and as it became obvious his health was deteriorating he still continued organising everything and playing right up to the last few weeks of his life. He will be greatly missed – a real gentleman.

These very enjoyable Thursday afternoon matches will continue in 2023.