

Dear members,

December 2018 update – IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CATERING

Further to my previous announcement regarding the catering operation I can now confirm that Rowena will be leaving the club on December 21st. I am sure that all members will join with me in wishing Rowena well for the future and thanking her for the culinary delights delivered over many years.

Consequently from December 22nd the catering function will be operated under a separate limited company, for operational reasons, and new menus and ideas will be progressively introduced from early January with the intention of further improving the offering for the benefit of members and visitors. Sarah will be managing the restaurant operation capably supported by Rachel.

Please continue to support the restaurant and events that will be staged over the coming year. The first of these events will be a New Year's Eve function where a Caribbean themed menu will be laid on along with a disco to raise the roof and to welcome in the New Year loudly. Entry will be free but, for the delicious food, tickets at £25 need to be bought in advance from the bar so please support the club and come along to make the event a roaring success.

NOVEMBER RESULTS

The club's financial results for November, excluding non operational aspects, showed an improvement over the results for November 2017 and, marginally, our forecast for November 2018. This continued positive performance further strengthens the results for the whole year and it is now certain that the club will see a financial surplus for the year once non operational aspects are excluded such as the costs of erecting the new grounds building. This turnaround in the club's financial performance should be celebrated loudly especially when we consider that back in March we had serious concerns that the club was heading for a significant deficit this year. However we have to remain cautious and maintain our momentum with attracting new members and continuing to grow our club numbers. The volunteer programme behind the bar has been a major contributor in delivering the improved financial results and without the help of the volunteers, the cancellation of the cleaning contract and the four new Life members who joined the club this year we would still be looking at a financial deficit for the year.

I have to issue a huge "SHOUT OUT" to all of our volunteers who have contributed so much this year to the club across many areas of the club from behind the bar, those supporting the club by undertaking cleaning, work on the course, work on the bowls green and surrounding areas, numerous contractors who carry out professional works such as electrical, plumbing, carpeting, health and safety etc. etc. who look after the club at very preferential prices. Without the efforts of our volunteers the club would be a lesser place and, financially, be substantially worse off.

BAR CONTRACT

In October we took the decision to renew the brewery contract with our current supplier, Greene King. This followed a lengthy costing exercise where we considered the prices and offerings from four suppliers and part of the new agreement includes for a comprehensive update to the cellar and bar pumps with the work scheduled for early January.

FLAT

Members are likely to be aware that we have installed a new tenant in the old stewards flat which brings in additional revenues for the club as well as improving the building's security. Quite a few members helped with the carpeting and decoration of the flat so I would like to take this opportunity to express the club's appreciation for their efforts.

NEW GROUNDS BUILDING AND BUGGY RANCH

I am very pleased to report that the new grounds building is up and Neil and his team have already started moving in. There are still some works to be undertaken which will be ongoing over the next few months. We are now looking to finalise the siting and design of the buggy ranch and members will be updated in the New Year when further details are available.

OPENING HOURS AND EVENTS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

We are planning to open the bar every day over the Christmas and New Year period for at least a few hours and will aim to remain open while there are members on site. So please pop in for a chat whenever.

The Christmas draw is scheduled for this coming Saturday evening and it should be a memorable event with the membership and general draw being run – music and song has been arranged and food is available but this needs to be booked in advance. Please come and support the event.

We are having “a bit of a do” on New Years Eve with food and music – there is no charge for the event itself but if you would like to have the food being provided by Sarah there is a charge and tickets need to be purchased in advance so, again, please come along and support the event.

Judith will be in the office between Christmas and New Year for any office related matters and paying your 2019 subscriptions. If Judith is not available then payment can be made in either the bar or pro shop. But please bring your invoice with you.

FISHING

With the work largely complete on the new grounds building we thought it opportune to offer members the chance to fish the reservoir – if any members are interested please contact Neil but we need to make it clear that no fishing points have been constructed and any members will need to sign an undertaking that they absolve the club of all risks.

Regards

Richard Coles

On behalf of the Management Board