



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 – August 2023

Welcome to your first 51 Petanque Club Newsletter - in which we wish to bring you the latest news about the Club and provide details of upcoming events. Subsequent Club Newsletters will be published as and when necessary but normally no less frequent than bi-monthly

## NEW TOILET FACILITIES

Given the expanding number of Club members, the Club embarked earlier this year on plans to improve and upgrade the current toilet facilities. The aim being to provide a pair of purpose built toilets with hot/cold handwashing that are connected to a new sewage treatment plant.

We have already been given full Planning Permission for the upgrade, and are currently in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals from the Environment Agency and the Buildings Regulations Department of Breckland Council.



In order to provide the new toilets, a significant amount of financial investment is required. The Club tried to obtain a Grant from Breckland Council under their Breckland Inspiring Communities Fund 2022/23 scheme, but as we had not received the Planning Permission at the time of our Application, our submission was withdrawn from the final assessment panel. As the Council currently does not have a similar scheme for 2023/2024 we have had to look elsewhere for funding.

An application was then made to the National Lottery for funding, and whilst on paper we met all the “key aims” requirements for the Application to proceed, we were turned down on the basis that we were “not offering any benefit to the wider community and in particular to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups”.

We therefore find that we now have to look for other ways of raising the required funds (estimated total £13 to £14K). So far we have raised from Club events enough to purchase the toilet block - £5,850 (see picture) and this is currently in store at Ray Beales barn. But we still need to buy the Sewage Treatment Plant, associated plumbing and electrical materials, and fund the necessary installation groundworks.

The Club now wishes to reach out to you the Membership to seek your feedback on possible ways of raising money – you may know of; possible sponsorship sources, Community Grant Schemes, community spirited benefactors etc. and if you do can you PLEASE let the Committee know.

As a possible early boost to our funds the Committee has initially scoped a suggestion that membership are asked to pay their next 3 years subscriptions in one lump sum – your views and feedback on this would be very much welcomed. (If agreed by all this could potentially land an early windfall of circa £3.54K).

In the meantime, the Club is continuing with it’s programme of fundraising events (see details below). Members are requested to forward any other fundraising ideas to the Committee; ideally these should be ‘low-risk’ to the club that not involve hefty upfront costs



## THE CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES

For those of you who have been up to the terrain in the last few weeks you will have seen a noticeable change in the appearance of the Club's buildings.

In order to extend and maximise the use of the Clubhouse, the Scorer's Hut and the storage shed, the time had come when major preservation work was required on these buildings. Each was subjected to a full sanding back to sound material, two coats of universal sealer/primer, and two coats of green (Club colours) topcoat. Whilst somewhat costly at a time when the toilet project is in need of funds, this preservation work should now last for at least the next 10 years.

Our grateful thanks go out to the core maintenance team of Ed Andrews, John Brierley, Billie and Roger Jackson, and Peter Joyce, who gave up their time to undertake this essential work.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September** – Autumn Intra-Club Pairs Melee. Do come along for another day of good fun with other club members. The barbeque will be available at lunchtime. Please get your names in to Mark to ensure your place.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October** – 51 Petanque Club Open Melee. We will be expecting a number of our friends from other clubs at this event. The barbeque will be available at lunchtime. Please get your names in to Mark to ensure your place.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** – Bingo. Do come along to the Village Hall for an evening of good fun and excellent prizes. Doors open at 18:45hrs and eyes down at 19:30hrs. "Pat's Bar" will also be open for this event.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** – Christmas Party. Following the great success of the last two years we will again be holding our Club Christmas Party in the Village Hall. Claudine and her team of ladies will be cooking up another self-serve gourmet selection of foods, and there will be bottles of wine on your tables. Please make sure you have this important date in your diaries, and get your names in to Claudine/Mandy to secure your tables.

**Beetle Drive** – please watch this space for details of a forthcoming Beetle Drive – good fun for old and young alike!

## COMMITTEE POSITIONS

As advised at the Club's last AGM, the current Secretary and Treasurer will be retiring at the next AGM. We wish to extend our most grateful thanks to Claudine and Andy for their invaluable contribution over their years of service to the Club.

We are therefore looking for volunteers to put themselves forward for election to these important positions on the Club's Committee for 2024 onwards. Please give your serious consideration to this request – this is a great opportunity to become a member of the Management Team of our thriving and widely respected Club. A brief Job Description/Terms of Reference for both positions will be published shortly.

Please put your name/s forward asap to the Secretary by email at:- [petanqueclub51@outlook.com](mailto:petanqueclub51@outlook.com)