

Open Letter to Members 26/8/2025

We are about to start the 2025/2026 Winter Season which brings together outdoor Clubs from all over South Wales. South Wales Bowls and Recreation Centre (SWBRC) is the umbrella name for Sully Bowls Foundation who run the Bowling side of the Stadium, and Extra End who provide, not only an excellent hospitality service, but also encourage visitors to join, either as full Bowling members, Social members or Pétanque members.

As with all Recreation Centres, your membership fee allows you generous discounts on bowling rinks, hot beverages, drinks and food. Depending on usage, the discount savings can pay for your membership charges within months, offering members a clear financial benefit.

Sully Bowls Foundation (SBF) are responsible for the running of the Stadium and are a registered Charity. The management team are made up of unpaid Trustees who are TOTALLY responsible to the Charity Commission, both fundamentally and financially. As per Charity Commission regulations, new Trustees are elected by existing Trustees to ensure they can work together for the benefit of SBF. Any decisions made MUST be the sole decision of Trustees and not that of volunteers or individual members.

Unfortunately, every year we get certain individuals who try and impose their views on other members, by verbally abusing Trustees and belittling the work they are trying to do. Fortunately, the VAST majority of members take very little notice and are only interested in playing Bowls or socialising in warm, pleasant surroundings. However, for Trustees, these little outbursts are very time consuming, mostly irrelevant and often totally unnecessary. The Trustees are always available, via email, to answer any constructive suggestions made by members, but negative incitement of members will no longer be tolerated, and anyone found to be persistently causing problems will have their membership rescinded. So, if as a member you totally disagree with the way the Stadium is run, then please feel free to join somewhere else and let other members make the most of what SWBRC has to offer and enjoy the Winter season.

Now for the good news. Having weathered the massive energy hike and financial crisis, we have now emerged in a far stronger position. Despite rising costs, all Bowling charges will remain the same. We have enhanced the Coffee area for the benefit of members and rearranged storage facilities to help streamline both Stadium and Extra End operations. We are all aware that we need a new roof on the Stadium, but that is the responsibility of our landlords who do not have the funds at the moment, and as Trustees we are continually pushing for a replacement so there is no point in certain individuals consistently bringing up the subject. What we have achieved is their immediate response, weather permitting, to repairing any leaks that do appear.

The Stadium carpet is due to be replaced in the next couple of years and there is already an amount of money 'ring fenced' to pay for this enhancement to ensure the continuous operation of SBF for the benefit of members. It is essential therefore, that the Trustees continue to push for a new roof prior to the Green's refurbishment.

Administration wise, this is our busiest two-month period, registering returning members and new members applications. It is also a very busy time organising Winter Leagues and Competitions, so your prompt return of league registration forms is essential.

Whilst we are now financially sound, we do need to spend money wisely and effectively and there are several plans in place for the enhancement of the Stadium over the next couple of years. We have invested in a new computer as the other one was donkey's years old and had run out of Microsoft support. This will greatly enhance our administration duties which again are operated by unpaid volunteers. To make returning membership easier, you can now register and pay on-line www.sullyindoorbowls.com The new website will also give you a host of useful information as the season progresses.

We hope you will thoroughly enjoy your bowling and socialising at SWBRC but if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Trustees