

DOLPHIN INDOOR BOWLS CLUB



CELEBRATE 35 YEARS

MARCH 1985 TO MARCH 2020

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In this our 35th ANNIVERSARY YEAR it is a privilege and an honour to be your Chairman. It makes me proud to be in my position with such a flourishing and forward-thinking club.



After reading the 25th anniversary commemorative booklet, which my father published 10 years ago, I thought it would be a good idea to recreate an updated version of it. Well, here it is, and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Since I became a member of the Dolphin in 2011 and following in the footsteps of my father, Ron Porter, it has never ceased to amaze me the dedication and love of bowls the members have at our wonderful club. I hope this continues for many years to come.

Over the years the Dolphin has seen many changes, hopefully all for the better. With the improvements that have been made over the past few years and the friendly atmosphere within the Club it must make us the most healthy and progressive Members Club in the South of England if not the whole Country.

We have been able to retain Membership numbers due to the wonderful facilities we have, and this has been achieved by the dedicated work of many volunteers and staff we have.

The Dolphin has enjoyed considerable success over the years in National and County Competitions, in both Ladies, Men's and Junior events.

We have many volunteer members to thank for our continued success, far too many to mention individually, but without these hard-working members the Dolphin would not be where we are today. I thank you all for your continuing support and help.

Since starting to write this commemorative booklet we have been hit with the coronavirus pandemic and the Dolphin is currently closed for bowling. Myself and our Board members are working hard in preparation for the re-opening later this year, but I can assure you all the club will return stronger when we do so.

I wish the Dolphin and its members every success in the future.

Happy Bowling and stay well.

David Porter
Chairman 2019/2020

THE BIRTH OF THE DOLPHIN INDOOR BOWLS CLUB + 35 YEARS

By Ron Porter (2010) and updated by David Porter (2020)

It all began on December 9th, 1982 when four enthusiastic outdoor bowlers (Jim King, Ron Porter, Ray Harmsworth and Cyril Taylor) got together and dreamt of building an Indoor facility to accommodate the people of Poole and the surrounding area. The nearest indoor green, at this time, was at Christchurch some 12 miles away. Owing to the size of the project planned the size of the Committee was increased and became known as the 'Steering Committee'.

The Steering Committee met regularly in the old pavilion at Wimborne Bowls Club, subsequently moving to the Railway Hotel, Broadstone. After outstaying their welcome they moved to the Coach and Horses in Wimborne.



W.Clements R.Porter R.Broome A.Taberner D.Martin
R.Harmsworth G.Eyers A.Shipton R.Lovell J.King P.Wren

A six-rink facility was planned, and the committee were determined that the speed of the green would be the same as a fast outdoor green and that adequate car parking space was important.

Officers of Poole Borough Council were very helpful in suggesting sites, which soon became very difficult and for various reasons four suggested sites were rejected. One of these being empty land opposite the Railway Hotel in Broadstone, which was not big enough for any expansion. Of course, today this site is occupied by Broadstone Sports Centre.

The lack of land became very depressing for the Steering Committee, as it looked then that no suitable sites were available. However, the Council Officers finally came up with the suggestion of a site at Fleetsbridge, which was then a field, but had been earmarked for a sports activity. This was quickly accepted, and various covenants had to be resolved before building commenced.



The new Dolphin site before building commenced

Another picture before the Dolphin was built. This was taken looking towards Waterloo Road and the Wessex Water houses can just be seen in the distance.



Where it all began, the start of the Dolphin Indoor Bowls Club. Jim King, our first Chairman and other Officials observe the Mayor digging the first foundations prior to the commencement of building.



The foundations of the Dolphin underway in 1984

Estimates were established and it was estimated that the building would cost in the region of £275,000 plus £30,000 for carpet and furniture etc, and with no such thing as lottery grants in those days the question of finance became a very big issue.

Poole Council offered a loan of £100,000, together with a grant of £20,000 and various other smaller grants were available, but the main contribution had to come from bowlers themselves. It was decided by the Steering Committee that a total of 450 bowlers had to come forward before the project could go ahead. To raise the finance each prospective member had to provide an interest free loan of £150 or £250 for a couple, but there was no guarantee that their money would be returned to them if the project failed. Meetings at Outdoor Bowling Clubs were arranged to explain the situation and to encourage bowlers to support the project. Some 400 bowlers did so, but it soon became apparent that a number were sitting on the fence and would join as soon as the building commenced, so a rallying cry went out “Do not sit on the fence – become a Founder Member” In the end a benefactor came forward and guaranteed the extra money required. The 400 Members who gave their £150 & £250 became known as “FOUNDER MEMBERS”.

The building works commenced in 1984.



Members joining after the building was completed were asked to pay a £100 Joining Fee, which is the current joining fee today.

All members loans were subsequently returned in the fullness of time.



How the Dolphin looked in 1985

The six-rink complex was completed in March 1985 and the Constitution and Limited Company was formed with a Management Committee being responsible for running the Company and with a Men's and Ladies Committee all being elected annually. The Club officially opened on the 30th March 1985 and the first friendly match was against West Cornwall Indoor Bowls Club, which took place the following day on the 31st March 1985. Although West Cornwall IBC no longer exists, they continued touring the Bournemouth area and only stopped a couple of years ago.

The membership quickly grew and soon reached 700 members and by 1994 a waiting list of 300 existed even though the six rinks had been turned into seven. So, it was decided that it was necessary to build an extension of four rinks to accommodate the members on the waiting list. The extension was completed in 1995, together with an additional viewing area, toilets etc, and the car parking spaces increased to 159 spaces. The membership was increased to between 950 and 1000.

In 1995 enough land was acquired from the Council to build an outdoor six rink facility at the rear of the Club. Planning permission was sought and remains in force today should the Club decide to have this facility in the future.

In 2008 it was decided that a revamp of the bowls area was necessary and a figure of £150,000 was set aside by the Management Committee for this, which consisted of all new lighting, dropped ceilings, replacement playing carpet, heating and air conditioning.



In 2017 a further revamp was authorised by the Management Committee whereupon the lower lounge, bar, restaurant and viewing areas were upgraded. The walls between the restaurant and lounge were demolished making a combined area which is now light and airy.

Building the new bar in September 2017



In 2019 the top lounge was completed complementing the lower lounge with its furniture and chairs.



In 2020 new 'Over-head' cameras were installed on Rinks 9 and 10 with two viewing monitors in the upper lounge. Spectators are now able to view 'the heads' at both ends of the rinks. We believe this to be a first in all UK indoor bowls clubs.

All these improvements have made the Dolphin Indoor Bowls Club a leading Club not only for the winter season but also for the ever-increasing number who now choose to bowl indoors in the summer.

Selection of Photographs taken 35 Years on



A TRIBUTE TO RON PORTER

One of the main reasons why the Dolphin Indoor Bowls Club exists today is because of Ron Porter who served the Club with distinction from its inception in 1982 until his death in February 2016 at the age of 87. He served the Club in many official roles but mainly as Club Secretary and League Secretary. He was extremely proud of our Club and would always remind members of the following statement:



“THE DOLPHIN IS CONSIDERED TO BE A VERY HAPPY CLUB, GIVING A LOT OF PLEASURE, ENJOYMENT AND FRIENDSHIP TO ITS MEMBERS. IT IS RUN BY MEMBERS FOR MEMBERS AND LONG MAY IT CONTINUE.

I CONSIDER THAT THE SUCCESS OF ANY CLUB IS WITH ITS VERY STRONG VOLUNTEER CONTINGENT, WHO WILL WILLINGLY GIVE THEIR TIME AND EXPERIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS”.

In March 2010, in the 25th Anniversary edition booklet my father, Ron Porter wrote:

“It has been a great honour for me to be involved in the organisation and the running of the Dolphin over these 25 years. Above all I shall always be very grateful for all those Members and Friends who have given their time and experience in helping me with my duties as Chairman, Secretary and League Secretary. I hope that I have been able to repay some of the great times and enjoyment that I have had from playing this wonderful sport of ours over some 47 years”.

A wonderful sentiment for us all to follow.

As we move into the next era of the Dolphin Indoor Bowls Club, I am convinced the next generation of bowlers will continue to serve the Club and respect all those that have served before them.



Rinks 8 to 11 were named after Ron Porter following his death in February 2016. A fitting tribute to “Mr Dolphin”.

David Porter
Club Chairman
March 2020

MEMBERSHIP

We are very proud of our membership and this is mainly due to the “OPEN DAYS” which have been held since 2001. These are held in September and January of each year, and prospective members who have not played bowls before, are encouraged to join the five-week coaching course. After this, the players are given the opportunity of joining as full members if they are sure the game of bowls is for them. The Joining Fee of £100 is payable at this point

together with the appropriate annual subscription. However, there is an option to split the £100 joining fee into 4 x £25 amounts, this is payable with their annual subscription in September of each year.

Since the introduction of “OPEN DAYS” in 2001, literally hundreds if not thousands have successfully joined the Club and have been fully integrated into all the various activities of the Club and some are now on Committees and many are now volunteering to do duties.

None of this could have been possible without the devotion and expertise of the Coaches and their helpers. **“THE DOLPHIN CANNOT THANK THEM ENOUGH”**



Derek and Ann Warner, our Head Coaches who work tirelessly coaching and introducing new bowlers into the Dolphin. A great team effort.

After joining, Members are encouraged to further participate in joining a Novice League and take part in “Spoons Drives”, which are held twice a week in the winter season and once in the summer season. This way we have found that most members soon join in the normal activities of the Club.



New Members being coached at the Dolphin, February 2020.

JUNIOR SECTION

The Dolphin is proud of its Junior Section, which accepts children between the ages of 8 and 18. They are given appropriate instructions by Qualified Coaches and helpers on Saturday mornings under the guidance of Penny Cresswell. This has become known as the Saturday morning club.

When writing a review of 35 years it is very difficult to pick out any one person's achievements without offending someone. However, I would like to congratulate all those Juniors that have achieved success both at Club, County and International level. We are very proud of you.

A big thank you must go to all the Coaches and Helpers who give up their time on a Saturday morning, and also the parents and grandparents who give their support.



A picture of our Juniors in the early 2000's. Do you recognise anyone? The late Ron Jeffery in the background together with a young-looking Andy Paulley.

ADMINISTRATION

The running of the Club has changed over the past few years with the introduction of a Club Manager, Reception Staff and League Secretary. We are very lucky to have a superb set of staff who are both dedicated and committed to the Club.

Club Manager – Ken Joy



Ken is now starting his second year at the helm having taken over from yours truly in January 2019. Ken has taken to the task with a great deal of enthusiasm and expertise using his background of management to a high level. Ken took up bowls some 4 years ago having attended one of our Open Days and went through the coaching and novice process. He brings a great deal of Professionalism to the Dolphin and has adapted to his new role extremely well. Ken is a fully qualified physiotherapist and indeed still runs a physiotherapy training business. Ken is a member of Branksome Park outdoor bowls club and his hobbies include all sports.

Receptionist and Admin Officer – Eve Darlow



Eve Darlow joined the Dolphin as a Receptionist some 5 years ago having succeeded Wendy Taylor who had been employed at the Club for over 30 years. A hard act to follow but Eve achieved this within a very short space of time and has become a firm favourite with all members. Eve has recorded all the minutes at Board meetings and kept the records immaculately correct. Besides her duties as receptionist she also runs the club shop, keeping the stock levels up to date and making orders where necessary.

Receptionist and League Secretary – Brian Hobby



Brian Hobby joined the Dolphin as an employee some 4 years ago and his role as a receptionist has expanded ever since. His role as League Secretary is getting bigger by the day and his organisational skills on the Bowlr management System is exceptional. He deals with all internal leagues and makes sure all Club matches are dealt with correctly. Brian fills this role with a great deal of enthusiasm and a vital cog in an ever-increasing wheel. Brian is a very accomplished bowler himself together with his wife and son Anthony.

Receptionist – Lynn Shearman



Lynn Shearman joined the Dolphin as a part-time receptionist some 3 years ago upon her retirement as a manager at HSBC in Broadstone. A valued member of staff who uses her smile to charm our members. Lynn also took up the game of bowls having gone through the coaching process. It's good to see Lynn has now returned to playing after an operation on her back.

The Dolphin Cleaning Ladies



Our cleaning ladies, Sarah Kenway, Sarah Wells and Claire Collins keep the Dolphin in prime condition and visitors have expressed many



times how clean the Dolphin looks, not forgetting the hoovering of the bowls carpet (not an easy operation). On visits by Dales, it is often been expressed that our carpets have lasted longer than anyone else's because of the care and attention in keeping them clean. Management and Members express there thanks to you for all your hard work and devotion.

The Dolphin Bar Steward – Doug Bennett



Doug Bennett has been with the Dolphin for many years and runs our bar, coffee and snacks machine. Doug's duties include keeping the bar well stocked, stewarding during the evenings and weekends and locking up at the end of play.

The Dolphin Restaurant



Our Restaurant franchise is currently under the control of Sam Curtis and Phil who is our chef. They have been at the Club since September 2019 and have made a great impact on our members. Great food and personal service is the order of the day so why not give it a try.

2019/2020 BOARD MEMBERS

In March 2014 the rules of the Club were rewritten and approved by both the Members and the Financial Conduct Authority. The previous rules of the Club had stood the Club in good stead and had lasted since 1985 when they were written by my father.

However, in our ever-changing world it is now necessary to rewrite the rules again. The ethos of the Club has changed over the past few years with more employees and together with fewer volunteers the Club has had to look at other ways of running the Club. To this extent the Board feel it is necessary to change the rules regarding the administration and make-up of the Club. The bowling side of the Club will remain unchanged and run by its members.

It is extremely important the Club continues to be run by its members, and this will not change. The Board members do a fantastic job and will remain in control with employees reporting to the Board and Chairman.

On the administration side, the Club has seen massive change over the past decade and if we maintain a strong and stable Board the Club will continue to thrive. All Board members are doing a great job, but more volunteers will be required in the future to continue the good work already being done.

Chairman – David Porter



David has been our Chairman since 2019 having previously been Club Manager between 2011 and 2019.

Vice Chairman – Alan Hardy



Alan has many years of experience within a variety of Board positions including Vice Chairman and Chairman. He currently has a responsibility for Finance.

Board Members



Brian Collins – Internal Playing



Chris Whiteside – President



Billy McLeod – Buildings



Carol Swale – Communications

The Club Manager and League Secretary sit on the Board but do not have any voting rights due to being employees.

A Few Memories of Days Gone By at the Dolphin



Doug Bennett behind the 'old bar' serving the late Bob Plasted with his favourite 'tipple'.

How the lower lounge used to look before the refurbishment in 2017/2018.



LADIES UNBADGED PAIRS WINNERS 2008/2009



Sally Williams

Penny Cresswell

Penny Cresswell and Sally Williams have both gone on to represent their Country. Well done to both.



VIVIENNE TROPHY WINNERS
1999
at LAWSON PARK L.B.C. - SATURDAY 20th MARCH 1999



Ladies National Fours Champions 2019
(Sally Williams, Penny Cresswell, Julie Leake & Ann Warner)



Yetton Trophy Team 1992/93
 Doris Sheppard Thelma Green Joan Eales Jean Chudley Olive Freeman Phyl Russell
 Ruth Peters Iris Porter Marion Porter Judy Wibley Josie Cutler Eileen Fletcher Ruby Owen Nancy Bennet
 Jean Collier Joyce Smith Pearl Walters Joyce Banks Janet Davidson Joan Woodward Jo Henwood
Secretary President Competition Secretary Captain



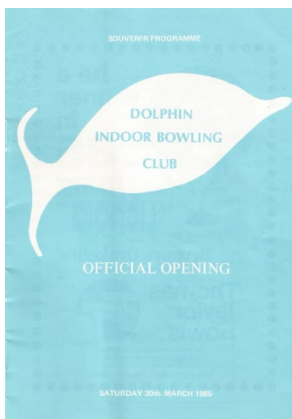
Dolphin Ladies Presentation 1993/1994



**Dolphin Sunlife Wessex Team
1993**

THE OFFICIAL OPENING SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 30th MARCH 1985



Pages from the Official Opening Programme

**A MESSAGE FROM THE
COMPANY CHAIRMAN
AND MEN'S PRESIDENT**

THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WERE APPOINTED
TO SERVE FOR TWO YEARS

COMPANY MANAGEMENT

CHAIRMAN
J.KING

VICE CHAIRMAN
R.L.PORTER

SECRETARY
MISS P.WREN M.B.E.

TREASURER
W.CLEMENTS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
R.BROOME R.HARMSWORTH R.LOVELL
D.MARTIN T.TEBENER
G.EYERS (Co-opted)

MENS SECTION

LADIES SECTION

PRESIDENT
J.KING

PRESIDENT
MRS. A. SHIPTON

VICE PRESIDENT
J.ANDERSON

VICE PRESIDENT
MRS. V. DALE

SECRETARY
J.PAYNE

SECRETARY
MRS. P.WALTERS

CAPTAIN
R.L.PORTER

CAPTAIN
MRS. J. EDROFF

MATCH SECRETARY
H.ROSTRON

MATCH SECRETARY
MRS. M. BAXTER

COMPETITION SECRETARY
D.MARTIN

COMPETITION SECRETARY
MRS. I. ELLORY

LEAGUE SECRETARY
O.HARVEY

LEAGUE SECRETARY
MRS. J. HARVEY

Fellow Bowlers and Friends,

The completion of the Dolphin Indoor Bowls Green is due to many people belonging to or associated with - Poole Borough Council, The Sports Council, The Dorset Playing Fields Association, The Builder Tern Southern Limited, Bass Western Limited and the most important contributors, five hundred plus Bowlers who have formed the club. Thank you.

The Sterling Committee for this project, of which I have had the great privilege of being Chairman, has done an enormous amount of work in a most professional way. Despite some major setbacks, the Committee always rose above the problem with smiles. It has been a most pleasant experience to be associated with them. The Club, Dorset County and Poole Borough owe them all a great debt of gratitude.

The Club is now open and it is you, the Member, who will ensure its success. Support your officers, play the game and let us make the name Dolphin, synonymous with not only keen competition, but also a friendliness that we may all be proud of.

May we all enjoy the fellowship of Bowlers for many years.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES KING

Company Chairman and
Men's Section President

As you can see from the message of our very first Chairman, we have embraced all that he said in his address.

As we move forward, and new members join the Dolphin sometimes we tend to forget how our wonderful club was born. As a result, I hope I have given you all an insight into the birth of the Dolphin and the subsequent work that continues to be done. I do hope you have enjoyed reading this booklet and let's hope the next 35 years is as successful as the first.

Enjoy your bowls and best wishes,

David Porter