



Men's Section



Benevolent Fund
Charity Registration
215632

Benevolent Fund Secretary's Annual Report 2022

The Fund Committee saw changes in its membership in late 2021. Due to members stepping down, there were vacancies for a Trustee/Treasurer and Secretary. October 2021 saw the Trustees appoint Andy Ward to the position of Trustee/Treasurer and Debra Hardwick to the role of Secretary.

During the last 12 months the Committee reviewed the Fund Constitution and its related criteria for the nomination of awards from this Charitable fund.

The Fund very much focused on awarding gifts around Christmas. The new Committee felt it was appropriate that the Fund should be open to nominations all year round, so that gift awards could be made at the time an event occurred, rather than some months afterwards. To that end the Committee now meets on a quarterly basis, instead of once a year.

The pandemic had a seriously adverse affect on the Fund as donations dropped to near zero. As a Charity, the Fund can only operate through donations received, especially from the Counties affiliated Clubs. Although we have enjoyed playing a full season of bowls and competitions through the 2022 outdoor season, unfortunately club donations have been at a very low level. Despite this, last year the Fund awarded gifts to 98 people, 4 more than the previous year. Resulting in expenditure greater than income.

A huge thank you to those clubs who donated or hosted fundraising events for the Fund, without you the Fund would not have operated fully in 2022. However, only 33% of Clubs donated to the Fund in 2022 and of those the majority of donations were £25 or less. Clearly this is not a sustainable situation. If we are to continue awarding gifts to your members, when there is a need to recognise, reassure or support them, we need to see stronger support from you for 2023.



Support Our Support

Earlier this year the Committee developed its own website. Whilst still mentioned on the Bowls Leicestershire website, it was felt we could impart more information about the Fund via its own site. I would encourage you to have a look at the website, which will give you useful information for your Committees and your members. Also look out for the newly added page - Recognition Awards - this is a new category of award that has recently been introduced. There are some criteria that only allow a certain number of nominations per individual within a given timeframe, but you may have a club member, who through some activity, deserves further recognition. Equally there may be some instances where a gift or monetary award may not be appropriate, so this provides an alternative option.



Debra Hardwick
Benevolent Fund, Men's Section, Secretary
blbowlsbenevsec@outlook.com
www.bowlsleicestershirebenevolentfund.co.uk

Trustees - Bob Welborn, George Sim, Terry Whiteside,
Trustee & Treasurer - Andy Ward, Secretary - Debra Hardwick.