

CHEPSTOW BOWLING CLUB
PRESENTATION TO PETER RALPH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
POSITION OF HONORARY PRESIDENT

14th October 2020



I would like to welcome you all to Peter Ralph's Presentation to mark his retirement from the position of Honorary President. It is regrettable that this presentation is at the Bowling Club, outside on the terrace rather than at the Presentation Evening at the Chepstow Athletic Club. The ongoing Coronavirus is likely to impact on 2021 so it would not have been appropriate to delay until next year. In some ways it is fitting to be here today because as you know Peter has dedicated a lot of his time to the Club during his tenure as President and, also, for many years before that.

Peter, because of the need for restrictions to gatherings and for social distancing, we have had to restrict the number of persons present today. Dave King contacted David Phillips who was the former Honorary President of the Welsh Indoor Bowls Association and who has become a close friend of yours. He was very keen to make the presentation today but living in Swansea he is under lockdown as you know. He is disappointed not to be here but will contact you separately. Ian McCrone and Elizabeth McCrone were also invited but unable to attend because they are shielding. Past and present Management Committee members are present here today and, also Mary Shapland who will succeed you as the Honorary President.

Peter, you have been a long-standing Member of Chepstow Bowling Club, I believe you joined in 1986. Soon, you were elected to the Management Committee and you were a relatively young man. In 2006 you were elected as President, amounting to a term of fifteen years. During the years that you have served the club so diligently, you have embarked upon many projects which we all now take for granted. You became the Building Maintenance Manager and Chairman of Club's Green Management Committee. Over time, you got involved, managed, and oversaw the following building developments and improvements. These are not in any particular order.

- Bricked up two large windows that faced the Tennis Courts and installed the notice boards.
- Fitted a new roof on the building that existed at that time.
- Converted the front sloping garden area into the paved patio area, that we are congregating on today.
- Built the canopy over the patio and subsequently re-roofing it.
- Converted the old ladies changing room into the drinks serving, storage facility and the workshop to the rear.
- Installed new kitchen units, new front window and bricked up the side window.
- Maintained and ran the Green sprinkler system.
- Extended the original building to provide new toilet facilities and the ladies changing room.
- Refurbished the entire building throughout. New ceiling and lighting in the reception room, new front Door, carpets, and redecoration internally and externally.

As Chairman of the Green Management Committee you got involved in and managed the care and maintenance work of the Green. You were a Member of the Ground Management Committee for 12 or so years.

The projects that I have detailed are only a fraction of the work done by you, Peter, on our behalf and on behalf of past members. We are very appreciative of the facilities that we enjoy today, that allows us to host County events, as well as having facilities that we can be proud of when we entertain away teams and visitors. It is a far cry from what existed when you joined the Club in 1986.

As well as the direct benefits that have accrued from Peter's commitment to the Club, there are also Peter's achievements on a national and even a global stage. These need to be mentioned because it adds prestige to our Club. David Phillips would have made a statement to detail this but nevertheless I am grateful to David for what he has provided to enable me to summarise for you Peter's bowling endeavours outside the Club.

Welsh Indoor Bowls Association (WIBA)

Competition Secretary 2002 - 2011.

League Secretary 2011-2014.

Made a Life Member for services to Welsh indoor bowls in 2014.

Continues to be the Association's Website coordinator after eighteen years.

World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC)

Delegate & Executive Committee Member from 2007 - 2018

Website coordinator & real time scorer from 2007 to the present

British Isles Indoor Bowls Council (BIIBC)

Webmaster and real time scorer since 2017 up to the present

Welsh Umpires Association

Qualified Umpire

Monmouthshire Bowling Association

Monmouthshire Area Representative 2004 to 2012

Chairman 2014 -2015

Peter also served on the Umpires Panel for several years, training and testing prospective new umpires

You officiated at National, International and World levels for many years, including being a member of the World Bowls Tour T.V. Umpires panel.

Peter is a modest person so not many people at the Club realise the extent of Peter's achievements in the past and ongoing. I am sure that we have all benefitted from your advice over the years.

I would now like to make the presentation to Peter of a whisky decanter, glasses, a bottle of whisky and a thank you card digitally signed by all members. The decanter is inscribed; 'To Peter for Outstanding Services to Chepstow Bowling Club 1986 – 2020'.

Philip Jarman

Chairman