Many thanks to all of our sponsors, grant providers and supporters

GRANTS & LOANS 2005 – 2014

⇒ As part of the 30 year lease agreement parachutes payments were made to the club from Caradon Council to the amount of £11,000 spread over 4 years starting in 2006

⇒ A grant of £4,000 was provided by Torpoint Council also spread over 4 years from 2006

⇒ In 2006 £500 was granted by Co-op Community fund to purchase a secure container for our new machinery

⇒ £15,000 was borrowed from Bowls England to finish off the extension

⇒ A new kitchen was supplied in 2011 by Howdens of Saltash free of charge to us as a registered charity

⇒ 2013, £500 was kindly awarded by the Town Mayor from his funds to tidy up the ditch ends with AstroTurf

⇒ 2014, £940 was awarded by Cornwall Community Foundation to purchase a new Verde Medium Mat for the Short Mat team

Special Thanks

No club can provide good food and hospitality without lady members and the our ladies always rise to the occasion and provide excellent food. They are an indispensable part of the club and deserve a special mention.
Early History

There has been a bowling club at Torpoint since 1924. Prior to this, the site was occupied over a period of 300 years by three houses. The last, called Thanckes House was demolished in 1911 and moved block by block to Portwrinkle where it is now The Whitsand Bay Hotel.

In 1923 a local businessman, Mr White got together with other business men in Torpoint and paid to have the green laid and a clubhouse (the Round House) built. It was eventually taken over by Torpoint Town Council and then Caradon Council. The club closed during the war and re-opened in 1949 with 54 members. In 1964 Caradon Council demolished the Round House and erected a new club house (two joined prefabs). 1976 saw members add a small front-facing extension. The bar was added in 1986, enabling members and visiting teams to enjoy a drink and bring in much-needed revenue.

Transition to a Private Club

In 2005 Caradon Council informed us at a meeting to accept a 30-year lease as a private club or face closure. Club members voted unanimously to take on the lease and save a much-needed facility. Members took on the upkeep of both the club house and green in the summer of 2006, with the lease being signed in November 2006. The lease was straightforward, with an initial annual rent of £100 p/a. Caradon helped the transition to private club in the form of parachute payments spread over 4 years (£3.5k, £3k, £2.5k and £2k). Thanks to Councillor Eric Parkin, £4k was also granted by Torpoint Council spread over 4 years. £4k was also granted by Bowls Cornwall to buy specialist equipment for green maintenance.

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The Bowing Green

The green is maintained to a high standard by a committee, ably assisted by our own green keepers. Over the years between £15k and £20k has been spent on modern green maintenance equipment. A secure storage container for equipment was obtained at a cost of just over £1k with a grant of £500 from the Co-op Community Fund. Recent purchases include new pushers and sets of lightweight aluminium steps generously funded by a member to allow easy access to the green. Under the guidance of a first-rate green committee, these efforts have resulted in a green maintained to a very high standard.

Registered Charity Status

With advice from the then club secretary Len Hawke, members voted to apply to become a registered charity. After many hours of research and after several setbacks the secretary finalised a Constitution and the club became a registered charity in 2007 (number 1112132). We adhere strictly to the Constitution and do not discriminate against age, race, gender etc. The three trustees ensure that all meetings and the running of are in line with the Constitution, club rules and the members wishes. As part of the lease and Constitution we remain open to members of the public.

Club Improvements

From 1986 to 2005, the club remained virtually unchanged, but since the club became private in 2005/06, the club has seen many new improvements. Most prominent is the full-width club extension. Improvements have been made to the bar area including chiller cabinets and an automatic glass washer. Grants have enabled installation of a new water heater in the kitchen as well as new tables and chairs (with a matching tea/dinner service. The ladies dressing room and toilets have been re-decorated and new carpets laid.

The Club Extension

Prior to the building of the new extension, the club was mostly unused during the winter, being too small to host many functions. In 2009 under advice of the then secretary, Len Hawke it was decided to investigate options for building a large extension across the whole frontage to double the size of the club house.

Plans were drawn up and planning permission was granted in early 2010 with an estimated build cost of £39k. Grants to help fund the build were obtained from Viridor Credits (£20k), SITA Cornwall Trust (£15k) and the Co-op Community Fund (£1k). A loan of £15k was also secured from Bowls England.

Building started late 2010, continuing through the terrible winter. Total costs reached £51k due to extra expenditure on footings and levelling the club floor. Thanks to the Building Committee and hard work of Club Secretary acting as site agent, the extension was certified and completed in early 2011.

The Club in its 90th Year

Torpoint Bowling Club has evolved greatly in its 90 years, with much improved facilities. The club now comprises a good size club house with much improved amenities to facilitate its main activity of Lawn Bowls alongside Short Mat Bowls, League Skittles and many other social/entertainment events. We have a green which is as good as any in Cornwall. Club membership stands steady at around 60 members.

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