



Unsung Hero of the Year

Nominee

Name of Nominee: Nigel Warren
County: Leicestershire
Club: Wycliffe Bowls Club

Why do you feel this person deserves to be recognised for their contribution as an Unsung Hero?

Nigel Warren – Wycliffe Bowls Clubman extraordinaire!

Nigel has held a number posts within our club, being a qualified bowls coach and previously he has acted as our safeguarding officer. Today, and for the last few years, he holds the post of Treasurer on the club committee. Whilst he works tirelessly to get that extra pound of savings for all our club needs, he is far from being just our 'bean counter'. In the last twelve months especially, he has shown us all what true dedication means and hence, on behalf of the other members of our committee, I nominate him for the 'Unsung Hero' award.

Primarily, Nigel is a people person, with time for all whether it be in the club or networking with other clubs, helping to put our club well and truly on the Leicestershire map. He has been instrumental in increasing club membership through the running of our 'Try Bowls Open Day' where he has been able to coach and encourage new bowlers. When there is work to be done at the club, he is there at the outset and through the project, liaising with construction staff, electricians and other trades people to ensure that we get a good job every time. This year alone he has supervised the upgrade to our club house lighting system and smoke alarm system. He has even rolled his sleeves up to attend to our broken/blocked toilet system and on another occasion, been found litter picking on our carpark.

However, probably his biggest asset to the club is in his strategic thinking and in this regard, he has made two very significant contributions this year:

- firstly, our key asset is our green and during the course of this playing season we lost the services of our greenkeeper. Whilst some panicked, Nigel took control and without any loss of playing time, he formed a team from the membership to take on the work. Training was organised through our equipment and chemicals suppliers and we now have a group able to keep us playing on a quality green for 2023 and beyond.
 - Secondly, having recognised the need to boost revenues and to give members an out-of-season activity, he persuaded the Committee that it would be a good idea to build a petanque terrain. This was completed during the summer and we now have a 10 piste petanque terrain which is being utilised and enjoyed by club members, local community groups like the WI and the U3A, East Midlands Petanque as well as Petanque England.
- In conclusion, I suggest he really is a super unsung hero who deserves recognition.

Tell us more about the person you nominated.

Nigel has the day-to-day pressures of running his own business whilst being a dedicated family man, caring for two elderly mums as well as supporting his own immediate family. Despite this, he spends an inordinate amount of time in and around the club as I have outlined above, offering his time to go with steadfast encouragement and guidance to all.

As well as his energetic approach, he has an eye for the aesthetic and the environment. He brought into the club a dovecote, paid from his own money, and a set of composite benches made from recycled material which he managed to get others to sponsor; both



these now adorn the surrounds of the green and make for a very pleasant bowling experience.

Over last few years he has been instrumental in keeping us safe through the Covid period through signage and sanitizer. Being computer savvy, he has been able to take our club towards the 21st Century through his efforts establishing and maintaining the club website and Facebook page. Even for those who don't have access to the internet, he is not averse to posting out messages to keep all members informed.

All along, his main objective is to safeguard the future of our club, to make things low maintenance and easy for future generations.

The diversity of what he can turn his skill set seems unlimited and he is a true asset to the club – it is clear that the future of Wycliffe Bowls Club is his passion.

We may say 'thank you' and 'well done' but we would like to see his efforts recognised formally in the bowls community at large.