



**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR SOCIAL CLUB AND TRUST AGMs
WEDNESDAY 11TH AUGUST 2021**

I decided to amalgamate the two reports as it is easier to do so rather than repeat myself! As you all know, the club was forced to close in March 2020 because of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Little did we know how long it would remain closed with the subsequent loss of revenue? The previous club chairman, Fred, resigned because of ill health as did his wife Yvonne who had been responsible for keeping the club clean. Many members dropped off also and did not renew subscriptions. Those that had renewed before March 2020 did not receive much benefit from their subscription small though it is.

In July with the prospect of being allowed to reopen looming as the pandemic appeared to be lessening, a meeting was held at the club and a new committee formed with me as Chairman. A message in support had been received from HRH the Duke of Cambridge. Peter Harris took over as Treasurer once more. We offered a reduced membership fee of £2.50 once the club reopened to tempt members back. A short programme of events was agreed with some trepidation not knowing if we could reopen fully or not. Various members came forward to offer help and a volunteer bar Rota was drawn up. Martin Chomistek agreed to be cellar manager and did a course through High Tech Training which the club funded for a cellar manager's certificate. Martin (and Jane his partner) have proved a godsend. They keep the cellar and bar stocked and up to date and Martin uses his contacts to get the best prices for us. A cleaner was appointed (Sheridan Biggs) who had cleaned for us before.

Discussions were held to make the club Covid secure and various notices and direction signs were obtained and a Track and Trace book opened together with a QR code. Hand sanitisers, antiseptic wipes, floor markers and a box of masks were ordered. The chimney sweep was organised and also repaired the wood burner. It was agreed the club would reopen on the 7th August and would open Friday evening and Saturday lunch time. Karen M agreed to organise a regular bingo session, film nights were booked and George King (who sadly died earlier this year) agreed to organise a music night. The AGM was to be held in October 2020 and a Quiz night date was set. Robert Fox and his men cleared away a lot of the undergrowth round the car park and sheds and it was noted that a lot of wood had been stolen from the wood shed over several months. Dale (Karen M's partner) and Joe Melhado undertook to make the wood store secure, mend the veranda posts and paint them and also repaired the 3 bench picnic seats. Joe also redid the window boxes and agreed to provide hanging baskets. Dale is the club handyman and keeps the grass cut and strimmed, cleans out gutters and generally does small jobs around the club house.

Darts were cancelled and will not resume until September 2021 and all bowls matches were also cancelled. Sincere thanks to Phil Williamson who has kept the bowls green in good order and was able to resume play in May 2021.

We were able to meet through August and September but then a second wave of the pandemic struck and we were all locked down again and had to close. Norfolk was put into Tier 2 and all our planned events down to Christmas were cancelled. We managed to hold committee meetings on Zoom and I went over to the club every week to check all was ok and no leaks developing. Sheridan our cleaner had her hours reduced to one hour per week to keep on top of the cleaning. (The spiders do seem to like our club house!). Eventually we ended up in Tier 4 with no prospect of reopening for several months. We started to receive grants from the Borough Council which have helped the club's finances and the Trust suggested waiving the rent the social club pays for 3 months – again a great help. Christmas and New Year was pretty much ruined for everyone.

We reopened again on the 21st May 2021 although all through the winter maintenance jobs continued to be done in and around the club under Covid rules. The Gable End was repaired by the Estate and looks really good. A leak in the disabled toilet was repaired by Joe Melhado and Peter replaced a toilet seat in the ladies. The electrician repaired two emergency lights which should have been done in 2018 and also got the Gents loo flushing again. The next big job is to get the club redecorated inside and for that 3 quotations will be needed. A path from the back door to the front of the club was suggested to avoid any risk of slippage on wet grass and also to comply with Equality laws as we do have some members who are disabled but as yet, no further quotes have been received.

Enquiries had been received about wedding receptions being held at the club. Unfortunately, one was sadly cancelled as the bride decided to postpone her wedding, the club was provisionally booked for another reception on the 10th July but because of the rule of 6 still being in force – the government having put off “freedom day” for another month – the bride and groom decided to hold the reception in their garden as they needed to all sit down together.

We have had an oil delivery and the monitor in the kitchen is up and running. Paul Nederpal and his son serviced the oil boiler which had sprung a leak and had seized up and got it running again. Paul’s son (Marcus) has also finished plumbing in the glass washer which is now working and draining properly.

A list of future events was prepared although the BBQ planned for 26th June had to be postponed to 31st July because of putting back “freedom day”. Fortunately, pretty well everyone who had booked for the 26th June rebooked for the 31st July including two new members. A number of events are in the plans for the rest of the year including a Children’s Xmas party on the 18th December with Santa Claus and hopefully, 2 reindeer. Numbers will be restricted due to the club fire regulations and so as not to spook the reindeer. Santa Claus is booked to attend during what is a busy time for him! Speciality Foods is doing the Pie and Mash for us on the 21st August (pre booking required) and film nights, quizzes and bingo have been booked.

The opening lines of A Tale of Two Cities says:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness. That just about sums up the last 18 months. Sincere thanks to everyone for helping to keep the club going and to our volunteer bar persons without whom the club could not open at all.

Dorothy

Chairman, Anmer Club

29th July 2021

Footnote: The BBQ on the 31st July was a great success with 45 members attending, some bringing raffle prizes (thanks to Karen M for organising the raffle and selling tickets). Over £200 was taken on the bar to include lunchtime and approximately £61 on the raffle. 2 new members attended and 3 new members were signed up on the day. The weather was gorgeous and didn’t let us down. Thanks to those who helped – Teresa, Kevin and Karen on the bar, David doing the BBQ, Judith Cook (non-member) helping with the clearing up and washing up with Peter H. A really good afternoon.