

- 15.5 TOTE All members **MUST** support the Tote. Any members selling tote will receive 10% commission or free subscriptions at the Management Committee's discretion, payable at the end of the financial year, subject to available funds.

History and Information of the Raven Bowling Club Tote

When the Raven was first started we had fund raising policy with a 100 Club this was where every member bought at least one number at a cost of 50p on a regular weekly basis this was mandatory. The money raised helped to provide some of the facilities and playing surface we now enjoy.

Our membership has changed over the years and the 100 Club lost its regular status.

When Jim Beddoe (Jimbo) was maintaining our green and surrounds virtually every day, he was always looking at ways to get money for the essential tools & materials he needed for the green. Jimbo found a football team who was prepared to let us join their tote and a few members had regular goes which paid the Raven some commission. Luckily the amount grew until Jimbo proposed to manage and run a Raven Tote. We took on board the need for a gaming licence and a regular Sunday evening Tote night was created with many people helping to run and collect money including Rod Millar Jean Beddoe, Arthur Parsloe, Mo & Wally Bowles to name a few.

The Raven Tote has proved very successful, a huge amount of money has been raised with the majority of the money being spent on the green, surrounds, paths, fences, pavilions, floodlights mowers with many other tools and equipment. It has allowed a very large subsidy in the Bowling Clubs Subscriptions and given us a playing surface and facilities that are the envy of many clubs.

Jimbo also proposed a system where we could encourage members to collect as much as possible and we set up a method to reward collectors for the huge amounts of money collected. We provided 10% which if £100 was paid in provided £10 in commission as a thank you. In later years the committee added the bonus of subscriptions being paid for the following year provided they had collected a minimum of £80 with 10% paid on the remaining collections which is reviewed every year by the committee. This helped increase the collections and the payout to attract new collectors and retain our membership. It encouraged many members to pay for their subs in advance through tote collecting.

Jimbo retired from the green maintenance and running of the tote after a few stupid (ex) members made comments of the running of the club finances even questioning the price of cucumbers as the price changed every week! Jimbo took great exception to these false accusations and unfortunately for the bowling club we lost his valuable services but we had a legacy that we could build on.

Brian Christie took over the running of the tote and by a system that I can only describe as magical managed to keep the fund raising going for a many years. The amounts of money raised grew especially with the huge amount collected by John Waite (Waity). Brian was also supported for a number of years by Ron Perry.

As Brian's commitments changed we have had the support of Keith Randall, Ryan Nestor and Jennie Isaac. Sadly with members moving away and the passing away of Waity the amount now collected has fallen but we are currently supported by the Raven Darts Team and Brook Meadow Darts team who pay in around £1000 per year.

It takes a lot of effort to run the tote, not just the half hour on a Sunday afternoon but also with the collecting, banking, checking, calculations & payouts, auditing, reporting dealing with the local authority to mention a few.

The collections of the tote provides much of the money needed to run the club If it were to stop its estimated the subscriptions would need to rise in the region of £20 to £25 per member up to £65 each and maybe to consider eliminating the concessions we provide for our retired and younger members.

It's difficult to compare our subscriptions with other clubs as facilities arrangements with pub management differ from club to club I know there are some who are lucky and have their expenses paid or food provided and some who receive donations & legacies from wills or families who want their loved ones remembered. At the Raven there seems to be the same ole faces working around the green and behind the scenes to allow us to play bowls, Its really necessary to remember that without the tote the green maintenance & surrounds would suffer and we would not be able to provide the facilities or cover the expenses of the hard working few that put in extra effort for the benefit of the club.

We have been asked to explain why a concession member needs to collect £80 worth of tote to cover their subscriptions out of the £80 collected £40 is paid out in prize money there is also costs to consider for printing, licences tote committee expenses including stationary. You also get the chance to win your money back!

The Raven Bowls Club subscriptions 2010 are £40 per member.

The subscriptions provide members the facilities of the bowling club and green for around £5 per MONTH! Where else can you get such a bargain?

We currently offer a discount to certain members as described in club rules.

It seems some people are asking to make profit from the discount. It should be remembered that the collections are to run the club the nominal difference in commission between a life member on free subscriptions and a full paying member would only be £8 if just £80 is collected at the rate of 10%. There is no proposal to change the rules for tote commission the Management Committee will continue to apply their discretion with the payment when possible.

It took a while for Ryan Nestor to establish his system but we are now in a position where the tote figures for 2008 & 2009 are agreed and accurate. Once again we need a new tote officer, for good reason (to support his wife) Ryan wants to hand over the tote to another.