

WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB

News Bulletin 94 August 2026



A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Oxfordshire vs The Rest of the World match last weekend. In addition to 48 players on the green (and some of our newest members – welcome!!), we were also supported by a number of spectators, who enjoyed the sight of Oxfordshire winning the trophy yet again..... Special thanks to all who donated raffle prizes, Susan and Eileen who coordinated the tea, and Margaret and helpers behind the bar. All funds raised on the day will be going to Witney's own breast cancer charity – Witney in Pink. So far this year we have raised £825 and it is hoped that we'll crack the £1000 mark by the end of September.

Our club also hosted a highly successful Oxfordshire Mixed friendly match against Bristol City and County on 4 August. As reported on our county's website, "....Overall the county won 100-78 and both teams were very pleased with the home club's hospitality and particularly the excellent dinner cooked by Brian Bloomfield and helpers."



President Gary (retaining the trophy) and Captain Chris

Monday Outdoor Triples League

Wickers and Glancers have joined Meercats at the top of the league after this week's matches on 19 points, followed by Try Again, Cruisers and CeeBees on 18 points. All to play for going into the final weeks of the season!.

Tuesday Turn Up and Play League

Phil H is currently at the top of the TAP league, only 4 points ahead of Bill M, closely followed by Rosemary and Brian W.

Friendly vs South Oxford

The friendly against South Oxford on Sunday 13th September is a mixed friendly not a Men's friendly as wrongly stated on the availability sheet in the clubhouse. (Apologies from Captain Chris for the confusion)

Men's League

The men's Oxfordshire Bowls League has now completed the fixtures for this season. Congratulations to the A Team, who finished second in Division 3 behind Headington B, and are awaiting confirmation that they will be promoted to League 2 next season. The B team finished third in Division 4, just three points behind second place finishers Woodstock. From winning no matches in 2025 to winning 9 in 2026 is a fantastic transformation. Well done to players and captains of both teams. A special thank you to Roy, who is stepping down as Men's Captain.

Ladies League

Witney Town Rubies completed their league season in 4th place in Division 1 behind Banbury Central, and the Sapphires finished third in Division 2 behind Oxford City and County. Congratulations to the players and team coordinators Pauline and Caroline for managing to field two ladies teams for the first time this year.

Cougars, Panthers and Tigers Mixed League Teams

The Panthers finished their season in 6th place, guaranteeing their place in Division 1 next year. The Tigers are currently leading Division 2 with the Cougars in 4th place, with a game in hand.

County and National Competitions

Congratulations to all club members who took part in the county competitions this year. A huge thank you to our three teams who proudly represented our club at the county semifinals several weeks ago - Pauline, Jean, Mavis and Barbara in the ladies triples and fours, and Brian S, Micky, Alan and Fabrizio in the men's fours. Martin L was defeated in the semi final of the Longford Cup. The Ladies lost narrowly to Banbury Borough in the semifinal of the County Top Club competition.

Club Competitions

Derek Adams Memorial Trophy

The Derek Adams Memorial Trophy takes place this year on Monday 31st August, commencing at 1:00 p.m. Currently, we have approximately 20 entrants, but more are very welcome to join in. We can accommodate 36.

Key features of this competition are:

- Three-wood triples.
- ALL players maintain their own personal scorecard for the day.
- Play is in 3 sessions of 40 minutes each.
- Triples teams are drawn for every session.
- The individual trophy winner is the player with the highest cumulative score at the end of the day.
- The day is rounded-off with refreshments.
- £3.50 entry fee (includes refreshments).
- £2.50 for spectators who want to join the tea.

The sign-up sheet for this competition is on the notice board at the club. Alternatively, just ring or email John Milsom (01993 670467, jmilsomfalcon@gmail.com).

Yardstick Competition

The last of our summer on-the-day club competition is the “Yardstick” which takes place on Sunday 6th September, commencing at 1:00 p.m. Now is the time to enter!

All new and newish players, in particular, are encouraged to take part.

This is an interesting format which will make a change from more standard play. The key points:

- 3-wood triples.
- Players will be drawn into teams for the afternoon. Each team will have 3 timed matches of 40 minutes against other teams in their group. A final will be played between the two group winners.
- When the jack is delivered it is centred and the starting position marked by a coin. If the jack is moved during the end, it is returned to its original position. When the end is completed, all woods within 1 yard of the jack will count as a point.
- If a jack is knocked out of play then 5 points are awarded to the opposition.
- Refreshments will be tea and biscuits provided during the course of the afternoon.

The sign-up sheet can be found on the notice board to the left of the kitchen door. Alternatively, entrants can register by emailing me on jmilsomfalcon@gmail.com .

Club Finals

The Club Finals will be taking place over Friday evening 28th to Sunday evening 30th August. John is working with the various finalists to create a schedule that is acceptable to everyone. He will distribute the schedule to all club members as soon as it is finalised. Please come along to support the finalists as they compete for silverware.

An extra feature of this year’s finals weekend will be an exhibition match between bowlers from our Juniors Section and a team of “more mature” players. This game is scheduled for the Saturday morning at 10:00.

2027 Finals Weekend

If you like to plan your holidays well ahead and you intend to enter next summer’s club competitions, then please be aware the 2027 club finals will be taking place on **Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th September. This continues to align our calendar with Bowls England’s standardized weeks of the year.**

Indoor Short Mat Season

The short mat season will begin on 21 September, with rollups scheduled for Mondays and Fridays. A printed fixture list will be available at the end of September. Entries are being accepted for teams wishing to participate in the Witney Town Wednesday Short Mat Triples League – entries must be received by 6 September. The first matches will be played on 30 September.

Upcoming Social Events

- Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 14 November. Help will be needed!!
- 28 November – a social event, to be announced shortly
- Christmas Lunch Party and Christmas Prize Draw – Sunday 13 December

Committee Notices

- A reminder that bowls taken from the club storage cabinet are club property and should be returned to the correct place after play – PLEASE do not take them home.
- Please do not park in the Fernleigh retirement village car park next door – parking is private for residents and their visitors only.
- The latest order of new club shirts has arrived and will be kept in the storeroom. There will be three boxes; one box reserved with names of those who have pre-ordered on the posted list, and two others (men's and women's sizes). There will be a sheet in each box where you can add your name when you take a shirt. As soon as you take a shirt, please pay the £15.00 and please inform Robert when you have done so - robert.spriggins@btinternet.com.
- A reminder that your help will be greatly appreciated in clearing up after matches – wiping tables, doing the washing up, and helping with glassware behind the bar.

100 Club July Winners

1st Prize £100	Lyn Cooper
2nd Prize £80	Dave Hoesli
3rd Prize £50	Caroline Bloomfield
4th Prize £40	Caroline Bloomfield
5th Prize £30	Maggie Hinton