

WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB

News Bulletin 95
September 2026



COMPETITIONS SPECIAL!!!!

Looking back over my summary of last year's club finals weekend, I could be forgiven a strong sense of déjà vu - "After a summer of hot, fine weather, of course it was inevitable that our finals weekend was graced with almost enough rain to overturn the hosepipe ban!"

Despite the challenging weather, spectators were rewarded with some fine bowling and closely contested matches. A huge congratulations to all the winners, and to those who fell at the last hurdle while giving their all. And special thanks to competitions secretary John Milsom who helped ensure the weekend came off as smoothly as could be expected. And a final note – to all the spectators who came out in all weathers to support the players, and markers and officials – thank you very much!!!



Club Champion
Caroline Bloomfield



Men's Singles
Harold Jerred



Ladies Singles
Anita Grantham



Mixed Pairs
John and Lesley Milsom



Men's Pairs
Gary Panons and Mike Jones



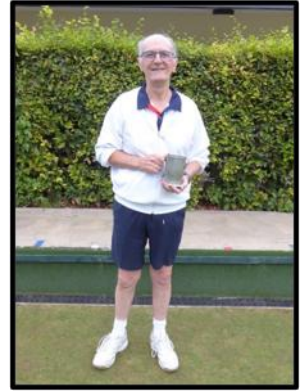
Ladies Pairs
Jean Smith, Mavis Hale



Ladies Handicap Singles
Jean Smith



Men's Handicap Singles
Steve Cleaver



Men's Two Wood
John Milsom



Ladies Two Wood
Lesley Milsom



Men's Never Won
Jack Healy



Ladies Never Won
Anita Grantham



Men's Points
Steve Cleaver



Ladies Points
Jean Smith



Halls Cup
Helen Scragg and Tim Ludlow

Club Knockout Competition Fees

Many thanks to all the players and markers who took part in this year's club KO competitions; we hope that everyone enjoyed the events. Players who progressed beyond the first round in a competition will have additional competition fees to pay. If you fall in this category then please visit the "Competition Information" notice board at the club and collect your payment request chitty. Insert your payment in the plastic bag provided and post it in the red letter box by the ladies changing room door.

Presidents vs Captains Day

Our final match of the season saw President Gary's team edge out Captain Chris's team. 48 bowlers enjoyed perfect playing conditions to conclude a highly successful outdoor season. Congratulations to everyone who played throughout the summer, and all who volunteered their time and efforts to help the club run smoothly.

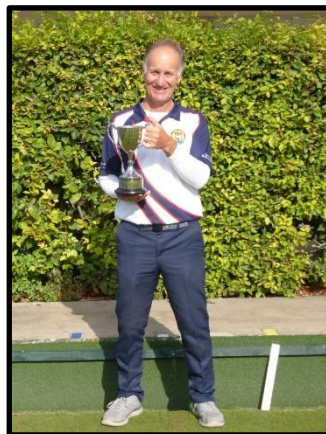


Derek Adams Memorial Trophy

The Derek Adams Memorial Trophy took place this year on Monday 31st August. An afternoon's bowling was enjoyed by 24 players and a number of spectators.

This is a competition where three rounds are played and the triples teams are drawn at random for each of three rounds. Helen, Ian and Howard got off to a flying start in the very first round. Others almost caught them, but it was not to be.

Howard was presented with the trophy by Derek Adams' wife, Sue.

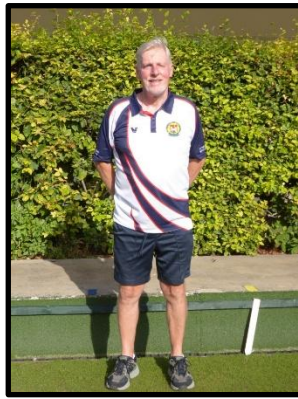


The afternoon was rounded off by an excellent buffet tea c/o Susan C. and her team of helpers.

Yardstick Competition

The last of our summer on-the-day club competition, the "Yardstick", took place on a sunny Sunday 6th September.

This event was hot on the heels of the Finals Weekend and Derek Eeles competition and, probably because of this, assembling a full 24 or 36 player entry proved impossible. Nevertheless, this slightly unusual fixed-jack event went ahead with reduced numbers. By the end of the day the top three on the leader's board were Steve, Anita and Ian. No silverware, but they did go home with chocolate. All very close, but Steve came out on top.



Many thanks again to Sue for organising refreshments and to Simon Anstey for running the day in John's absence, who was playing a Tigers league game.

Ladies League

All in all, it was a successful first season of having two teams representing Witney Town in the Ladies League. Although no trophies were won, it was a valuable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Many thanks to all the players who turned out, and to coordinators Pauline and Caroline for taking charge.



Monday Triples League

After weeks of nail biting competition, the result of the league wasn't known until the final day's play. Congratulations to Wickers and Glancers, who ran out winners with a three point cushion over runners up Try Again, and Dark Side of the Loom. The winning team was Brian Bloomfield, Brain Eastgate, Alison Eastgate, Gary Panons, Paul Demczyk, Irene Whatmore and Roger Hopkins.



2025-2026 Competitions Summary

For those fellow geeks who like lists, the following summarises all the competition results, so far, from the last 12 months. Thanks to John for compiling!

	WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB	
2026 CLUB COMPETITION WINNERS		
COMPETITION	WINNER(S)	RUNNER(S) UP
MIXED KNOCK OUT		
Club Championship	Caroline Bloomfield	Michael Healy
Mixed Pairs	Lesley Milsom & John Milsom	Anita Grantham & Gary Panons
LADIES KNOCK OUT		
Singles	Anita Grantham	Mavis Hale
2-Wood Singles	Lesley Milsom	Mavis Hale
Handicap Singles	Jean Smith	Mavis Hale
Never-Won Singles	Anita Grantham	Karen Stay
Points Singles	Jean Smith	Anita Grantham
Pairs	Mavis Hale & Jean Smith	Paula Cleaver & Lesley Milsom
MEN KNOCK OUT		
Singles	Harold Jerred	Gary Panons
2-Wood Singles	John Milsom	Roy Radband
Handicap Singles	Steven Cleaver	Gary Panons
Never-Won Singles	Jack Healy	Micky Conrad-Banks
Points Singles	Steven Cleaver	John Milsom
Pairs	Mike Jones & Gary Panons	Steven Cleaver & Brian Smith
Highest Scoring Loser	Gary Panons	
MIXED OTHER		
Halls Cup	Tim Ludlow & Helen Scragg	Micky & Pauline Conrad-Banks
Derek Eeles Trophy	Fabrizio Boer, Rosemary Lee & Paul Smith	Simon Barnes, Peter Davidson & Richard Nolte
Aussie-Rules Pairs	Mike Jones & Pauline Conrad-Banks	Caroline Bloomfield & Jim Casson
Willett Plate	David Close, David Jones & Karen Stay	Peter Brading, Jim Casson & Helen Scragg
Derek Adams Memorial Trophy	Howard Goldby	
Yardstick	Steven Cleaver	Anita Grantham
Turn-Up-&-Play Triples League	Philip Horton	Rosemary Lee
President's Cup	Oxfordshire	Rest of the World
Dan Young Trophy	Not competed in 2026	
WINTER MIXED SHORTMAT		
Open Singles KO	Martin Lister	Howard Goldby
Pairs (January)	Brian Carter & Steve Cleaver	Michael Healy & Jack Healy
Pairs (February)	Michael Healy & Jack Healy	Keith Simpson & Jan Simpson
Pairs (March)	Roy Radband & Bill Stewart	Peter Davidson & Margaret Davidson
Note: "Highest Scoring Loser" is a trophy for the man who came closest to beating the eventual winner of the Men's Singles.		
WINTER COUNTY SHORTMAT		
County Short Mat Pairs Plate	Michael Healy & Martin Lister	

National Competitions 2027

Club players are now invited to put their names down to enter the 2026 National and County outdoor competitions. Entry forms have been posted on the boards next to the men's and ladies changing rooms. Closing date for entries is 30 November 2026. If you haven't entered before but would like more information, please see Alan Scholan or any of the club's experienced bowlers.

Indoor Short Mat Bowling

The indoor short mat season opened on Monday 21 September, with the first Wednesday triples league matches to be played on 30 September, and the first of the Oxfordshire league matches scheduled for 6 October. Printed fixture lists are available in the clubhouse, but please check the online fixture list which will regularly be updated with any changes (occasionally league matches need to be rescheduled, or matches played on Mondays). Generally, rollups will be held on Mondays and Fridays, morning sessions from 10:00-12:30, and afternoons from 13:30-16:00. This year, the club will have four teams taking part in the West Oxfordshire Evening League – the Canaries, Rams, Woolies and Red Kites – and two teams in Division One of the Afternoon League – the Vultures and the Hawks.

Wednesday Short Mat Triples League

Witney Town will once again be hosting a short mat open triples league on Wednesdays through this winter, consisting of teams from our club, and other clubs in the area. This year we will be having 17 teams competing so some matches will be taking place on Mondays to accommodate demand. ***The first of these Monday matches will be held on 5 October and 2 November, so no rollups on those dates.*** Ben Healy, Mike Jones and Alan Scholan will be serving as League Organisers.

Short Mat Singles and Pairs Club Competitions

This winter there will be the opportunity to take part in short mat club singles and pairs knockout competitions. Play will begin in October – please sign up for these competitions on the club noticeboard.

Defibrillator and First Aid Training

We are looking to run a first aid and defibrillator refresher course at the club for club members, run by a local organisation who have successfully delivered this useful training for us in the past. Please sign the sheet in the club to indicate your interest – a date will then be arranged.

Bingo Night – Saturday 24 October

Our first social of the indoor season will be our Bingo Night, with caller Lorna running the proceedings. Start time is 6:30, with eyes down at 6:45. The ticket price of £8.00 includes a hot one course meal. Bingo books are extra, please bring cash to pay for these. A sign up sheet is posted in the clubhouse – please bring your friends and advise those from other clubs who may be interested.

Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery Night on 28 November

We are excited to announce that a murder will take place at the club on 28 November – but who is the victim – and who is the murderer? All will be revealed in a mystery that is being written and performed especially for our club. There will be the reveal that there has been a murder, interview of the suspects and the denouement during which the murderer is revealed. Tickets for this event will be £8.00 and will include light refreshments. A sign up sheet will be posted in the club in early October.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Christmas Party – 13 December**
- **Christmas Bazaar – 14 November 10:00-13:00.** Stalls, bric-a-brac, tombola, cakes, teas – we will need volunteers to help out on the day. A sign up sheet will be posted in the club in October for volunteers, or contact Wendy or Susan Close.
- **Spartan Rangers Christmas Themed Night – 11 December**

100 Club August Winners

Congratulations to these lucky winners in the August draw –

1st Prize £100	Caroline Bloomfield
2nd Prize £80	Chris Tyrell
3rd Prize £50	Peter Davidson
4th Prize £45	Sue Greenall
5th Prize £30	Chris Jones

And Finally.....

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts (raffles, match fees) for Witney in Pink – Against Breast Cancer over the course of the summer. Our President's Charity received a cheque for £1374 yesterday at Witney in Pink Day – the Pink Ladies were thrilled, and you all should feel that you've helped make a difference.

