

WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB

News Bulletin 65 January 2024



We begin the New Year deeply saddened by the news received just before Christmas – the passing of former club captain, treasurer and President Bryan Buckingham. Bryan was a devoted servant to the club for more than 40 years and was influential in decisions made that have helped our club occupy the strong and healthy position it holds in the county. Even when he could no longer play, he was often to be seen sitting with an Appletise supporting the club at friendly and league matches. Bryan’s funeral will be held on Tuesday 16 January at 2:00 pm, at the North Oxfordshire Crematorium in Tackley, followed by a wake at our bowls club. Many of you will wish to pay your respects at this time. Our thoughts are with Norma and the family.

Please also have in your thoughts and prayers our former Ladies Captain Frances Riley, who was taken ill while on holiday in Spain over the Christmas period; we have received positive news that she will be repatriated to the UK this weekend to continue her treatment. Frances, we send you all our best wishes and hopes for a full recovery.

Christmas Party and Prize Draw

A big thank you to all who came to our Christmas Party and Prize Draw; although it wasn’t the fabulous roast we have come to expect from Brian, it looked as though there was plenty of food for everyone, and that you all enjoyed the games and quizzes we devised. The prize draw raised £300 for the club funds.

Temple Piper Wednesday Triples

The first two weeks of matches in the new year are now complete, and we have a clear leader – Little Lambs top the table on 27 points (played 16 games), followed by Tail Enders on 23 points (15 games) and Burford Town (22 points, played 15). Competition is fierce and there is much to play for.

Afternoon and Evening Leagues

In the West Oxfordshire Evening League – the Rams continue to fly the flag for our club’s four teams, lying in fifth place. The Canaries, the Red Kites and the Woolies are still trailing behind; updated results have not yet been posted online so the situation may be better than it looks! In the afternoon league, the WT Vultures won their first match of the New Year 6-2 so may still be at the top of the league with 56 points, depending on the most recent result from Didcot. Updated results (when available) for these matches can be found online on the WT website, on the Leagues tab, under External League Links.

Short Mat Pairs Competition

The first of this winter's internal short mat pairs competitions will be taking place on Sunday 21st January (arrive at 9:30 for a 10:00 start). This first event is fully booked but two other competitions will be held in February and March.

The match fee for the day is £3.00. Hot drinks will be available throughout the day. Please bring your own packed lunch. Details of the playing format for this competition are posted at the club.

2024 Outdoor Club Competition Finals

The Club's calendar moves with the standard week numbers that are defined by Bowls England and flow down through the counties etc. Our club competition finals this year will be taking place over the weekend of Friday 30 August, Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September. Every effort will be made to concentrate the finals on the Saturday and Sunday.

World Indoor Bowls on TV

The 2024 World Indoor Bowls Championships commenced on the 5th January. The last week of the competitions, 15-21 January, will be televised live on the BBC and streamed on IPlayer.

However, in the meantime, the bowling can be watched live and recorded sessions can be viewed now on YouTube. Search YouTube for "**World Indoor Bowls Championships 2024**" to find the recorded sessions and live stream (if a session is in progress).

Help to Find this Missing Wood!

Mike Willemite is missing a bowl similar to the one below – it went missing after the Wednesday Triples on 20 December. Please check your bowls/locker to see if you have accidentally picked it up.



Clubhouse Cleaning

As of 1 January we no longer have a club cleaner; the Committee would like to thank Caroline for carrying out this role so effectively over recent years.

The Committee would like to identify a club member who could take on the role of cleaning coordinator of a small team of club members (6-8 people) who each agree to take on certain cleaning tasks; and also a cleaning materials purchaser responsible for ensuring

that supplies of toilet rolls, paper towels and other cleaning products are always available. The main areas that need attention are:

2-3 times a week:

- Clean toilets and sinks
- Replenish toilet paper and paper towels
- Empty bins
- Wipe tables, sweep floors

As/when required:

- Mop toilet/kitchen floors
- Use floor cleaner on main hall floor
- Vacuum short mats
- Dusting/tidying
- Replace hand soap/air fresheners

Until we have implemented the new procedures, it would help greatly if members who have tea and biscuits during rollups can make sure the table tops are wiped clean, and biscuit wrappers disposed of. Members who attend the rollup on Friday mornings should be aware that chairs and screens from Slimming World sessions on Thursdays need to be removed and the floor swept before the mats are rolled out.

Please help us to keep the clubhouse clean, tidy and pleasant to use. If you are interested in helping out as a coordinator or the cleaning rota, please contact Simon or Wendy.

Special Thanks from the Committee

We would like to thank Mike Willemite for the work he has undertaken outside the clubhouse, not only in tidying up the pathways and the grass areas, but also for removing the old refrigerator unit and taking it to the tip. Very much appreciated!

Club Captain

As no one has volunteered to take on the role of club captain, the committee IS STILL LOOKING for volunteers for individuals to take on the role on a monthly basis; May, June and August are still available! Please see a committee member to offer your services – thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Quiz Night – the next famous Anstey's Quiz night, organised by Simon and Christine, will be on Saturday 17 February, 6:30 pm start. Tables of up to 6; sign up sheet posted shortly. The price will be £8.00 including a hot supper.

Easter Bonnet Afternoon Tea – this year we will be holding an afternoon tea on Saturday 23 March at 2:00 pm. The price will be £5.00, prizes for the best Easter bonnet! The Easter Prize Draw will also take place at this time.

Registration Night – will be Friday 12 April; green will open on Saturday the 13th.

100 Club December Winners

Congratulations to these lucky winners in the December draw, where there were double the number of winners –

1 st Prize	£100	Brian Scholes Sue Greenall
2 nd Prize	£85	not sold George Greenall
3 rd Prize	£70	Chris Jones Norma Buckingham
4 th Prize	£55	Mary Barnes Paula Cleaver
5 th Prize	£40	Fred Hickman Jean Colleton

Next draw will be at the Wednesday Triples League on 30 January - prize fund of £350 this month.