

WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB



News Bulletin 67 March 2024

This is the last bulletin before the green opens for the summer season! The last rollup for the indoor short mat season will be on Friday morning 12 April, after which the mats will be rolled up and stored for the summer.

Committee Notices

REMEMBER – The clubhouse will be closed all day on Tuesday 26 March for the installation of new LED ceiling light fixtures.

Clubhouse security - When using the key safe, please return the key to the safe after using it to open the door, and scramble the numbers. Don't leave the key hanging from the chain.

Temple Piper Wednesday Triples

Coming into the last three matches of the season, Little Lambs have a 4 point lead over Burford – but Burford still have a game in hand so nothing is settled yet! TailEnders and Allsorts are still in with a chance.

Afternoon and Evening Leagues

The afternoon league has concluded in dramatic fashion, with the WT Vultures just falling short in their effort to catch the Didcot Red Kites. Despite winning the final match 6-2 Witney Town finished the season in second place on 92 points, 3 points behind Didcot. In the West Oxfordshire Evening League North Leigh are the runaway leaders – WT Canaries and WT Rams are level on points for club bragging rights. 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

Shortmat Pairs Competition on 25th February 2024

In the second of this year's three shortmat pairs competitions the two group in the initial round robin stage were won by:

- Group 1 – Wendy and Mike Hurp (with three other pairs snapping at their heels).
- Group 2 - Bill Stewart and Roy Radband (just ahead of Geoff Smith and Gary Ambrosini).

The "Centre Mat" grand final was won by Wendy and Mike in a very close finish.

The last Pairs Competition of the shortmat season will be taking place on Sunday 24th.

The Committee would like to thank John for organising and running what have been extremely enjoyable and competitive afternoons of bowling.

Summer Club Competitions

Summer bowling is only just around the corner. To supplement the roll-ups, friendly matches and any league games you might be looking forward to there will also be a full programme of internal knock-out and other competitions. These are open to all outdoor members. New and novice bowlers are particularly encouraged to have a go. Full details for the 2024 competitions can be found via the link on the WTBC web site home page. A competition entry form will be distributed to all club members later this month.

To be eligible to enter the Club Competitions members must normally have made themselves available to play in 3 home and 3 away club friendly games throughout the previous outdoor season. The away games exclude Witney Mills and West Witney BC matches and do not include any Men's, Ladies, OxMixed Triples, County or National League games. However, the club's record of who offered to play in some friendly matches during 2023 is incomplete. For this reason the normal eligibility criteria is being suspended for Club Competitions taking place in 2024. Thus, all members will be able to enter competitions in 2024.

Friendly matches are the best way to play relaxing games, meet new bowlers and visit welcoming clubs in the nearby towns and villages. As a bonus they are also your gateway to internal club competitions. Eligibility for competitions in 2025 will, once again, be conditional on friendlies played during 2024.

Oxfordshire Mixed Triples League 2024

Witney Town has three teams entered in the Triples League this year – the Cougars and Panthers in League 1, and the Tigers in League 2. Sign up sheets for the three teams can be found on a table in the clubhouse from 24 March. Choose and sign up for a team you would like to play for this year, and then indicate your availability for the matches you wish to be considered for. The teams will be chosen by a group of people selected from within the squad who will also appoint a team coordinator for each match. They will be responsible for running the team independent of the club selectors.

Club Captain

We are extremely pleased and very grateful that Chris Jones has taken on the role of Club Captain and will be organising the teams for the mixed friendly matches for the outdoor season. As usual, availability sheets will be posted in the clubhouse for members to sign up for matches, but if you are unable to visit the clubhouse to do this, please contact Chris to confirm your availability by phone (07507 016997) or email chrisnj@icloud.com. The policy for selecting teams for these matches continues to be the provision of opportunities for all members to participate in friendly but competitive matches, and in particular to encourage the development of new members. Note that the organising of teams for the men's and ladies league and friendly matches remains the responsibility of the Men's Captain (Roy Radband) and the Ladies Captain, Pauline Conrad Banks.

Coaching Course

Congratulations and very well done to Martin Lister and Howard Goldby for passing their Level One Coaching Course!

Under 18 Singles Competition

Here's your chance to see the world champions of tomorrow! Come and watch the England Under 18 singles competition at Oxford City and County on Saturday and Sunday 11th and 12th May, from 10:00 am on both days.

Club Cleaning and Maintenance Day

In order to get ready for the outdoor season, we'll have a working party on Saturday 6 April, 10:00 to tidy up and get ready. Windows washing, plastic chairs cleaning, and other jobs...Any assistance would be appreciated.

Dates for Your Diary

Easter Bonnet Afternoon Tea – our afternoon tea is 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.

Race Night – starter's orders for the Race Night, which will be on Friday 5 April, 6:30 start. The cost of £8.00 will include a hot one course meal; horses and bets will be paid for separately. The sign up sheet has been posted in the clubhouse. ***Please bring cash to place your bets and purchase your horses if you want to be an owner.***

Registration Night – will be Friday 12 April; the bar will be open at 6:00 and sign up from 6:30. The green will open on Saturday the 13th at 10:30. Registration forms and more information will be distributed to members at the end of March.

Bowls Big Weekend – our annual open morning will take place on Saturday 25 May from 10:00-13:00. Please invite your friends and family to come down to the club to see what you spend so much of your spare time doing! Volunteers will be needed to greet visitors, show them how the game is played, and make tea.

Lost – and not Found!

A child's blue umbrella with animal print was taken home by accident by someone attending the recent (rainy) quiz night in February. There is a very sad 4 year old out there who wants to be reunited with his broolly (he keeps asking for it 😞) – please have a look around and if you have it, please let me know and I'll arrange to reunite it with its owner.

100 Club February Winners

Congratulations to these lucky winners in the February draw –

1 st Prize	£100	Suzanne Panons
2 nd Prize	£85	Anne Lister
3 rd Prize	£70	unsold
4 th Prize	£55	Chris Jones
5 th Prizes	£40	Peter McCulloch and £40 Christine Anstey

The next draw will be at the Race Night on 5 April - prize fund of £350 this month.