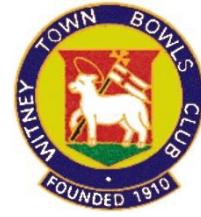


# WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB



## News Bulletin 74 December 2024

Well, another year is drawing to a close, and we can reflect on another successful year for our club. There have been some real highs – keenly contested club triples competitions, well attended social events, and an outstanding individual performance by Richard Nolte, winning 6 of the 7 club competitions he entered. But there have been lows – the ongoing issues with the state of the green have had a negative impact on many matches. And of course we remember those members and friends who we have lost during the year – they are sadly missed.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who has supported club events this year, volunteered for the cleaning rota, bar duty and the preparation of club teas, set up chairs and tables, worked outdoors to keep our clubhouse and its surrounds looking pristine, and who set up the rinks for matches. We wouldn't be able to function without your help. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!!



### A Message from Lorna

Lorna and the Deadman family send their heartfelt thanks to everyone who made a donation to Sobell House in memory of Pete – the total raised was £521.05.

### Actions from the AGM

As a result of discussions held at the AGM, the following actions have been taken:

- Ian Hale has been co-opted on to the management committee as our VAT expert as we navigate our exit from the VAT scheme
- A “Junior Development Group” has been established to explore ways to attract more junior bowlers to the club
- The club constitution has been amended to reflect the updating of the club's safeguarding policy; a copy will be available on the club website and will be posted in the clubhouse.

### **Indoor Short Mat Leagues**

Wednesday Triples – we've reached almost the halfway point of the competition, and the Christmas break sees Little Lambs leading the way on 18 points, closely followed by Allsorts and Flying Shuttles on 16 points.

Afternoon Triples League – In the first division, Witney Town Vultures find themselves in second place going into the Christmas break; the same position is held by the Witney Town Hawks in Division 2.

West Oxfordshire Evening League – Witney Mills Weavers are in top spot going into the Christmas break, followed closely by North Leigh. WT Rams are in 4<sup>th</sup> place, WT Red Kites and WT Canaries are in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Short Mat Pairs Competitions**

The first of the New Year short mat pairs competitions will be taking place on Sunday 19th January and we already have 12 pairs registered to take part. If you are interested in being a reserve in the event of a cancellation then please add your name to the list on the Competitions notice board.

Other pairs competition dates are:

Sunday 23rd February

Sunday 23rd March

### **Committee Notices and Reminders**

- The main entrance gate is going to be rehung, but we still have not been given a date. Please continue to use the padlock and chain to ensure the gate is secure.
- If you are the last to leave the building, please make sure the alarm is set!
- Club players are reminded to put their names down to enter the 2025 National and Domestic competitions. Entry forms are posted on the boards next to the men's and ladies changing rooms. Closing date is 15 January 2025.
- Remember – the club trouser colour will be changing from greys/whites to **navy blue** as of April 2025 (first game of the outdoor season). Examples of suitable trousers are in the men's and ladies' changing rooms. Blue jeans are not acceptable. Navy blue trousers/shorts must be worn in club competitions, triples competitions, friendly matches and league matches.

### **Dates for your Diary**

- Quiz Night – will be held on Saturday 22 February, 6:30 start. Tickets £8.00 to include a hot once course meal. Teams of up to six. Our new quizmaster will be Alan Scragg – make sure to sign up when the sheet is posted in the New Year.
- Ukelele Night!!! The Blanket Town Ukes will be holding a fundraising evening at the club on Saturday 29 March, 6:30 start. Come and hear Witney Town's own John Milsom and this group of talented strummers. No admission charge

(the bar will be open) but donations for the Witney Food Bank will be welcome on the night.

### **100 Club Christmas 2024 Winners**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£100	Mavis Hale
	£100	Bob Steepe
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£80	Mike Jones
	£80	Mavis Hale
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£65	Brian Rollerson
	£65	Pauline Conrad Banks
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	£50	Mel Cameron
	£50	Nadine Brown
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize	£35	Susan Close
	£35	Linda Wiseman

Next draw will be Friday 31 January at the rollup session. £330 in the prize pot.

### **Bowls Oxfordshire**

Ann Lattimore of Chipping Norton Bowls Club has been elected as the first President of the “new” Bowls Oxfordshire, which brings both the men’s and women’s county associations together in one unified and hopefully streamlined organisation. A copy of her message to all bowlers and club members in Oxfordshire is below.

To all members of Bowls Oxfordshire

Dear member and fellow bowler

I can’t tell you how honoured I feel to have been elected as the first President of the new ‘Bowls Oxfordshire’, which brings both the men’s and women’s county associations together in one unified and, hopefully, streamlined organisation.

I have been lucky to have met many of you during the last couple of years, as Vice-President and then President of the Ladies, as I have travelled the county, and country, supporting our players in their matches and competitions and I know that our bowlers, men and women, are second to none in their enthusiasm for our sport. I also know that grass roots bowling is the foundation of our game, and I applaud those of you who work so hard to keep ALL the clubs of Oxfordshire not just viable, but vibrant with full calendars of fixtures and competitions.

Bowls truly is a sport for all, and sometimes I think we are not loud enough in getting that point across to those outside the green who have us pigeonholed in a world of funeral parlours and sheltered housing! Bowls can be played by the very young and the very old, as well as the masses in between. It’s enjoyed by those who are fit and those less able. It’s also a game where our best compete against other world class players whilst their fellow club members have just as much fun rolling-up followed by

a cuppa and a biscuit. The diversity of bowls and the diversity of how it can be enjoyed is what makes this sport so unique and we, you and me, need to shout loudly about it at every opportunity we get because WE are the ambassadors of our sport and if we want our sport to continue to thrive WE need to ensure that the world beyond the green learns all what we already know.

It was the wish to see the sport and our County grow that brought the men's and women's associations together, and unifying has given us a great opportunity. We can share both expenses and expertise building on the best of the old, whilst adapting to the modern era. Unifying will also give us an opportunity to tap into funding and sources of support as there is unlikely to be a more inclusive sporting organisation than the new Bowls Oxfordshire.

As well as the Mens & Ladies sections maintaining a similar structure under our new unified banner, we have added two new official sections, to make sure there is the strongest level of focus across all areas of the County.

Our new junior section will encompass coaching and competitions for both girls and boys, together and separately – as they have been doing informally for the past few years - and we have a talented and enthusiastic young team to take this section forward. Our new mixed section gives those who were unenthusiastic about single gender county games the opportunity to play in mixed/open games and competitions. Many players already enter the national mixed competitions, and I understand that the Oxfordshire mixed county competitions being introduced in the 2025 season have attracted a lot of entries already! Whilst we innovate in some areas there is also room in this county for tradition. The men's and ladies' sections will continue to organise single gender matches and competitions including those culminating in the National Finals where our players always shine with some achieving Gold.

I am grateful to those who shared our vision and were prepared to support change and go along with the new structure. Change is never easy, and we are very likely to have to tweak things as we go, but I firmly feel we are at the start of something new and exciting and I look forward to sharing the journey together.

Finally, I can't end without thanking my fellow officers, men and women, who have worked so hard on this project. I also want to thank all those who have taken on jobs both at Executive and Section levels. Its people like you who give up their time so that we can all enjoy our sport that means I can fulfil my role.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, winter well, and I look forward to seeing you either on or off the green in 2025.

Ann Lattimore  
President  
Bowls Oxfordshire