

WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB



News Bulletin 75 January 2025

Welcome to January everyone! By the time you receive this it will be almost over thank goodness, one step closer to spring.

Indoor Short Mat Leagues

Wednesday Triples – after the results of 22 January, Allsorts are on top of the league on shot difference over Little Lambs, followed by Flying Shuttles.

Afternoon Triples League – Didcot Red Kites have opened up a 12 point gap over our Vultures, who in turn lead Abingdon Park Rangers by 8 points. In Division Two, our Hawks are having an outstanding first year in the league; although trailing runaway leaders Wooton by 27 points, they have opened up a lead of 23 points over third placed Woodcote.

West Oxfordshire Evening League – Witney Mills Weavers continue to top the league on 116 points, followed by North Leigh on 110. Witney Town Canaries are third on 75 points, followed by Burford on 70, WT Rams on 67 and WT Red Kites on 63. The Woolies are having a challenging season but are competing well.

Short Mat Pairs Competitions

On Sunday 19th January the first of this year's shortmat pairs competitions took place. Twelve pairs battled it out in two groups of six. Winners of the groups were Helen Scragg & Tim Ludlow and Val & Howard Goldby. Both pairs emerged from the group stage undefeated after 5 games.

A great day of bowling was rounded off with a final between the two couples. Congratulations to Val and Howard who emerged as overall winners. If you would like to take part in the next pairs competition, which will take place on Sunday 23rd February, then please keep an eye on the Competitions notice board. A sign-up sheet will be posted shortly.



New – Short Mat Singles Competition

The first of a new competition to the club will be held on the 2nd March 2025.

The new **Mixed Singles** short mat competition will be for a maximum of 12 people (on a first come basis).

If you are interested, a registration sheet will be posted on the competitions notice board shortly with reserve spaces in the event of a cancellation.

This is the first time of running a singles event so we ask those that enter to expect some small issues.

Based on the success of the initial event we propose to hold a second event early in April.

Introducing the Foundation Pairs

One of Bowls England's top priorities is to create positive playing experiences for players at all levels.

They are thrilled to introduce a brand new event for 2025, the Foundation Pairs, which is specifically aimed at bowlers who have never previously qualified for the National Bowls Finals in leading events as well as those who are relatively new to the sport who want to challenge themselves in national competition.

Early rounds will be held within your club's geographic area, with eight pairs in both the men's and women's events qualifying for the final stages held during the Aviva National Bowls Finals.

Why enter?

- A dedicated event to develop current and new bowlers.
- Compete against other bowlers who are at a similar level.
- Enjoy the excitement of a National event and play on the biggest stage in bowls.

Please visit the website for further information:

https://www.bowlsengland.com/introducing-the-foundation-pairs/?dm_i=6UDT,Y2BW,11G8R,4A8FM,1

Club Colours

We continue to remind you that 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; members have been purchasing them from Marks and Spencer, and SportsDirect. Blue jeans are not acceptable. Navy blue trousers/shorts/cropped trousers must be worn in club competitions, triples competitions, friendly matches and league matches.

Committee Notices and Reminders

- The main entrance gate has apparently been repaired by the Council, but is still quite stiff. After entering the code and turning the knob, you need to push on the gate quite firmly; the same goes for pulling it shut if you are locking up.

If you have problems locking up, continue to use the padlock and chain to ensure the gate is secure, and let someone on the committee know.

- If you are the last to leave the building, please make sure the alarm is set!

Dates for your Diary

- Quiz Night – will be held on Saturday 22 February, 6:30 start. Tickets £8.00 to include a hot one course meal. Teams of up to six. Our new quizmaster will be Alan Scragg – the sheet is posted, make sure to sign up, there are still some places available – or contact Wendy if you can't make it to the club.
- Ukulele 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 group of talented players entertain us with a selection of popular songs and tunes from across the decades. No admission charge (the bar will be open) but donations for the Witney Food Bank will be welcome on the night.
- Bowls' Big Weekend – the club will once again be participating in the Bowls Big Weekend which runs from 24-26 May. More details of plans will be forthcoming, but please put these dates in your diaries as we will need a lot of assistants (and assistance!) to make the event a success and to hopefully recruit new members.
- Club Registration Night – will be held on Friday 11 April from 6:00. More details will be forthcoming.

100 Club Draw – January's Draw will be held on 31 January.