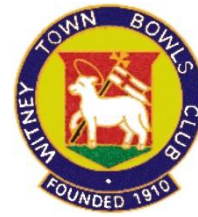


WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB



News Bulletin 76 February 2025



The first signs of spring are showing, and despite there still being a feverish amount of activity in the various leagues and competitions, our fixtures secretary Lorna has been busy throughout the winter liaising with other clubs to finalise our matches for the outdoor season. The condition of the green is in the hands of the Council; we can only hope that they have some rabbits to pull out of hats over the coming weeks to ensure it's in a fit condition to play on.

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Quiz night on Saturday evening, and especially to Alan Scragg, our Quiz Master, for a very enjoyable and challenging time (sources of rivers? Who knew?). Thanks to Brian B for the food, Roy and Bill for running the bar, Simon and Brian R for their help, and everyone who cleaned up.

Indoor Short Mat Leagues

Wednesday Triples – after the results of 26 February, Allsorts continue to enjoy a four point cushion on top of the league over Little Lambs, followed by Tail Enders and Flying Shuttles, with the Bowling Stones just a point behind them.

Afternoon Triples League – Didcot Red Kites have won Division 1 for the second year in a row. Our Vultures are still in second place ahead of Abingdon Park Rangers going into the final round of matches next week. In Division Two, our Hawks are having an outstanding first year in the league; although trailing league winners Wooton by 27 points, they have opened up a lead of 23 points over third placed Woodcote and are guaranteed a second place finish.

West Oxfordshire Evening League – It's been to and fro at the top of the Evening League! North Leigh Millers have swapped places with Witney Mills Weavers and lead them by nine points. Witney Town Rams are in third place on 98 points, with the Canaries five points further behind with a game in hand. The Woolies continue to put forward their best efforts in what has been a challenging season.

Short Mat Pairs Competition - Sunday 23rd February 2025

Twenty-four Witney Town players recently competed in the second of this year's Short Mat Pairs Competitions. As yet more rain fell outside, the competition between the twelve pairs was nip and tuck.

Eileen & Mike Willemite emerged from the Group-A round-robin stage as the only undefeated pair and group winners. Bill Stewart & Roy Radband were a very close second. Meanwhile, in Group-B, Howard Goldby & Brian Kent triumphed, pipping Ben Healy & Martin Lister to a place in the overall final.



Howard & Brian went on to win the final in front of a full house of spectators.

The third and final Short Mat Pairs Competition for 2025 will be taking place on Sunday 23rd March. A sign-up sheet for entries will be posted at the club during the next week or so.

In the meantime, potential spectators might like to make a note of the club's first Short Mat Singles Competition that will be taking place this Sunday (2nd March) starting at 10:00.

Junior Development Group

Following a comment made at the AGM last November about attracting new members, a small group has been meeting to discuss the feasibility of establishing a junior section in the club. Visits have been made to Carterton and Charlbury clubs who have had junior sections up and running for a few years, and advice has been

sought from Bowls Oxfordshire. Although it will not be easy, the group are enthusiastic and determined to make a go of it. They are planning an Open Day at the Club on Saturday 24th May (part of the usual Big Bowls Weekend organised by Bowls England) at which there will be bowls related activities for juniors and adults. It is hoped that this could bring in new members and create enough interest to start up a junior section. Please look out for further details of the Open Day at which much help will be needed. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions the please talk to one of the working group - Helen Scraggs, Martin Lister, Howard Goldby, Brian Messenger, Sue Spriggins, Alan Scholan, Ben Healy and Chris Jones.

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.

Dates for your Diary

- Ukulele Night!!! The Blanket Town Ukes will be holding a fundraising evening at the club on Saturday 29 March, 6:30 start. The Blanket Town Ukes will be playing hits from 1950's - 80's and beyond! This vibrant local band features individual singers, ukuleles and other instruments to capture the spirit of famous artists and groups. The performance will be in two parts with nibbles served during the interval. The bar will also be open. This is not a ticketed event, but club members will need to register their attendance, plus any family members and guests, in advance.
The sign-up sheet is now available on the Social board at the club. If you can't easily get to the club but wish to attend then please contact John Milsom and let him know. All donations on the night will help support the Witney Food Bank. The Food Bank is run entirely by local volunteers for the benefit of local people who have been referred to it by the council or their GP – they rely on the community's support to ensure that they can continue to stop people going hungry.
- 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. The green is planned to be open on Saturday 19 April.

Message from Bowls England

Please contact Tom directly if you are interested in participating.

“Bowls England have an exciting opportunity to collaborate with Cancer Research UK for Bowls’ Big Weekend and are looking for ambassadors to share their stories.

This partnership will be mutually beneficial—they are keen to support Bowls’ Big Weekend and encourage new participation in the sport, while also raising awareness of the power of communities and the support they provide to people who have experienced cancer in their lifetime - whether themselves or supporting a loved one.

If you know someone in your county who would be willing to share their story or act as an ambassador for this initiative, please let me know and we can share more information.

As this is a sensitive topic, please ensure that anyone’s story or details are shared only with their full consent.

Thank you for your support!

Kind Regards,



Tom Green

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100 Club Draw

1st Prize £100	Dave Close
2nd Prize £80	Helen Matchett
3rd Prize £65	Jean Dolton
4th Prize £50	Susan Close
5th Prize £40	Brian Bloomfield

Next 100 Club Draw is Friday 28th February at the Roll-up Session
Prize fund this month £335