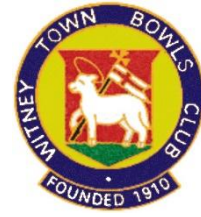


WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB



News Bulletin 77 March 2025

It's that time of year!!! Our Club Registration Night will be held on Friday 11 April from 6:00. You will shortly be receiving your annual membership renewal forms by email; these can be filled in and returned to the club either on registration night, posted to club treasurer Robert Spriggins, or can be placed in the red postbox at the club. Payment of registration fees by bank transfer is the preferred method of payment as the club is not charged any fees, but other methods of payment are available and are explained on the forms. This year, there will be a printed fixture booklet which we hope will be well received by members; it will be available on registration evening. Fixtures will also be available to view online shortly. Due to the amount of groundwork that still needs to be done, opening of the green for play has been delayed to Saturday 19 April.

Short Mat Singles Competition

This month saw Witney Town's inaugural short mat singles competition which was contested by 12 bowlers (11 male 1 female). Players were split into 2 leagues played as a round robin. Each league was hotly contested and many games were very close which included 2 draws. League A eventually saw Howard Goldby and Roy Radband winner and runner up and league B saw Martin Lister and Mike Jones winner and runner up progressing to the semi finals; Helen Scragg lost out to Roy on shot difference. The first semi final saw Howard play Mike J with Howard getting through to the final, the second semi final saw Roy progress to the final beating Martin in a last end thriller.

The final between Roy and Howard was a classic, after 4 ends Howard had a 4-1 lead and whilst Roy did everything he could to get back on level terms the gap was too big and Howard won the day. Congratulations to Howard and everyone that took part in an enjoyable day; special thanks to Ben Healy for coming up with the idea and making it happen!



Short Mat Pairs Competition – and another Singles Competition coming up

Sunday saw the last of this indoor season's Short Mat Pairs competitions. The 12 pairs were divided into 2 groups and each group battled it out on a round-robin basis. The competition was intense, with much checking of relative positions as the day unfolded. A good time was had by all. It was especially pleasing to see some of our newest members taking part.

Honours in the group stages went to:

1. Brian Kent & Fabrizio Boer
2. Ben Healy & Martin Lister

Ben and Martin emerged from the final as overall winners.



Ben will now be turning his attention to running the second of the new Short Mat Singles competitions. If you aren't entering then why not visit the club on Sunday 6th April to watch the action?

Indoor Short Mat Leagues

Wednesday Triples – after the results of 19 March, Allsorts continue their march towards this year's title, with a six point advantage over Little Lambs and The Bowling Stones.

Afternoon Triples League – Didcot Red Kites have won Division 1 for the second year in a row; congratulations to Witney Town Vultures who clinched second place ahead of Abingdon Park Rangers. A well-deserved second place for Witney Town Hawks in Division 2; hopefully this means promotion to Division 1 next year. Wootton won Division 2 with an unbeaten record all season so will be formidable competition next year.

West Oxfordshire Evening League – With only two matches remaining, North Leigh Millers have opened up a 13 point lead over Witney Mills Weavers. Witney Town Rams are in third place on 115 points, with the Canaries two points further behind with a game in hand. The Red Kites have had a solid season and sit mid-table, while the Woolies gained another win.

Witney Town Monday Summer Triples League – coming soon!

You are warmly invited to enter a team in the Witney Town Triples Open League once again on Mondays through the summer. The first round of matches is Monday 12 May.

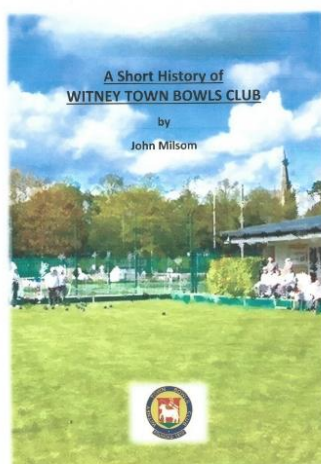
You will recall that sadly our sponsors for several years Temple Piper withdrew last summer. However we'd like to reassure you that the leagues will go ahead with at least the same prize money as before. Club members are working at finding a new sponsor but in the meantime the club has agreed to support the league and the prize money. Copies of the entry form and the rules are available in the pavilion.

West Oxfordshire Mixed Triples League

Once again the club will have three teams entered in this year's competition – the Cougars, the Tigers and the Panthers. If you are interested in playing in this enjoyable triples league and don't have a team, please indicate your interest by signing up on the sheet posted in the clubhouse and you'll be assigned a team.

Club History

John Milsom has completed the compilation of an informative and hugely enjoyable history of Witney Town Bowls Club. John has put months of effort and research into this document, and there is a treasure trove of information, photographs and historical anecdotes that anyone who has been involved with the club will find fascinating. We are looking into printing copies of the book – which runs to over 100 pages – but will need to determine interest from club members before we can commit to printing (our best estimate is somewhere in the region of £15.00 per copy). The sample copy will be on display at the clubhouse on registration night along with a list for you to indicate if you're interested in purchasing a copy.



Junior Development Group – Plans for Open Day, 24th May

The development group is progressing plans for our Open Day from 10:00 until 16:00 on Saturday 24th May, through which we hope to attract more members of all ages

and abilities to join the Club. Throughout the day there will be bowling activities on the green – the usual roll-ups, but also some “fun” activities that introduce the principles of bowls.

The event will be widely publicised through a leaflet drop and posters displayed wherever we can. Let Helen Scragg or Ben Healey know if you like a poster or two to display somewhere.

We will need help on the day to run the activities on the green, serve refreshments or just to welcome visitors and introduce them to the club. So please put the date in your diary and sign up on the rotas when they appear in the clubhouse.

Committee Notices

- 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.
- The thermostat in the clubhouse is usually set at 15. If you change the setting (if you’re bowling and it’s cold) PLEASE make sure you reset it to 15 before you leave; we are trying to reduce our heating bill.
- SPOND – there is an app called SPOND through which you can have access to all of the news and results of the indoor bowls competitions run by the Oxfordshire Short Mat Bowls association (including the afternoon and evening leagues). If you’re interested in knowing all the news as it happens, go to your app store and download SPOND!
- Charges for the Tuesday and Friday rollups have been set at £2.00 to play, plus an additional £1.00 for tea or coffee. If you choose to practice independently, please pay £1.00 into the red postbox, and £1.00 into the tea and coffee box should you have a drink.

Dates for your Diary

- **Please don’t forget to support the 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. Donations (in cash please) 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.

100 Club Draw

Winners of the March prize draw:

1st Prize £100	unsold
2nd Prize £80	Mavis Hale
3rd Prize £65	Pauline Conrad Banks
4th Prize £50	Mel Cameron
5th Prize £40	Joyce Woodburn

Next 100 Club Draw is Wednesday 2 April at the Triples League matches.
Prize fund this month £335

....And Finally

On Thursday 10 April, 3:00 pm, tune in to ITV and you may see a familiar face from the club on Jeopardy! (hosted by Stephen Fry)

