

# WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB

**News Bulletin 83**  
**September 2025**



By the time this bulletin drops into your inbox, the outdoor season will have come to an end, and many of us will be moving indoors for the next six months to enjoy the challenges of short mat bowling. Welcome back to our indoor bowlers! For newer members who haven't played this form of bowls, we look forward to introducing you to the game. For members who prefer long mat bowling (at other clubs), or who are "allergic" to carpet and prefer to take a break until we're back outside on the grass, we still look forward to seeing you at club events and socials over the winter. Looks like everyone really enjoyed the Captain vs President's match this afternoon!



## **Monday Triples League**

After weeks of closely fought competition, Dark Side of the Loom have been crowned champions of the Monday Triples League by one point, with Wickers and Glancers finishing second on shot difference, and Try Again in third.



**Dark Side of the Loom**

(Tim Ludlow, Anne Lister, Ben Healy, Martin Lister, Gary Ambrosini, Brian Messenger)

## **Tuesday Turn Up and Play League**

Congratulations to Bill Moody, who pipped Basil Morris for the title. Here he is receiving the trophy from last year's winner Phil Horton.



## **Club Knockout Competition Fees**

Many thanks to all the players and markers who took part in this year's club KO competitions; we hope that everyone enjoyed the events. Players who progressed beyond the first round in a competition will have additional competition fees to pay. If you fall in this category then please visit the "Competition Information" notice board at the club at the beginning of October and collect your payment request chitty. Insert your payment in the plastic bag provided and post it in the red letter box by the ladies changing room door.

## **President's Day**

Many thanks to all who attended President's Day and contributed to Simon's chosen charity – Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association. A wonderful total of £500 was donated from proceeds of match fees, raffle, spider and general generosity!

## **National Competitions 2026**

Club players are now invited to put their names down to enter the 2026 National and County competitions. Entry forms will shortly be posted on the boards next to the men's and ladies changing rooms. Closing date for entries is 12 January 2026. If you haven't entered before but would like more information, please see Alan Scholan or any of the club's experienced bowlers.

## **Indoor Short Mat Bowling**

The indoor short mat season opens on Monday 22 September, with the first league match scheduled for Tuesday 23 September, so there will be little practice time! Immediately after the conclusion of the Presidents vs Captains game on the 21st, the furniture will be moved in the hall so the floor can be properly cleaned by our machine and mats will be rolled out early on the 22nd. We have published the fixtures and copies are available online and in the clubhouse. This year, the club will have four teams taking part in the West Oxfordshire Evening League – the Canaries, Rams, Woolies and Red Kites – and two teams in Division One of the Afternoon League – the Vultures and the Hawks.

## **Wednesday Short Mat Triples League**

The draw for this winter's open short mat triples league has been made. This winter we will have 17 teams competing for the David Cooper Trophy and the cash prize fund of £450. Matches will start on 1st October.

With more teams than ever before it has been a challenge for Ben and Mike to make the league as fair as possible by scheduling teams to play all the other teams twice over the winter. It needed 34 days and there are not enough Wednesdays in the winter season to achieve that. The organisers' solution is to use several Mondays; these are the first Mondays in November December February and March, along with the Mondays of the Christmas and New Year break. This will unfortunately have an impact on the rollups scheduled for these Mondays. Please check the fixture list for these changes.

### **Mixed Short Mat Singles Competition**

This year we'll be holding a short mat singles competition to run throughout the winter – more details coming soon! We will also be holding three one day pairs competitions as per last year.

### **Introduction to Short Mat for New Members (and novices!)**

Many of our newer members may not be familiar with the "art" of short mat bowling, so there will be two sessions for those who would like to have a go in a relaxed setting and find out how the game is played. There will be two sessions – on Friday 26 September at 18:30, and Saturday 27 September at 10:00. Some experienced members will be on hand to show you the ropes.

### **Annual General Meeting 2025**

The club AGM will be held on Sunday 23 November at 3:00 pm. All members will receive papers two weeks prior to the meeting; anyone with items for the agenda should address these to the club secretary Wendy Hurp, before 9 November. Nomination sheets for club officers are now posted in the club (on the door by the store cupboard).

### **Bingo Night – Saturday 27 September**

Our first social of the indoor season will be our Bingo Night, with caller Lorna running the proceedings. Start time is 6:30, with eyes down at 6:45. The ticket price of £8.00 includes a hot one course meal. Bingo books are extra, please bring cash to pay for these. A sign up sheet is posted in the clubhouse – please bring your friends and advise those from other clubs who may be interested.

### **Christmas Bazaar**

Our annual bazaar will be on Saturday 15 November, from 10:00-13:00. We'll have the usual stalls, tombola, cake stall, bric a brac, games and teas. As usual, we'll need plenty of volunteers to help, and to bake cakes.

### **Friday Night Socials**

It has been suggested that the club should try and revive the idea of having a social evening on Fridays with crib, scrabble, short mats down or curling. The first event will be Friday 3 October from 6:30 and we will see how well it is supported; if there is interest it could happen every week (subject to bar staff availability too).

### **Dates for Your Diary**

- Ukelele Night – thanks to popular demand, the Blanket Town Ukes will be performing again on Friday 12 December at 19:00. Donations will be welcome.

- Quiz – 21 February 2026
- Christmas Party – 14 December
- Race Night – 29 November
- AGM – 23 November
- Spartan Rangers Christmas Jumper Night – 19 December

### 100 Club

Next draw will be at the Bingo Night on 27 September, £320 in the prize pot.

### ....and Finally

Thanks to Mike Jones who has provided this fun fact about our sport!



Did you know: the game of Bowls was once so popular, it distracted the nation's soldiers from archery practice? In response, King and Parliament declared it illegal in 1388.

Later, in 1511, King Henry VIII issued a proclamation condemning Bowls as an "evil sport," played in saloons and other questionable venues. Ironically, Henry was quite fond of the game himself, installing several bowling greens at his Whitehall Palace. At the time, anyone found playing away from home was fined the princely sum of 6s 8d. The ban remained in place until its repeal in 1848.