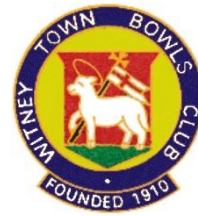


WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB



News Bulletin 89 March 2026



The daffodils are in bloom, the days are getting longer – in just over a month we will be preparing to move outdoors back on to the grass (apologies, my photo editing skills are such that I couldn't remove the trash can!) Although I have been away for a few weeks, much has been happening at the club, and I am pleased to share with you a photo of the great turnout at the Quiz Night on 22 February held to celebrate the life of Alan Scragg, our quiz master and supporter supreme. Thank you to Helen and all her family for coming down.



Another Qualified Coach!

Congratulations to our club captain Chris Jones who has just qualified as a Level One coach.

Wednesday Short Mat Triples League

The topsy-turvy theme continues this week! TailEnders have a one point lead at the top of the table on 39 points, followed by Little Lambs on 38 points and Allsorts on 37 points, Flying Shuttles on 36, and Witney Houston on 35 points.

West Oxfordshire Evening League

In the evening league, Witney Town Red Kites are currently topping the table on 120 points with Witney Mills Weavers one point behind, followed by WT Rams in third place on 110 points, and WT Canaries in sixth on 100 points.

West Oxfordshire Afternoon League

Congratulations to Wootton Braves, who won the afternoon league at a canter, losing only one match (out of 18) over the season. But very well done to the WT Hawks, who finished third in their first season in Division One, and WT Vultures who finished fourth, two points behind the Hawks.

Oxfordshire Short Mat Bowls Association

Congratulations to Martin Lister, Ben Healy and Howard Goldby who took part in the County Triples competition on 1 March and made it through to the quarter finals. It was great to have the club represented at this level.

Mixed Short Mat Singles Competition on 29 March

After some very competitive matches, Howard Goldby, Martin Lister, Brian Bloomfield and Simon Anstey have qualified for the semifinals of the mixed short mat competition. The semis and finals will be played on the same day – Sunday 29 March - 10:30 for the semis, 13:00 for the final. Please come down and enjoy watching what should prove to be an intriguing day of bowling.

Short Mat Pairs Competition

The second of this year's three short mat pairs competitions took place on Sunday 22nd February. As usual the twelve pairs were drawn into two groups of six teams and, in the "round robin" stage, each pair played the five other pairs in their group. Winners of the group stages were: Keith & Jan Simpson (undefeated within the group), and Ben & Jack Healy. These group winners went on to conclude the day with a play-off final. Ben and Jack emerged as overall winners, one notch up on their performance in the January event, when they were defeated in the final. The last opportunity to take part in a short mat pairs event this year will be on Sunday 22nd March. To enter, please add your name to the list that can be found on the "Competitions" notice board.



Ladies and Men's Outdoor Leagues

Sign up sheets are now posted on the Men's and Ladies notice boards with the dates of the league matches for our outdoor season. This year, the ladies will be fielding two teams, in line with the men. All members are encouraged to sign up to take part in these matches, your club needs you!

Oxfordshire County Mixed Friendlies

There will be eight mixed county friendly games this summer, with one of them being hosted by Witney Town on Tuesday 4 August. Details of these matches are posted in the clubhouse and are attached with this bulletin – if you are interested in being considered for selection, please contact John Hurren directly on johnhurren@btinternet.com

Tuesday Turn Up and Play League – administrator needed!

Alan has informed us that due to many events he will attend as County President falling on Tuesdays he is not able to commit to looking after the Tuesday TAP league properly and has

requested to step aside this year. We would like to see this event continue as it has proved to be very popular, so if you are a regular TAPper and would be prepared to take over the running of this league, please contact Alan or a member of the committee. Otherwise it will revert to a regular rollup session.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Registration Evening** - our annual registration evening will be held on Friday 3 April, from 6:00. Membership forms for next year will be sent out the week beginning 16 March.
- **Club Competition Draw Night** – Friday 1 May at 6:00
- **Green opens on Saturday 18 April at 10:30**
- **Bingo Night – Friday 8 May** – details closer to the date
- **Australian Pairs Day** – our first go at this fun alternative to the format most of us are used to, we'll have a charity day on Saturday 7 June. More details closer to the time.
- **Social Evenings** – the next Friday Night Socials will be on 20 March and 17 April. In addition to crib, other games will be available and the mats will also be down for casual bowling.

Committee Notices

- Spring clean and tidy up – we'll be meeting at the club on Saturday 11 April at 10:00 for a tidy up to get ready for the outdoor season, all welcome!
- Club History Book - At the end of last year the club had 50 copies of our history book professionally printed and bound. The majority have been bought by club members but copies have been gifted to, and warmly received by, Witney Library and Witney Museum. If you have ever: won one of our club competitions, been an officer of the club or triumphed in county competitions then your name will be mentioned in the book. There are now only 14 copies left. If you would like to have one then please add your name to the list that can be found on the "Social" notice board in the Pavilion. The books cost £10 each; which should be posted into the red letter box with a chitty (e.g. "History book payment from Joe Bloggs"). When our Treasurer, Robert Spriggins, receives it your copy will be delivered.

100 Club

Congratulations to the February 2026 Winners

1st Prize £100	unsold
2nd Prize £80	Sue Greenall
3rd Prize £50	Joy Hollier
4th Prize £45	Dave Chambers
5th Prize £30	Ian Hale

Next draw will be at the roll up on Monday 30 March; with £305 in the prize pot.

And finally....

Two new club members? These hedgehogs were recently rescued from the bowls green ditch. Two exit ramps have now been installed, but please look out for new visitors that look stranded.

