

WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB

News Bulletin 90
April 2026



Thanks to everyone who showed up for the Registration Evening – it was a great turnout considering it was a bank holiday and many had other plans. Good to see those who have been hibernating over the winter and are looking forward to getting out on the grass. There is still time to send those registration forms in. If you can't print out a copy or fill it in online, there will be extra copies in the clubhouse, or let me know and I will post one to you.

Good progress is being made by the council in preparing the green – an update on the status of the green and its maintenance will be provided next month after a new estates manager is appointed.

INDOOR SHORT MAT NEWS

Wednesday Short Mat Triples League

With only two games left in the season for most teams, Little Lambs are clinging on to the top position in the league by two points from Allsorts and Flying Shuttles, with Tail Enders a further point back. The last two matches will be played on the 13th and 15th of April.

West Oxfordshire Evening League

The evening league ended in a one match shootout for the title, with Witney Town Red Kites falling agonisingly short as runners up, losing to winners Witney Mills Weavers. WT Canaries finished third, and WT Rams fifth. The Woollies had a challenging season which improved towards the end, and members will have gained valuable experience competing in the league.



Red Kites

Oxfordshire Short Mat County Finals - Plate Competition Final Champions

Congratulations to Ben and Martin, who won the plate final after a very tightly contested match against Liam and Glenn Pounder of Witney Mills. They won the final on a play off end, 12 shots to 11.

There were 33 teams participating, in 7 groups. The top two teams in each group made it through to the main competition finals, the remainder competing in the plate. Congratulations to Brian and Alison Eastgate, who qualified for the last 16 of the main competition.



Ben and Martin

Mixed Short Mat Singles Competition on 29 March

Last April we experimented with a short mat singles competition day, as a spin-off from the established pairs competition days. The day was successful, but several players reported that it was a very tiring day. This year we have opted instead to try a short mat singles knock-out competition with games times and markers arranged by the players. It was very encouraging to have 27 players register to take part. The games took place between November and March and culminated in a single day for the semis and the overall final. A number of members took the opportunity to visit the club to watch the semis/final, in which Howard G. beat Simon A., and Martin L. beat Brian B. in the semis. In the afternoon's final, Martin continued the excellent standard we had watched in his morning semi against Brian. Martin emerged as this year's short mat singles champion.



We intend to run this KO-format competition next winter.

Short Mat Pairs Competition

The last of this year's three short mat pairs competitions took place on Sunday 22nd March. 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 Peter & Margaret Davidson (who won all their group games), and Bill Stewart & Roy Radband. These group winners went on to conclude the day with a play-off final. Bill and Roy emerged as overall winners.



During next winter's short mat season we plan to run three pairs competition days again. However, the March 2027 session will probably be moved to November 2026 in order to separate the three competition opportunities and provide a pre-Christmas event.

OUTDOOR NEWS

Derek Eeles Trophy – Monday 4 May

This is the first one-day fun competition of the outdoor season and now is the time to throw your bowls hats on to the rink! The sign-up sheet is posted at the club.

The main details:

- Open to ALL WTBC members.
- 3-wood mixed triples.
- Players enter as individuals and teams are drawn on the day.
- 12 teams (36 players).
- Each team plays three rounds of 40 minutes.
- A Final determines the 2025 trophy winner.
- 1 p.m. start.
- Light refreshments will be provided.
- £3.50 for players (£2.50 for refreshments only).
- Navy blues.

Full details can be found on the Competitions notice board at the club.

Club Friendlies

Sign up sheets for the first series of friendly matches are now posted in the clubhouse, as well as being available online on the Fixtures tab (click on the availability app). Remember, you must have made themselves available for, but not necessarily to play in, at least 3 home and 3 away club friendly games during the previous outdoor season if you want to play in club competitions next year.

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!

Cougars, Panthers and Tigers Mixed League Teams

Sign up sheets for these teams are posted in the clubhouse if you are interested in playing. Matches take place throughout the summer, mostly in the evenings but some matches on weekends.

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 – good to go!

We are grateful to Philip Horton who has agreed to step up and take over the running of the Tuesday TAP league, which will start on 12 May

Dates for Your Diary

- **Club Competition Draw Night** – Friday 1 May at 6:00
- **Green opens on Saturday 18 April at 10:30**
- **Bingo Night – Friday 8 May** – a sign up sheet is posted in the clubhouse. Tickets are £8.00 and include a one course hot meal (purchase of bingo books extra, please bring cash).
- **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 Social will be on 17 April in conjunction with Martin's pickleball players coming for a rollup. In addition to crib, other games will be available and the mats will also be down for casual bowling.
- **Open Day** – the date for our Open Day has been moved to Saturday 13 June and will be run as a family fun day with Henry Box School as well as an opportunity to attract new members. More information will be available soon.

Committee Notices

- **REMEMBER** – bowlers are required to wear bowling shoes on the green to keep it from being damaged.
- **Coaches** – Bowls Oxfordshire are looking to run a coaching course at Chipping Norton in the coming weeks subject to enough interest – please contact Captain Chris for more information.
- **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!

- Printed fixture booklets are available at the club – please take only one per member! Remember, the online version of the fixtures will always be the most up to date, so if in doubt, check online.
- Tea Rota – the list of dates when help is needed to do the teas is posted in the clubhouse. Please remember that all members are expected to sign up to do a tea over the summer. Eileen will appreciate your cooperation!

100 Club

Congratulations to the March 2026 Winners

1st Prize £100	Brian Scholes
2nd Prize £80	Keith Simpson
3rd Prize £50	Morag McIntyre
4th Prize £45	Luke Cooper
5th Prize £30	Simon Owens

The unsold February prize of £100 was won by Mavis Hale.

Next draw will be at the roll up on Friday 1 May at the Competition Draw night; with £300 in the prize pot.

Their Last End

Sad news from Oxford City and County:

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that Bryan Flitter passed away suddenly on Wednesday 2nd April. Bryan was a member of Cotswold and Woodstock B.C. prior to joining Oxford City & County. He was well loved and respected by everyone who knew him. During his many years at the club Bryan took on the role of Captain and Competition Secretary, continuing with these positions after he had to stop bowling due to health issues.

Bryan also supported Oxfordshire Bowling Association becoming Men's County Competition Secretary and cheering on the ladies when Jody was playing. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with Tracey and Jody.

Funeral arrangements to follow