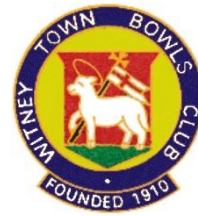


# WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB



## News Bulletin 91 May 2026



We have been blessed with pretty decent weather for the start of the outdoor season, although it's been a bit chilly these past few days. So much effort has been put into not only the green (thank you WTC!) but also tidying up the club and helping us to put our best face forward. Special thanks to Brian B, Mike W, and Chris J who spent hours affixing netting to the fence separating us from the construction site next door, to Martin and Roy who have cleaned out the gutters, and everyone who came down and helped on the cleanup day.

For those who have yet to renew their membership, 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.

### INDOOR SHORT MAT NEWS

#### Wednesday Short Mat Triples League

Congratulations to Flying Shuttles, winners of our short mat triples league, and commiserations to Little Lambs, who lost out on the title by shot difference. Many thanks to the organisers and everyone who participated.

### OUTDOOR NEWS

#### Monday Outdoor Triples League

This year's competition has now started, and we somehow managed to get through both of the first sessions without the forecast rain. We are all looking forward to a tightly contested series of matches over the coming weeks – good luck to everyone involved!

#### Club Competition Draw

All the club's knock-out competition draws were completed on Friday evening at the Pavilion. The draws can now be viewed on the club web site:

Witney Town Bowls Club - Club Competitions <https://witneytownbowlsclub.co.uk/index.php/club-competitions>

Paper copies are also available at the club in the black Competitions file that usually resides near the printer.

Each round has a Play-By date. The first of these is the 2nd June. Please check your positions in the various draws. Challengers are strongly advised to plan well ahead and agree dates early.

The Club Competition Rules can also be found via the above link and also in the black folder.

As the games progress, players should place signed score cards in the box provided and, ideally, let John Milsom know the result via email.

A list of club members who are willing to serve as markers is in preparation. To volunteer, please add your name to the list that can be found on the Competitions notice board at the club, or let John Milsom know.

There is still time for pairs to enter the Halls Cup (a.k.a. the Friday Evening Pairs League). Pairs who wish to enter just need to add names to the list on the Competitions notice board at the club.

### **Derek Eeles Trophy – Monday 4 May**

This year's Derek Eeles competition took place on Monday 4th May. The afternoon was rain-free and brightened-up nicely as the games progressed. Twelve randomly drawn triples teams competed in the group stage (2 groups of 6 teams).

Winners of their respective groups were:

- Richard Nolte, Simon Barnes & Peter Davidson
- Rosemary Lee, Paul Smith & Fabrizio Boer

After an excellent tea, prepared by Lorna, Lucy, Wendy & Lesley M, spectators enjoyed a 6-end final to decide the 2026 trophy winners.



Finalists – Richard, Simon. Peter, Paul, Fabrizio and Rosemary



Winners – Paul, Rosemary and Fabrizio

## Club Friendlies

We've had a strong start to our friendly fixtures this season, with wins in 5 out of the 6 matches played so far. Sign up sheets for friendly matches are regularly posted in the clubhouse, as well as being available online on the Fixtures tab (click on the availability app). Remember, members 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 wish to play in club competitions next year.

## Men's League

The men's leagues are now underway with league cup matches being played first; Witney Town B lost their cup match, and Witney A received a forfeit when Banbury Borough couldn't raise a team. The A and B teams played each other in a practice match instead, which was keenly competed! The immediate benefit of extra practice saw the B team win their first league match since the 2024 season, with a hard earned victory over Woodstock. The A team kick off their season on Thursday at Banbury Chestnuts.

## Ladies League

This year, the Ladies have two teams entered in the competition – the Rubies in Division 1, and the Sapphires in Division 2. In the first games, the Rubies lost to Hanborough, and the Sapphires defeated Witney Mills, both teams playing their first ever league match.

## Cougars, Panthers and Tigers Mixed League Teams

The Panthers kicked off their season with a fine win, 8-4 against last year's champions Burford. Cougars picked up two points against Headington, and Tigers will start their season shortly.

## 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](mailto:johnhurren@btinternet.com)

## Tuesday Turn Up and Play League

After a few weeks of rollup sessions, the Tuesday TAP league will start on 12 May. Teams will be determined by drawing of playing cards as per the usual rollup; individuals' scores will be recorded each time they play over the summer and their best 8 scores will count towards the overall ranking. There is no need to play every week. **Please note that this session starts at 10:00 with coffee – so if you are playing, please make sure you arrive by 10:15 so cards can be distributed to all players in time for a prompt start at 10:30.** Play goes straight through until 12:30

## Dates for Your Diary

- **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 for breast cancer research (Witney in Pink) on Saturday 7 June. Cost to players is £7.00 (including American style hotdogs and something sweet) and £4.00 to spectators who would like food. There will also be buckets out to accept donations for the charity. Sign up sheet is posted in the club – entries limited to 24 players. Players encouraged to wear something pink!

- **Social Evenings** – the next Friday Night Socials will be on 15 May and 12 June. In addition to crib, other games will be available and the mats will also be down for casual bowling. Indoor curling will be on offer on Friday 5 June.
- **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. The session will last from 10:00-14:00, followed by our home friendly against Wychwood. Please sign up in the clubhouse to help with demonstration sessions with new bowlers, and to help in the kitchen with teas.

**The students from Henry Box are making excellent progress transitioning from indoors to the grass.** We need more helpers on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 as we aim to offer more opportunities for them to play matches, against our own members and also juniors from the local area. Please be on the lookout for more developments in this area!



### Committee Notices

- Although printed fixture lists have been distributed, these can be subject to change. The most up to date version of the fixtures will always be found on the website, under “Fixtures”. If in doubt, please check online.
- At the end of a social event, or post-match hospitality, please assist the bar staff by helping to tidy up.
- Men’s changing room – please do not leave your bags and belongings lying around, and use your locker. We have some lockers available should you require one.
- Bowls cabinet – at the end of the rollup sessions, please ensure that bowls are stored in the cabinet in the correct area (by size) rather than being placed back in willy nilly!
- Club bowls stickers are now back in stock – 50 pence per sheet of two. Please see someone who can get them from behind the bar.
- 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 April 2026 Winners

1st Prize £100	unsold
2nd Prize £80	Micky Conrad Banks
3rd Prize £50	Luke Cooper
4th Prize £45	Basil Morris
5th Prize £30	Norma Buckingham

Next draw will be Monday 1 June at the Open Triples League.

## **A message from Bowls Oxfordshire**

“This year we are looking to develop some county aims that we will work towards as a unified county. The goal is for these to be specific to what members and clubs want and need. Therefore, we wish to ask for your help; below there is an online link to a Microsoft form for people to fill out. This survey is for everyone at your club whether they are involved with county bowling or not we want to hear their thoughts.

[Bowls Oxfordshire Aims 2026/27](#)

Thanks in advance for your support

Zoe Pratley

BO sponsorship and funding lead

## **Their Last End**

We are very sad to have to inform you club member Aiden Franklin passed away last week after a long illness.

Although health issues curtailed his bowling activity in recent years, Aiden was often found at the club supporting his friends in the Tail Enders team – Keith, Richard, Mary, John, Jan and Simon. We send our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

We will inform you when we are made aware of the funeral arrangements for Aiden. A lovely man who will be very much missed.

Further to the news of the passing of Bryan Flitter from Oxford City and County, we have been informed that Bryan’s funeral will be held on Tuesday 19 May at 1:00 pm at Oxford Crematorium, Bayswater Road, Oxford, with a wake following at City and County.