

WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB

News Bulletin 93 July 2026



The hot weather we have been experiencing so far this summer has certainly played havoc with some of the league fixtures, as well as making for challenging conditions for bowlers in club matches and rollups. Remember to stay hydrated! Come dark and dank January we may well be looking back at these summer days with some fondness.....

Thanks to all who supported the Spartan Rangers event last evening – the players, and especially Brian and Susan who did the buffet, and Roy and Peter who sweltered behind the bar! It was certainly hot, but everyone really enjoyed themselves and it's so important to be able to carry on with these community events, it means a lot to maintain relationships with local groups (and helps bring in funds for the club!)



100 Not Out for Roy!

Congratulations to Roy Radband, who recently played his 100th match for Oxfordshire. Here he is getting recognition for this achievement from County President, our very own Alan Scholan.



Willett Plate

The second of our on-the-day club competitions, the Willett Plate, took place on Sunday 5th July. Many thanks to the 24 players who took part; some of whom stepped in as late substitutes. Triples teams were drawn at random. The two teams who emerged from the closely fought group stage, and went on to compete in the final were: David, Karen & Dave and Jim, Helen & Peter.



Our winners – David, Karen and Dave

The warm afternoon was made more comfortable with drinks c/o Margaret behind the bar and ice lollies c/o Sue Close. Sue also coordinated a cadre of ladies who produced an excellent post-final afternoon tea. Thank you all.

Monday Outdoor Triples League

Meercats have moved to the top of the league after this week's matches on 13 points, followed by Cruisers on 12 points, and 3 teams on 10 points – Wickers and Glancers, Dark Side of the Loom, and CeeBees.

Men's League

The men's teams are both having extremely successful seasons so far. The A Team are lying second in Division 3 (only 5 points behind leaders Headington B) following a 5-1 win Thursday evening over West Oxford (and in the previous week, a 6-0 win over Banbury Chestnuts). The B team are second in Division 4, just two points behind leaders Thame, having defeated Hanborough 5-1 last week, and Oxford City and County B 5.5-.5 on Thursday evening. There is all to play for, so do pop down on a Thursday and support our players.

Ladies League

Witney Town Rubies are currently 4th in Division 1, and the Sapphires are third in Division 2. Both teams have one league match remaining, before the start of the League Cup campaign. The Ladies are playing their County Top Club match against West Witney on Sunday 12 July at 10:00, at home.

Cougars, Panthers and Tigers Mixed League Teams

The Panthers are currently 6th in Division 1 (but have only played 3 games compared to the leaders Banbury Chestnuts 6); the Tigers and Cougars 3rd and 6th in Division 2 but with games in hand.

Tuesday Turn Up and Play League

Bill M and Phil H are currently closely contesting the top of the TAP league with only 2 points difference, followed by Tony P and Basil.

County and National Competitions

As previously reported, we still have a number of members who have advanced in the county competitions this year; we wish them continued good fortune! Martin L has reached the semi final of the Longford Cup – semifinals and finals will be played on 9 August at South Oxford . Gary P was defeated in the last 16 of the men's singles. Alan S and his team of Micky, Fabrizio and Brian S have reached the semifinals of the men's 4s, which will be played at Banbury Chestnuts on the weekend of 18-19 July.

Congratulations to Pauline, Jean and Mavis who have made it to the semi finals of the county triples AND the county 4s (with Barbara S). These matches will be played on the weekend of 18-19 July at Banbury Chestnuts.

The Ladies will be playing West Witney in the County Top Club competition at HOME at 10:00 on Sunday 12 July – please come down and show your support!

Club Competitions

Derek Adams Memorial Trophy

A date for your diaries: The Derek Adams Memorial Trophy takes place this year on Monday 31st August, commencing at 1:00 p.m. In this triples competition all players maintain their own scorecards and the triples teams are drawn for every session. The trophy winner is the player with the highest cumulative score at the end of the day. The sign-up sheet for this competition will be appearing on the Competitions notice board soon.

This last few weeks have been somewhat challenging for those playing club competitions due to the bouts of high temperature and some health matters. If you agreed "play-by" extensions with the Competition Secretary then winners are requested to move quickly to fix a date for the next round game.

Reminder – This year's finals will be held over Friday 28th August to Sunday 30th August.

2027 Finals Weekend

If you like to plan your holidays well ahead and you intend to enter next summer's club competitions, then please be aware the 2027 club finals will be taking place on Friday 3rd to **Sunday 5th September. This continues to align our calendar with Bowls England's standardized weeks of the year.**

Club Friendlies

Of the 24 friendlies played to date (including Men's and Ladies), we have won 12, Lost 6, Drew 1, Cancelled 5.

Early season enthusiasm for signing up for friendlies has waned, and it is becoming a little more difficult for Captain Chris to select teams for mixed friendlies. A summary of availability for friendlies has been posted on the noticeboard showing progress towards eligibility for club competitions next year. **Please continue to support the club- and our captain – by making yourselves available for selection.**

Junior Development

The Henry Box after-school club has moved onto the green – the number of pupils is averaging around 12. Plans are advanced for introducing a “junior club” to meet on Saturday mornings during the school holidays and probably continuing beyond that to become a permanent fixture. Currently we have 12 juniors interested (10 from Henry Box and 2 from Wood Green) and we are in the process of obtaining parental consent. All those attending the Saturday mornings will be required to sign on as junior members of the club. We are hoping that the coaching at these sessions will allow some of these juniors to progress to the level at which they can be considered for selection for club matches.

Committee Notices

- Jam jar alert – Brian B is in urgent need of more empty jam jars, please leave them on the bar (no empty pickle or chutney jars please!!)
- The “Pink Ladies” from our President's chosen charity Witney in Pink will be joining us for a fun evening of bowls on Monday 27 July at 6:30, please support this event.

100 Club

1st Prize £100	Bill Stewart
2nd Prize £80	Simon Owens
3rd Prize £50	Norma Buckingham
4th Prize £40	Rowena Prentice
5th Prize £30	Maggie Hinton

Next draw will be Friday 31 July at the Friday Pairs League.

Their Last End

Former long-standing club member Brian Scholes has passed away after a long battle against ill health. He was 92.

Brian was a Witney Town member for many years, along with his wife Marge, and were active both outdoors and on the short mat until poor health and Covid curtailed their activities.

Brian's funeral will be Tuesday 14 July at 2:00 at the North Oxfordshire crematorium, and Marge specifically mentioned that she would be very pleased to see anyone from the bowls club who can attend. She would like to know numbers for the wake afterwards, which will be held at the Plough in Alvescot, so if you can confirm your attendance with her via email (nanrules@gmail.com, or message 07752 936444) that would be helpful.

Sincere condolences to Marge, her family and friends.