

	<p style="text-align: center;">RAM The online Newsletter For Witney Town Bowls Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">witneytownbowlsclub.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">April 2019</p>
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Events coming up!

Registration Evening Friday 12th April 6pm

Easter Monday Lunch 22nd April

Bingo and Supper Sat 18th May

It's that time of year again where we start to wonder where the time has gone, as it seems only yesterday that we packed away the wet weather gear and left the green green grass of summer behind! Some of us have played away the winter on the short mat, others on the long mat, some on both and a few have kept away from bowling all together! But it won't be long now before we all come together once again to try out our skills on the outdoor green.

Registration Night is Friday 12th April from 6pm, bring your cheque books, and don't forget the diaries so that you can sign up for that all important TEA DUTY!!! On Saturday 13th April the green opens from 10:30am, with the first match of the season on Sunday 14th April!

Before we look forward to summer let's take a look back at how the indoor bowling has gone these past few months. In the West Ox short mat league all 3 teams, Canaries, Rams and Woolies have had ups and downs this season. In the end they finished 4th, 6th and 11th. The Wednesday morning Open Triples League went right to the wire, with the eventual winners Burford, clinching victory from a Witney Town team with their last game! Whilst the Monday afternoon and Friday morning roll-up sessions are thriving, with 20+ people turning up week after week, it seems many of those are reluctant to sign up for the short mat friendlies at weekends! This has made extra work for the club captain as he's had to spend considerable time trying to pull teams together. If this trend continues it may well signal the end of the friendly matches against other local clubs! This would be very disappointing not only from lost income through the winter, but also loss of contact with some of our near neighbours.

It's been a similar scenario for the indoor long mat games, lack of support has often led to numbers being reduced to try to maintain the fixtures. Please show your support to the club by ensuring we have enough names to enable these games to go ahead, or they will be lost forever! The matches that have been played have mostly been successful, showing that although we're not an 'indoor' club we can put up a good performance against decent opposition! This has shown through in the Bob Edwards league played at Carterton, where we have once again come out as winners; we had the same success in the North Oxon league at Chippy where Witney Town triumphed in the final versus Middle Barton! In the City and

County Tens comp we had good wins over South Oxford and Abingdon, but lost to City and County and Chippy!

This year it was decided to make Friday night into Social night. Whilst not bringing huge numbers of members in it has been very enjoyable for those that do turn out! As well as s/m bowling, kurling has proved popular and some are becoming quite proficient at it, maybe this will become a new league sport in the future! The card table has seen some closely fought contests on the cribbage board too, and there's always the opportunity to sit and chat with friends if preferred. It was suggested we had fish and chips sometimes, so on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month orders have been placed and collected from Burwell chip shop, and they've gone down a treat!

It's good to see names already on the sheets for the first few outdoor fixtures, let's hope the weather plays ball and we don't have to reach for the 'wets' too many times this season! There will be the usual Monday Open Triples League, which this year is being sponsored by TPC WEALTH Management, and has already attracted several entries from both inside and outside our own club. Team entry forms are available in the pavilion, or speak to Alan Scholan for more information.

Arrangements for Tuesday mornings are undecided at present, but likely to follow last summer as the organised roll up session seemed popular. There will also be the usual Friday morning roll ups, and as with Tues these sessions start at 10:30am; all members are welcome to come.

Our Men's team are playing in the Oxfordshire County Division One this summer for the first time ever, so we wish them and Captain Paul a successful season on the green. Support is welcomed at both home and away matches, check the fixture book for venues, games start at 6:15pm.

The Ladies have a new Captain this season, Shirley Crick will be leading them out to what we hope will be another good year, having finished third behind Banbury Central and City and County teams last summer. Again your support both on and off the green will be welcomed, either by playing or cheering from the sidelines! Fixtures and venues are in the fixture book.

At the AGM it was decided to amend the qualification rules for club competitions, so that matches played this season qualify members to play in next summers comps. For this summer only no qualification is necessary, and we hope this will encourage more of you to enter the various competitions on offer.

Don't forget to check the club website for up to date information on matches, leagues and Green status - it is sometimes necessary to close the Green for extra maintenance work to be carried out by the contractors. Also keep an eye there for details of forthcoming socials, it was noted that several of you found out that the recent Bingo had been postponed from the website! Thanks go to those that maintain this very useful and informative tool, both for current members and prospective new ones, also those looking to hire the venue!

And finally our famous holidays! Thanks to Deanna for organising this year's winter tour to Bournemouth, weather was amazing, and we look forward to the summer version at Eastbourne in July, when hopefully the sun will still be shining on us then too!! Also let's not forget the very creative few days spent at The Manor Hotel, Okehampton in January, thank you Alan for sorting that!