

# WITNEY TOWN BOWLS CLUB



## News Bulletin 88 February 2026



Anyone venturing to the clubhouse on Wednesday afternoons will now witness a group of excited young people enjoying a game of bowls! We are working in partnership with Henry Box School to run a Bowls After-School Club for their pupils. It has started with 12 pupils aged between 11 and 14, although many more expressed an interest in playing. They are very enthusiastic (and competitive!) and after only 3 weeks are showing great ability. At the end of April, we will move onto the green and introduce them to outdoor bowls. The hope is that this will be the start of an “academy” for young bowlers, similar to those already running at Charlbury, Carterton and Banbury, and provide the club with fresh talent. Many thanks to Howard and Martin who are leading the sessions, and to other members who are coming along on Wednesdays to help.

### Alan Scragg

It is with great sadness that we inform you that club member Alan Scragg passed away on Thursday 29 January. Alan would be the first to say he wasn't a bowler, but nevertheless, he was a constant fixture of our club, supporting wife Helen in all her matches and competitions, sitting happily on the sidelines. In short, one of the club's biggest supporters. Alan also made his mark as the setter of some challenging questions for our quizzes. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Sincere condolences to Helen, family and friends. Alan's funeral will be held on Monday 2 March, at 2:00 pm at the South Oxford Crematorium, followed by refreshments at the Ferryman Inn in Bablock Hythe ([theferrymaninn.co.uk](http://theferrymaninn.co.uk)). Everyone will be very welcome to attend. Donations in memory of Alan will go to the RNLI (Lifeboats); please visit the memorial page at [alanscragg.muchloved.com](http://alanscragg.muchloved.com).

### Wednesday Short Mat Triples League

This competition continues to be nail-bitingly close, and who knows how it will finish? The current table sees Allsorts and TailEnders on top with 33 points, followed by Little Lambs on 32, Flying Shuttles on 30, and Witney Houston and Burford Lions on 29 points.

### West Oxfordshire Evening League

In the evening league, Witney Mills Weavers are leading the way on 109 points. WT Rams are in third place, one point behind Charlbury Cedars, followed by the Red Kites in fourth, one point back, and WT Canaries in fifth, 3 points further back but with a game in hand. It is still very competitive at the top.

### West Oxfordshire Afternoon League

In the afternoon league, the WT Hawks and WT Vultures are in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places, on 66 points. No one is going to catch Wootton.....

### OCC 10s League - Sunday 8th Feb

This a competition where teams of 10 players compete in four mixed events: singles, pairs, triples and fours. We got off to a cracking start. Two hours into the match we were up 33 v 64. However, OCC Blues made a very strong comeback during the next 50 minutes, and with one end to play, they were within six shots of a draw. In the event the final score was a satisfying win for Witney Town by a nine shot margin.

OXFORD CITY & COUNTY BOWLS CLUB									
OCC BLUES					WITNEY TOWN				
RINK	HOME	SCORE	ENDS	SCORE	AWAY	RINK			
1			63	73		1			
2	N SACHEL	21		TOTAL	11	C BLOOMFIELD			
3	M ALLEN	5		10	21	B BLOOMFIELD			
4	T COA	23		16	R RABBAND				
5	A EASTGATE	14		24	B EASTGATE				
6						6			

### Mixed Short Mat Singles Competition

All of the semi finalists have been determined, and it is likely that the semis and finals will be played on the same day – Sunday 29 March. Members will be informed of further details next month so that the conclusion of this new competition can be enjoyed by spectators.

### Short Mat Pairs Competition

The next pairs competition is scheduled for Sunday 22 February. All places are currently taken but please come down and watch.

### 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!

### Dates for Your Diary

- **Quiz Night** – Saturday 21 February 2026, 6:30 for 6:45 start. Helen has requested that we continue with the quiz night, in honour of Alan who has set the questions, and hosted by our very own Simon Anstey. Tickets are £8.00 and include a hot one course meal. Please enter your team (up to six members) on the sign up sheet in the Club – if you haven't got

a team but would like to participate, add your name to the list and you'll be accommodated. **Entries accepted up until 18 February.**

- **Race Night** – Witney Mills are hosting a Race Night at our club on Saturday 7 March (while the West Witney clubhouse is being renovated), our members are welcome to attend. A signup sheet is posted in the clubhouse.
- **Social Evenings** – the next Friday Night Social will be on 13 March and 17 April. In addition to crib, other games will be available and the mats will also be down for some casual bowling.

### **Murder Mystery Evening**

We have been approached with the idea to host a Murder Mystery Evening at the club in late spring/early summer. There are 2 options: 1) Your members volunteer to take part and act as Sherlock Holmes, and the organiser provides everything needed for the show. Alternatively, the organiser can bring along actors to perform the show. The presentation of the show is completely flexible, but involves 3 sections - the reveal that there has been a murder, interview of the suspects and the denouement during which the murderer is revealed.

We think it's a novel idea, and could be great fun, but before we commit, we'd like to hear your thoughts on whether you'd be interested in actively participating, or would rather be a member of the audience and let someone else do the hard work!

### **Committee Notices**

- Registration Evening – our annual registration evening will be held on Friday 3 April. More details will be forthcoming shortly. The green is scheduled to open on 18 April.
- In addition to the social evenings currently being organised by Lorna every 4 weeks, we'd like to utilise the clubhouse more by organising bowls evenings for local organisations in our community, where they could enjoy bowling and the bar. If you have any ideas of who to contact, or would like to help organise one of these events (for your place of work, or an organisation you are active in) please let someone from the Committee know.

### **100 Club**

Congratulations to the January 2026 Winners

1st Prize £100	Alan Gill
2nd Prize £80	Peter Davidson
3rd Prize £50	Phil Horton
4th Prize £45	Paula Cleaver
5th Prize £30	Deanna Radband

Next draw will be at the roll up on Friday 27 February; with £305 in the prize pot.