



# 2-Wide 2-Heavy

The Newsletter of Olveston & District Bowling Club

October 2023

[www.bowlsolveston.co.uk](http://www.bowlsolveston.co.uk)

## The Chairman's Message

It doesn't seem 5 minutes ago that we attended our Opening Day and welcomed this year's new members but here we are at the end of the season. Visiting the club now you'll see that the gazebos and outdoor furniture have already been put away and the clubhouse rearranged (sort of) for the winter activities, including a carpet clean. The carpet got particularly dirty this season but maybe that's just an indication of how much the clubhouse was used.

This was our first season using Rink Diary, and without a paper back up! I admit I was apprehensive but needn't have been. The preparation and training carried out, predominantly by Steven, proved crucial and ensured that most were able to use the system successfully from the start. Yes, there were some that found it difficult or confusing to start with but I think most quickly got a grasp of at least the bits they needed. If not, it's never too late to shout for assistance as we're determined that nobody will be 'left behind' and that everyone will be able to enjoy the bowls they want using this system, either directly or with assistance.

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered for the whole range of various tasks that need doing. Your input is invaluable and ensures the club continues to function both in and out of season. There's always room for additional volunteer help in both the Green Keeping team and the Maintenance team. Speak to John Arrowsmith or Bob Phillips if you'd like to find out more about the types of jobs done and how you may be able to help on a regular, or ad hoc, basis.

As most of you know the club has 4 Trustees. Janice Leach is currently one of the four but has decided that the time is right to hand over this very important office to someone else and we thank Janice very much for her contribution over a number of years and wish her well. This does mean we have a vacancy for a Club Trustee which we will fill in due course but if this is something that you may be interested in then speak to me or one of the other 3 Trustees.

Individuals and teams have had great successes in a range of competitions this year and I'm sure these will be written about by others in this issue. But for me there is one stand out success that deserves highlighting. For many, many years the City and County of Bristol BA Clarence Davey Cup had eluded our best men's teams and was fast becoming the cup we could never win. But the guys continued to plug away and in 2021 won the cup for the first time in our history, and now they don't know when to stop, winning again in 2022 and, for the third consecutive time, 2023. This is a fantastic achievement and well done to all the players involved, it's almost as if the Clarence Davey cup belongs to us now. So, no pressure guys but we now expect you to win it in 2024.

Looking forward to next year if you know you will be changing your level of membership for 2024 e.g. from Full to Associate, Associate back to Full or simply not playing any more please let us know as soon as you have decided and we can build that into next year's recruitment plan.

I hope you all stay fit and well throughout the closed season and return refreshed and ready to do it all over again in April 2024. See you at the AGM.

Best wishes

Geoff



## Our President's Message

I have really enjoyed the year as Club President and I hope I have done my duty correctly. I would like to thank everybody who has donated to my charity the final total will be revealed at the presentation evening (it was £1250). Once again, I would to thank everybody for their help and wish Margaret every success for next season.

Thank You

Tom

If you would like to find out more about the work and support of BUST then further details can be found at: <https://www.bustbristol.co.uk/>



## Welfare and Safeguarding – Jean Lambourne

I'd like to begin by thinking of members who unfortunately were unable to attend the summer season, please join me in sending them love & best wishes.

If health or anything has affected you or your family, we are here to support you all year round, whether it's a lift or a visit for a chat.

Look out for information about a 'Christmas Coffee & Chat', if you would like to be involved with this or can provide a cake, please let me know (date to be arranged).

We would love to hear any ideas you may have & I'm looking forward to having a go at short bowls, I think!

As mentioned in my last report in September, Bowls England are aiming for all clubs to have a Safeguarding Officer by 2025. Bowls Development Alliance Safeguarding Manager, Helen Price, is sending a monthly bulletin, this month is focused on under 18. Any relevant information I will put on notice board.

In February I'm attending a zoom Safeguarding course. Courses are available for all members to attend & can be found on the Coach Bowls website. The Club has registered with Disability Bowls to enable us to continue the great support we offer & help with the inclusion of disabled bowlers including physical, dementia, sight or hearing loss, to name a few from a large umbrella. Some disabilities are permanent, others temporary due to operations/illnesses. Not all disabilities can be seen.

As your Welfare/Safeguarding Officer I will happily support where I can & would like to thank everyone for their support over the season, towards me & their fellow bowlers.

I have a label, but we are all safeguarding each other.

Best wishes & hope to catch up with you through the winter months.

Yours Jean

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## Safeguarding Bowls

## Fixtures

Well, another year of fixtures has gone by in a flash. My thanks go to Adrian, Angela and Harry for organising the weekend and Ladies fixtures. Thanks also to Nigel for stepping in at short notice to take on the midweek fixtures from Bob. I'm sure I echo everybody's thoughts for Bob and his family and friends. There were over 90 friendlies in the programme (mixed, men's and ladies). In addition, and these were not arranged by me, but there were some 120 league matches for all to play in. The weather was not kind to us this year but there was still a lot of friendly bowls played and many league and competitive matches competed in.

The programme for next year is progressing well. I do not see many changes to it but I am hoping to pick up a few new clubs who we may not have played in friendlies previously. If anybody has heard of a club that we may not play then please let me know.

## Rink Diary

This year saw the introduction of 'Rink Diary' which would seem to have been a success. I would like to thank those people who have helped to implement and maintain it, especially when I was away during May. Also, I want to thank you all for buying into it. I appreciate that for many this will have been a real change to how things have been done previously – both booking a rink and signing up for games – but I hope it has proved to be a simple enough process, at least once you have done it a few times. I also hope nobody feels that the system left them at a disadvantage. If you do feel that way, please come and see me.

Going forward, I will run introductory sessions for all new bowlers next year and in the years after. However, everybody will be welcome to come along for a recap. If we have any new captains that will need to use it, I will run sessions for them as well.

## Communications

You should have seen an addition to the Clubhouse this year - the monitor. It has started to be used more recently to display a 'Welcome' message to clubs arriving for friendlies. It was also used during Finals Weekend to show the schedule and winners. The intention is that it will be used more next year for the same plus to advertise more upcoming events etc.

I'm aware that not everybody has been receiving all messages this year. However, I hope that will be improved next year, as we improve our communications across the Club too, so that nobody misses out on any messages.

Enjoy your time playing indoors, short mat, both, or simply having a break from bowls and I'll see you all again next year.

Steven Wharram  
Fixtures Secretary

## Maintenance & Facilities Update

Like every bowls season, the maintenance team and others are involved in many routine but essential tasks. These include sweeping up, rubbish/bar waste management, furniture moving, hedge trimming, non-green gardening and many small mending and making tasks to keep the facility safe, available, fully functioning and above all reflecting the ambitions and successes of the Club and its members.

Early in the season we had to replace the water supply pipes to the irrigation tank which did delay some early-season irrigation as, unfortunately, the task proved somewhat bigger than expected. At the same time, we had some repairs to be made to the gazebo covers which delayed their erecting. However, despite some crazy weather in April and May we were able to keep working on some of the long list of projects we had planned. Outside painting has been completed together with some renovation work on the balcony and the cricket nets.

This year has been quite a challenging one for the team when most of the team have been affected by their own frailty or that of a family member, other commitments and even some holidays. However, we keep plodding on, although we must keep pushing more members to step forward to help.

The new storage container is nearing completion and soon we will be able to make full use of a dry, insulated and secure facility. We are determined that it will not be just a dumping ground for old stuff and items for storing will be carefully managed.

As usual during the winter months we will be undertaking maintenance on the benches, repairs to some of the patio chairs and some general maintenance on the equipment shed and other storage places.

A new project is to be started involving preparing space for two new memorial benches on the cricket-nets boundary and erecting timber-built gazebo covers for the seating.

A further "build" project is to be planned to give a covered, secure area outside the cellar.

As you know, the maintenance team operates throughout the year on Monday and Friday mornings and work closely with the green keeping please consider helping us by contacting me to have a chat about how we can use your talents.

Bob Phillips



## Ladies League A Team – Jan Lee Cooper

I'm delighted to begin this update on a very positive note: we saw off all other teams in Division 1 and came out as overall Winners, having achieved 97 points with a shot difference of +176 (Portishead RBL finished second on 95 points and +175 shots). It was all down to our last match of the season against Ardagh, playing at Ardagh when, with the light fading fast as the last bowls were delivered, we secured an 8 – 0 win. However, we had to wait another 24 hours before we knew the outcome of RBL's final match; they achieved a 6 – 2 win which meant we could relax and congratulate ourselves!

This season, we played with a squad of 9 ladies and on this basis, maintained a high degree of consistency throughout, with there being only a couple of matches when we had to 'borrow' players from the B Team. Well done each and every one of you who contributed to our success!

There was more good news at the end of the season when our B Team became Winners of Division 2. They will now be joining the A Team in Division 1 next season. Our C Team remain in Division 3. Well done to both Carolyn and Sam for their commitment to ensuring the smooth running of our Ladies' League Teams.

As Winners of Division 1 and Division 2, we will be presented with Trophies/ Shields and monetary prizes at the BLL AGM, the date of which has not yet been circulated, but is likely to be held in November.

## Ladies League B Team & Ladies Friendlies – Carolyn Bovill

The ladies have enjoyed a very successful season this year.

The B team came top of the Ladies League 2nd Division after an exciting final game against Page Park where we just needed 2 points to take the top spot. It came down to a nail biting final end and we celebrated with hugs and tears and Kath's new team song "Champions Champions"! We are looking forward to playing in the 1st division next season.

The Ladies' Friendlies were well supported with plenty of sign ups for each of the 22 matches. We held 8 Ladies Alternative Fixtures during the weeks when we did not have an arranged match which were also very well supported, particularly by our newer members. Angela came up with some creative ideas to make these afternoons more competitive and fun and we hope to carry on with these sociable afternoons next season.

The Ladies Captain's Day was held on a sunny afternoon in August and we raised almost £540 for the Alzheimer's Society. We were very impressed with the effort the ladies put into their "summer holiday" themed outfits. Big respect to Sam and Pauline for playing bowls in their cozzies! Once again thank you to everyone who supported, contributed or donated that day.

Carolyn Bovill





## Ladies League C Team – Sam Harper

Well done and thank you to the ladies who played in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division this year. We managed to maintain and finish the season mid-table in 5<sup>th</sup> position. We had some closely fought games, 4 of which were only lost by 1 or 2 shots! For a team consisting of players in their first or second season I'm sure you'll agree with me that this is an excellent result and one on which we aim to improve next year.

Thank you also to Jan, Carolyn and Brenda for all your advice and support throughout the season, you made managing the team a little less daunting!

Onwards and upwards

Sam

## South Cotswold League B Team - Phil Tellwright

### An Advent Story (how the B team became the Cambusters)

And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from the League Fixture Secretary, that we should be promoted out of Division 4 to play the new season at a higher level. And then did Flipper also put himself forward to guide the same tribe into the promised land of a higher division; and the AGM was satisfied. Soon thereafter Fruity and Badger also joined the throng, and each gave succour to Flipper and the host.

As the sun rose on the first day, Flipper went up from the village of Tockington into Olveston to collect the pies thereafter to play the first game against Cam Mills. And so it was that following the handshaking and while they were there, great deeds were accomplished especially in the front-end by Steve Gore at Lead and Kevin Shellard at Two.

And the crowd stood on the rink-side because there was no room for them in the stand.

And there were on the same green, back-end bowlers finding their lines and keeping watch over the head as it built and measuring like fury. They were called Harry Greenslade, Steve Gregory and Mark Gilkes. There were others who shall remain nameless, abiding in space, delivering short woods, playing with the wrong bias and not really watching what was going on: Badger came upon them, and the glory of the Second Team and the Clarence Davey Selection Panel shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And Badger Spake:

'Fear not; for behold I bring good tidings of great joy which shall be to you and all those on the bench. For unto you is brought this day down the backhand channel a way to draw shot and win the end. Cast aside any doubts or fears about the ditch; you shall feel the length and find space around the short woods; your deliveries will curve in as arrows at sunset, and the ends shall be won.' And suddenly there was a multitude of wicks and a flurry of chalk – and the ends were won, and Cam Mills were rent asunder.

And Flipper saw that it was good.

And the spectators who had come from far and wide from Pilning, Alveston, Thornbury, Bradley Stoke and just off Morton Way, marvelled at the display and when they had seen it rejoiced in the victory which as



Kevin Dann recalled, coincided with the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dambusters' Raid in the Ruhr Valley. Thus was Bomber Squadron 324 conceived and the Cambusters came into being.

And it came to pass as the season wore on that the squad grew and new faces such as Jeff Cooper begat of Yate Bowling Club and Jon Sharp joined in to support seasoned players such as Peter Baker, Mike Bovill, Trevor Graham, Steve Wharram, Steve Gregory and Nigel Cloke and they all played a blinder and kept ODBC in second place which guaranteed promotion for the second season in a row.

Flipper

## Glos Bowls Sunday League – Lawrence Oliver & Robert Harris

A total of 36 players represented ODBC in the two teams that were entered in this year's competition.

Our A team played in Division 1 after promotion from division 2 and we came up against some very stiff opposition such as the A teams from Cheltenham, Fairford and Frampton on Severn. At the end of the season, out of a total programme of 8 fixtures, they had won 3 matches finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the division. So, they will be playing in the same division in 2024. Hopefully with continued support from the membership we can push on and give the BIG teams some good competition.

Meanwhile, the B team were also competing for their second season in division 4. Again, the season comprised of 8 fixtures and the team finished with a 50% record winning 4 and losing 4. This resulted in a final position of 6<sup>th</sup> and cemented their position in division 4 for next year.

We would both like to thank all the players who turned out for our teams during the season. Sunday mornings with a 10.00am start can be a very pleasant time of day to play game of bowls and seems to be thoroughly enjoyed by all those involved.

Please look out for an e-mail from us early next year when we will be asking members to let us know whether they will be looking to volunteer to take part again.

Lawrence Oliver (A Team Manager) and Robert Harris (B Team Manager)

## Saturday Friendlies – Adrian Meads

It's been an interesting season for my first as Saturday Manager.

Of the 19 fixtures arranged we played 13 – 3 were cancelled due to the weather (rain and more rain!) and 3 due to lack of opposition players. Our win/lose ratio wasn't too hot. We won 3 and lost 10.

I guess on the up-side we used 83 different players during the season.

So, thanks to David Barrass and to all of you for your support and let's look forward to more Wins next year.

Adrian

## Sunday Friendlies – Angela & Harry Greenslade

Sunday friendlies were highly popular and well supported throughout the season. It was pleasing that many new members joined our regulars in the Sunday squad. We had some very enjoyable games, some new venues and friendly opposition. We would like to thank the day captains for standing in when we were not available.

Angela & Harry

## Floodlit League – Ian Gauld

This year the Floodlit League was played a little earlier, which I think worked better. My thanks to the more than twenty members who made themselves available. I did my best to ensure everyone played at least one game. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to retain the Division 1 title, losing out to GB Britton by just 3 points, however, I hope everyone enjoyed their games and we certainly kept them on their toes. Next year is another year and we will go again!

Ian Gauld

## Monday Night is Club Night

Club Night still appears to be the highlight of the week for many members as it's one of the best attended events of the week. It's an ideal evening for social and competitive members alike. It's also a great way for new bowlers to meet socially with other members whilst learning more about the game of bowls.

Many thanks to all who attend.

Ian & Tricia

## Summer Lotto Bonus Ball

Transition from 6 monthly to yearly has gone well with all numbers sold. Many thanks to all taking part and paying promptly.

Good luck

Tricia & Ian

## Club Finals Weekend

The Competition Finals weekend, despite some weather problems, certainly served us up with some exciting and entertaining matches. All supported by the volunteer markers and scoreboard keepers. Hearty congratulations to all the competition winners, the rest of us will have to do better next year. Our thanks to all the competitors for mostly abiding by the competition rules and not giving us too many problems to deal with over the season.

COMPETITION	WINNER(s)	RUNNERS UP
Paul Bryant Trophy Mixed Triples	RENFREW	RHOOSE
Ken Worsley Trophy (Mens over 65 4 bowls)	JEFF COOPER	JOHN VEASEY
Fred Mayor Trophy (Mens 4 bowl Handicap)	DAVID LEWIS	IAN BARTON
Colonel Turner Trophy (Mens 3 bowl singles)	JOHN VEASEY	DAVID LEWIS
Major Basil Mundy Trophy (Ladies 4 bowl pairs)	JACKY ROBERTS/TRISHA BARTON	LYNNE DRYSDALE/ANGELA GREENSLADE
Captain Salmon Challenge Cup (Mens 4 bowl pairs)	DAVID LEWIS/NIGEL CLOKE	STEVE CLARK/ROB SMITH
Audray Worsley Sapphire Trophy (Ladies 3 bowl pairs)	LAURA HUNTER/MARGARET DRAYTON	JACKY ROBERTS/TRISHA BARTON
Fred White Challenge Cup (4 bowl mixed pairs)	JEAN AND ALAN LAMBOURNE	JAN AND JEFF COOPER
Sid Hagger Presidents Trophy (Mens Novice 4 bowl singles)	TONY FORD	DAVID LEWIS
Mary Norris Presidents Trophy (ladies novice 4 bowl singles)	KATH GREENMAN	LAURA HUNTER
Mary Norris Cup (ladies 2 wood singles)	SUE LATHAM	JACKY ROBERTS
Two Wood Trophy (mens 2 wood singles)	JOHN SMALLWOOD	CHRIS BLAKE
James Ritchie Millenium Trophy (open singles 3 sets )	ALAN TREGONING	TED MANGAN
Tom Ellis Plate (mens 4 bowl singles)	JOE HARDWICK	TED MANGAN
Frank Bennett Cup (Ladies Championship)	SUE LATHAM	MARGARET DRAYTON
William Davis Canning Cup (Mens Championship)	STEVE CLARK	KEN TUDOR
Jack Drysdale CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS Trophy	SUE LATHAM	STEVE CLARK













## External Competitions – Ian Gauld

Well, 2023 has proven to be another wonderful year for our members in external competitions. How brilliant too that some of that success has been enjoyed by ‘newer’ members who have done themselves and the Club proud.

In the **North-East Bristol** competitions, we had a strong representation in the finals with Phil Tellwright, Steve Clark, Dave Lewis & Jiff Roberts (Kevin Shellard sub) reaching their first, and unlikely to be their last, district competition final. Unfortunately, they lost to a strong Redland Green four but the experience will have set them all up for further achievement in the years to come. We had both teams in the mixed fours finals with Jeff Cooper, Jan Lee-Cooper, Ted Mangan & Laura Hunter beating Christine Bradley, Trish Barton, Ian Barton & Robert Smith in the Fours. The Bartons also appeared in the final of the mixed pairs where, regrettably, they suffered a second defeat. Victory was always guaranteed in the men’s pairs final where a match of high quality finally went the way of Joe Hardwick and Alan Tregoning (also 2021 winners) over Ian Curtis and Robert Smith. In the men’s triples final our lads, Ian Barton, Tony Iles and Robert Smith, who were the 2022 winners, lost out to a GB Britton triple.

The **City & County of Bristol** competitions once again saw Olveston achieving strong results. In the fours final Kevin Shellard, Dave Perkins, Ian Curtis, Ken Tudor found themselves up against a strong four from GB Britton and despite some excellent play they lost out. The story was very different though in the Pairs and the Triples finals. Chris Bentley loves this Triples competition and will happily engage with anyone in conversation about it, and this year, along with John Veasey and Robert Smith they made up for their 2022 final defeat, by defeating a Triple from Bristol St. Andrews, achieving Chris’s fourth win in the competition. Whilst in the Pairs competition, Joe Hardwick (2015) and Paul Bryant (2004) both achieved their second wins in the competition with another fine win over GB Britton. In the inaugural women’s pairs, Christine Bradley and Sue Latham narrowly lost out to a pair from Bristol St. Andrews.

In the **Gloucestershire County** championships and competitions, we had seven representatives in six finals, once again showing our strength at the highest, County, level. The Benevolent Triples (Blake, Barton, Smith) was lost to the holders, the Williamson family, from Cheltenham and the Mixed Pairs also went the wrong way with Sue Latham and Andy Locke pulling back from a slow start but unable to bridge the gap against their opponents from Barnwood. The Senior Fours final saw Mike Humphries, Ken Tudor, Alan Tregoning and Ian Gauld lose out to the last bowl of the last end with Ian’s bowl, whilst holding game, removed from the rink by the Frampton skip. The Fours final, for the second time in four years, was contested by two of our own fours and was nip and tuck all the way. The four of Lawrence Oliver, Ian Curtis, Ken Tudor and Alan



Tregoning took an early lead 9-2 after seven ends before Joe Hardwick, John Smallwood, Ian Gauld and Paul Bryant rallied to 9-8 after thirteen ends. By fifteen ends Alan's four were 11-8 up, but Paul's four won the last three ends to eventually win 11-13. Quite how Alan's last bowl went through the gap that it did, we will never know! A total of 24 shots over 18 ends showing just how close the match had been, with twelve singles and only six twos scored. Meanwhile on the other side of the green, the Singles Championship final was taking place, and Robert Smith played some exceptional bowls to be 12-5 up after 10 ends, held off an attempted comeback, and eventually won 21-12. A wonderful victory for Rob who is only the second Olveston member to win the County Singles Championship, Paul Bryant being the other. A magnificent achievement.

In the BE national senior singles, Ken Tudor won four matches and reached the area semi-finals before losing out at Dursley. In the BE national senior pairs, Alan Tregoning and Ian Gauld reached the area quarter-finals where they went out to the eventual area winners from Redland Green. In the BE national mixed pairs, Sue Latham and Andy Locke lost in the area final.

At the National Finals, held at Royal Leamington Spa, in August there was some wonderful support for our fours representatives and those who went along have, I believe, been inspired to emulate them. All of us truly appreciated the support. Whilst the Bryant rink and Rob Smith both me

t defeat in their first matches, Lawrence, Ian C, Ken and Alan won two matches, beating Durham A 19-9 and Dorset B 16-7 before losing out to Northamptonshire A in the last-16 round. A great achievement.

The BE national team events didn't go our way at all this year, in the mixed Tony Allcock our two teams only managed three wins between them, the men's Top Club was lost dismally at Page Park in the first round and after three wins the men's two fours lost, at home, in the area semi-final stage. We can, and should, do better than this.

So, as you will see from the table below, our Honours list has grown again.

#### Roll of Honour

North-East Bristol Pairs winners	Joe Hardwick, Alan Tregoning
North-East Bristol Pairs finalists	Ian Curtis, Robert Smith
North-East Bristol Triples finalists	Ian Barton, Tony Iles, Robert Smith
North-East Bristol Fours finalists	Phil Tellwright, Steve Clark, Dave Lewis, Jiff Roberts
North-East Bristol Mixed Pairs finalists	Trish Barton, Ian Barton
North-East Bristol Mixed Fours winners	Ted Mangan, Laura Hunter, Jan Lee-Cooper, Jeff Cooper
North-East Bristol Mixed Fours finalists	Christine Bradley, Trish Barton, Ian Barton, Robert Smith
City & County of Bristol Fours finalists	Kevin Shellard, Dave Perkins, Ian Curtis, Ken Tudor
City & County of Bristol Triples winners	John Veasey, Chris Bentley, Robert Smith
City & County of Bristol men's Pairs winners	Joe Hardwick, Paul Bryant
City & County of Bristol women's Pairs finalists	Christine Bradley, Sue Latham
Gloucestershire County Singles winner	Robert Smith
Gloucestershire County Fours winners	Joe Hardwick, John Smallwood, Ian Gauld, Robert Smith
Gloucestershire County Fours finalists	Lawrence Oliver, Ian Curtis, Ken Tudor, Alan Tregoning
Gloucestershire County Senior Fours finalists	Mike Humphries, Ken Tudor, Alan Tregoning, Ian Gauld
Gloucestershire County Mixed Pairs finalists	Sue Latham, Andy Locke
Gloucestershire County Benevolent Triples finalists	Chris Blake, Ian Barton, Robert Smith
City & County of Bristol Inter-Club Championship winners [Clarence Davey Trophy]	







## Ladies Top Club Competition – Fran Stockford

Olveston ladies did exceptionally well in the Top Club competition this year and were Gloucestershire County Winners.

The ladies play four disciplines: singles, pairs, triples and 4's and one point is awarded for every discipline won.

Olveston played 5 games within the County and won against:

G B Britton. 4-0

Yate. 3-1

Kingswood & Hanham 3-1

Frampton 2 1/2 - 1 1/2

and in the County Final, Tewkesbury 3-1.

As County Winners the team then progressed to the Final 32 in England Stage and played an outstanding match in very wet conditions against Broadway BC (Worcestershire) at Barnwood, which Olveston won 2 1/2 to 1 1/2 disciplines.

Sadly, Olveston lost in the next round, their 7th game, against Oxford City & County at Cheltenham BC 1-3.

A great achievement by the ladies to get so far in this competition and reach the Final 16 in the Country. Well played everyone who participated. You should be proud of yourselves.

Thank you also to those who reserved and to our wonderful supporters.

Fran Stockford





## Bar Report – Derek Olive

I hope all members feel as positive as I do about the year we have had with the bar!

A large rota saw only a few gaps emerge and these were covered by other members present.

I made a decision to only rota on 1 member for each shift on the assumption that when busy other members would help out. This seems to have worked and will be repeated next year. The decision was made for two reasons. Firstly, that you only need two people behind the bar for a short time during the “rush”, and secondly, I didn’t want two people standing around doing nothing all afternoon! It is up to the duty member to decide whether or not they prefer to staff the bar all session and not play, or mark the availability sheet with “B” and play as well. Either option works with help from other members.

I have spoken with Bar Managers and members of all the clubs I have visited this year and our hospitality and bar are the envy of many, especially as we have no shutters and the bar is essentially always open. Long may this last!

At the AGM a list of those on the bar rota will be available and you can either cross yourself off if you don’t want to do it again or add yourself on if you want to join. It really is not hard and can be great fun – I recommend all members to at least give it a go and see how they do!

We continue to process more via card than cash (80% - 20%). Payment by card is preferred. IOUs will continue to be available but should be viewed as an exception rather than the norm. If you do use an IOU then please make sure you (a) use the pre-printed form and fill it in correctly and (b) remove it from the till when it is cleared to avoid any confusion.

Lastly, my thanks to Ken Leach for continuing to be the Recycling Operative, and the team of members who have done the weekly beer line cleaning – Dylan Griffiths, Jack Drysdale, Dave Snell, David Hughes and Adrian Meads, and Bob Sewley who has managed all of the cash floats

You will have to wait until the AGM to find out how we have done financially but I am sure you will not be disappointed.

The Winter Season Bar Tarif has been put up and the bar will be stocked with bottled ales, canned lagers, bottled/canned ciders and single serve wines. If you do use the bar during the winter then please wash and reshelve the glasses as there will not be daily visits by either myself or other bar staff members to clean up after you!

Please don't hesitate to call me on 07778375508 if you encounter any issues with the bar over the closed season.

## 2024 Club Tour Update – Derek Olive

The 2024 Tour Schedule has now been confirmed as follows:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August: Abbrook Park Bowls Club

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August: Paignton Bowls Club

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September: Brixham Bowls Club

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September: Taunton Dean Bowls Club

The hotel is The Toorack Hotel, Torquay, <https://www.tlh.co.uk/where-to-stay/tlh-toorak-hotel/>, where we have 3 Course Dinner, Bed & Breakfast arranged.

We will have a buffet lunch on arrival at Abbrook Park Bowls Club and a Cream Tea half way through the match.

We will have a meal after the match at Taunton Dean Bowls Club.

I have 9 members on the waiting list so if anyone is booked and finds they can no longer make the dates then please do let me know soonest so I can re-sell the spaces!

Please remember to start saving some pound coins as the Fine Fellow will be fining each and every attendee for the most spurious reasons, with all proceeds going to The President's Charity.

Full details of times, pick-ups etc. will be distributed much nearer the date.

Thanks

Derek

## Catering Report – Jan Arrowsmith

It has been a testing season with John being unwell, so firstly I must thank Brenda Cook for stepping in to do all the day to day stuff, getting tea, coffee, biscuits etc. I couldn't have coped without her, many thanks Bren.

We started with The Johns Trophy which required tea and coffee all day plus food at the finish. A very demanding day. Then came the Chipping Norton touring side which required a cold buffet for 47 people, another long day but enjoyable. This was followed the next day by the Presidents Day which required the same buffet as the day before, so another long but successful day.

Captains Day came later in the month, fortunately Nigel only wanted Hot Dogs, so I handed over to Beattie (I know my place) and good they were too, thanks Beattie.

Beginning of August saw us hosting the Rhiwbina game, it was decided to give them a ploughman's, this went down very well. Whitney Mills Tour was next, they had requested a hot meal, so we made trays and trays of cottage pie served with mixed vegetables and of course apple pie. Again, it was hard work but we had some fun doing it. The Bradley Stoke game came next, we gave them a ploughman's which they seemed to enjoy.

The August Bank Holiday Monday brought the usual bowls drive and a salad meal for all the players and spectators. Then finals weekend was upon us and we did the usual tea, coffee, rolls and cake but it was made easy with lots of helpers, again many thanks. The following day it was time for what is becoming an annual event, the Aberavon Tourers. We made and sold 66 filled rolls, and I think could have done more but we ran out of rolls, fortunately Derek was better prepared and didn't run out of beer.

As you can see, we've been quite busy throughout the season and the events have been mostly enjoyable, again my thanks to all the ladies and gents who helped, but especially Bren, Beattie, Sam and Sally, who always seem to be there. A special thanks to John, without his support I couldn't have done any of this, he even came shopping with me.

Janet Arrowsmith

## The Green Report – John Arrowsmith

Each new season brings along different problems on the green and this year we had two major problems, another leatherjacket infestation and myself being unwell which meant that I was not able to be part of the green team until mid-June. The green team showed a lot of enterprise and managed without me and I thank them sincerely for this. The leatherjackets did not cause a lot of damage but it is now becoming an annual problem because there is no efficient way of eradicating them. We had the usual hot temperatures and dry periods which were easily overcome by judicious use of the Toro watering system. The latter part of the season was the opposite with plenty of rain (it always rains during the school holidays). A really heavy downpour will flood the green in a number of areas but once the rain stops then usually the green will be playable within half an hour. For some reason the area in front of the changing rooms was far more susceptible to flooding this year and was also taking much longer to drain. The green was a bit bumpy in places when I did manage to reappear but all that was required was that the hollows causing the bouncing to be filled in with top dressing. I did not manage to start playing again until mid-July and even then I did not play in any away games. However, the feedback I got from some of our players was that our green was far better than the majority of other greens we played on, especially in the Bristol area.

This is the time of year when we do some serious renovation work on the green in an effort to try and improve the behaviour of the green. The first action is to scarify the whole area to remove as much thatch as possible, this should result in a much firmer playing surface. This would normally be followed by top dressing, but top dressing is not considered necessary all the time so this year we will give it a miss and see what the effect is.

Throughout the winter months we still need to do work on the green, such as the occasionally cut at 8mm, daily removal of worm casts and dew and regularly checking for any deceases.

Finally, I must thank all the members who have worked on the green this season they have taken a lot of pressure off me to the extent that all I really do now is supervise and advise. However, we do need at least two more regular cutters and I will try a 'come and try it' morning for anyone interested just before the start of the season.

John Arrowsmith (Green manager)



## Umpire's Corner – Jamie Campbell

Well as another outdoor season comes to a close, it's time to reflect on some of the highlights. For me it would have to be my time at the National Finals at Leamington, this year enhanced by the daily live streaming of all matches played on Rink 1, 'A' Green.

Officiating on the 'streaming rink' comes with extra pressures; you are live on camera, 'miked up' and using the dreaded 'lollipops'! If you ever wanted to critique your performance, watch it back on YouTube, it's a real eye opener!!

Of the sessions I had on 'A' Green, two of them will stand out, for very different reasons.

The first was as Marker (chalk and lollipop holder!) for a Round One Triples match between Katherine Rednall of Norfolk and Eva Dayes of Yorkshire. During the 13<sup>th</sup> end (you couldn't make it up!), Christine Rednall, Katherine's Mum, was on the mat about to deliver her second bowl, when a gust of wind rocked the camera at the head end, causing it to fall onto the green! It just missed the two skips, Katherine and Eva, who fortunately were observing the broadcaster's instruction to stand either side of the head, out of camera shot!

If any of you attended the Nationals, you may have seen the size of the camera set up, if not, I can tell you that if it had landed on anyone, it would have caused serious injury!! As it turned out, the only damage the camera caused was one bowl moved in the head and a large dent in the green. So, after repairs, head reset and some steadying of nerves, the 13<sup>th</sup> end continued!!

The second was my final appointment at this year's Nationals, Umpiring 'A' Green for the Women's and Men's Junior Singles Finals. Nothing dramatic to report, but it was the first time I had been the oldest person on the green, by 30 years!!

I'll bet you're thinking of course you were; the players have to be under 25 for the Junior finals! So, my reason for noting this was because both Markers for these games were the youngest officials at the Nationals. Adam Rickard 23, qualified as an Umpire when he was 18 and Rachel Cartwright, although only in her early 30's, has been an Umpire for 14 years!! If ever you needed an advertisement to promote the Sport, it was out there on A Green, in the sunshine!

Winter well everyone!!

If you have any questions about the Laws of the Sport, please feel free to email me at [tracy2jamie@virginmedia.com](mailto:tracy2jamie@virginmedia.com)

Jamie Campbell



## Coaching Update – Ken Tudor

2023 proved to be another busy season for the coaching team. We have delivered, a **Back-2-Basics Morning**, a **4 Week Beginners Course**, a “**Bowls England - Bowls Big Weekend Event**” and this season we have had calls from other local Cubs to provide coaching support and this resulted in us providing **Developments Sessions** at both Wotton-Under-Edge Bowls Club and Redland Green Bowls Club.

On top of that there have been numerous individual coaching sessions for our Club Members, based on the Coaching Log that I keep, **46 Members (30% of the Membership)** have received some form of coaching from the Team during the season.

I recently gave a presentation at the Club on the **External Competitions**, to aid the understanding of the vast array of Competitions that Members can get involved in and how that may lead to getting yourself playing at the Aviva National Finals at Leamington. The event was well attended and created some good discussions. Whilst the presentation was designed for the benefit of our newer bowlers, it was great to see several players with experience of playing at National and County Finals attend, to share their knowledge, experience and provide advice – I think it was an eye opener for many, that there are so many Competitions available for us to enter and how easy it is to find yourself representing the Club in over 20 competitions in a season. Thank you, to all those that attended. If you missed the event, the slides are now available to view on the Club Website under “Competitions”.

Many of you will now move to **Indoor Bowls** and I wish you every success with your Indoor season. If you know of anyone who is looking to take up this great sport, I am running a 10 Week **Bowls Beginners Course** at Thornbury Active Lifestyle Centre starting in October, places are limited, so I would suggest getting booked up early. The Active Centres contact number to sign up is 0300 333 0300.

There are also plans for an 8 Week **Bowls Development Course** starting in January, if you, or anyone you know is interested in that course, watch out for announcements on the Active Centres Facebook page.

We plan for the coaching team to meet very soon to discuss how we think this season’s coaching went and to discuss plans for 2024, if you have any views on how we can improve things then drop me a line and I can add that to our discussions.

Finally, I would like to personally **thank** all the Coaches at the Club, who as always have given up a huge amount of their own time to provide Members with help and advice. We sometimes forget they also play bowls; in some cases, a lot of bowls and they give their time to our Club Members freely whenever they are asked, we are very fortunate as a Club to have so many willing Coaches on hand.

**Enjoy your Winter Break – I Hope to see you all again back outdoors in April 2024!**

*Ken Tudor*

Club Coaching Co-Ordinator  
“Coach Bowls” Level 2 Qualified





## Award of County Trophies at the Presentation Luncheons







**And Finally..... More Finals Weekend Photos**







And Really Finally..... Who is this?

