

APRIL 2026



WEST MOORS MEMORIAL BOWLS CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our WMMBC Newsletter

In this Edition we celebrate our Short Mat competition winners and welcome our return to the Green for an outdoor season full of fun and competition.



Short Mat News

Huge Congratulations go to our 2025/2026 season Short Mat internal competition winners, Keith James, Mens Champion, Jill Bell, Ladies Champion, Rob Matthews and June Simmonds in the Mixed Doubles and Kim Best in the Novice Championship and of course to the worthy runners up in some very hard-fought matches. The winners will be presented with their trophies at the annual presentation lunch in October.



Short Mat News

The 2025/26 Short Mat season was very productive with 83 members currently. We will await to see who will join after the results of the Open Day. In the Dorset evening leagues the Wizards gained promotion to Division One. There were also some great results in the other evening and afternoon leagues. Well done to all the teams taking part.

In the internal competitions the Novice competition will be changed to 'The Moors Medal' as not all entrants are novices, but will be for those who have not won a competition before.

Keith James stood down from his position as Short Mat Captain, and we would like to thank him for all his hard work and commitment, especially with the Dorset League competitions and also his dedication (along with John Fury) in putting the mats away when needed.



During a friendly match at Flight Re-Fuelling one team managed to achieve a 'Hot Shot' - all 8 bowls nearest the jack - Jill Bell, Rob Matthews, Brenda Rose and Doug Harris. Well done guys!

This season we also hosted a group from the U3A on a Thursday morning for the first time, with some great feedback and some nice revenue for the club.

We continued to host the partially-sighted group every other Friday morning. We extend our thanks as always to all the volunteers who help to support these groups for every session.



Debbie Fry reached the National Finals at Melton Mowbray, as far as we know the only lady from our Club to play National finals in both Short Mat and Outdoor Bowls in the same year. Well done Debs!



News from the Green



Work on our upgraded irrigation system is now complete and we think well worth the expenditure. The Green is looking splendid thanks to our Greenkeeping team led by Dave Oakes. A massive Thank You as always to the team who without their dedication and hard work we would not have such a fantastic green to be proud of.

You may have seen some artwork around the club in the form of decorated bowls thanks to Linda Linge and a team of creative ladies (and gents!). Here are some of the plant pots with their centrepieces! As usual pots are sponsored by members and create a colourful display around the green all season.



Spotlight on our Committee Members

Dave Oakes - Club Treasurer



"I was born a 'Geordie' but grew up in Leeds, representing my school in Cricket and Fencing. Brilliant times were had doing overnight hikes, camping, and canoeing with the local Scouts.

My first car, inspiring a lifelong love of motors was a split screen Morris Minor, with leopard skin back seat covers." We'll let your imagination do the rest!! "I attended Aston University but enjoyed the music scene a little too much (Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, Clapton etc.) and had to retake my exams.

After University, I was sat 'on the bog' reading the Telegraph and saw a job advert looking for Consulting Engineers in Nairobi, Malawi and Somalia working on World Bank Projects. Here I met Karen, who was teaching out there, we got married, bought a Land Rover and travelled as much as we could, enjoying great times.



Whilst in Africa I played a lot of cricket in the Premier Division, even playing against a handful of Indian test players, including Kapil Dev, Vengsarker, Pataudi & Kirmani. I also played a lot of competitive tennis, both singles and doubles with Karen, who was also representing Malawi in hockey, playing against the Olympic Gold Medallists, Zimbabwe.

Impala Sports Club, was one of my popular haunts, and on one memorable occasion after a boozy night I managed to park my Triumph Spitfire in the middle of a roundabout!

Our daughter Abigail was born in Malawi and our son Stephen when we moved back to the UK.

We moved to Chandler's Ford and I took early retirement from Engineering and took up a post as a Physics Technician in a girl's private school in Winchester. I had some great cycling holidays in France with mates.

In 2014 Karen and I retired to West Moors. I never thought I'd ever join a bowls club, but I don't regret it one bit.

Regrets: I always wanted to play in a band, so I started to play the guitar when I was 15 and I'm still rubbish. I also should never have sold my Frogeye Sprite!

Hobbies: Classic Cars. I had a succession of B's, Midgets and Healeys. Craft Beer, Country Music and Ragtime Guitar are also passions.

Most Noted For: Being a Grump and changing cars after about a year!"

Spotlight on our Committee Members

Carolyn Dearlove Vice President

I had absolutely no intention of ever playing bowls when I moved back to Dorset from Woking in Surrey with Trevor. Fast forward 5 years and I'm not only playing bowls but have been looking after the Club's PR & Social Media, editing this Newsletter, helping develop and run the new website, assisting in running the Social Committee and then becoming Vice President this year. Not bad for a 'not very sporty person'! I'm still a work in progress when it comes to playing bowls though, although I do love it, especially Short Mat. I've also enjoyed running the U3A sessions for Short Mat weekly throughout the season.

My career was in sales, from retail trainee at Dingles in Dorchester, to eventually becoming National Sales Manager, for various hospitality manufacturers, travelling throughout the UK and Ireland, with frequent trips to Germany and other European countries and I've made lifelong friends along the way.

Some memorable moments from my early career include selling luxury goods to many celebrities including Royals; delivering scented candles and oils to Kensington and St James's Palaces to Princess Diana, then after Diana's death to Charles and Camilla, often gifted by Elton John! Writing out the labels was somewhat surreal! I've met more celebrities than I can remember, some extremely nice and some not quite so much!



I met Trevor in 2009, gaining 3 young step-children and we bought our first house together soon after. We joined the David Lloyd Club and played tennis, enjoying annual trips to La Manga and attending Wimbledon and Queens Club, even playing at the latter on a couple of occasions!

I took early retirement after Covid as all the driving, and screentime had taken its' toll and we eventually got married four years ago.

Since retiring I've taken up Modern Calligraphy, even doing a few Word Art commissions for friends and family, and I've taken a few Watercolour classes. I'm also attempting to re-learn the piano, having reached Grade 7 some 40 years ago. Moving to Dorset was the best decision I have ever made; joining WMMBC, making new friends and being able to play a sport at some competitive level.



Member Spotlight- Brian Tester

Our Spotlight this month is on a very unassuming, quiet and humble man, Brian Tester, who has been playing Short Mat bowls at the club for over 25 years.

Brian was born one of a twin in Chichester, where after 'O' levels he became an apprentice at Havant & Waterloo District Council, becoming a Chartered Engineer after attending evening classes.

He married Pat, who he says has tolerated his passion for bowling for over 65 years and a few years later moved to Bournemouth County Borough Council, and finally to Dorset County Council, moving through the ranks to become a team leader in the County Surveyor's Transportation & Engineering Section.

In 1992 he took early retirement and joined Ringwood Bowling Club, playing successfully for many years. He became men's singles Champion in 2006 and was a runner up in the B&DBA fours final against - West Moors!!!

Brian joined West Moors in 2000, with great success, reaching finals on no less than 14 occasions. His name can be found on our honours board many times!

Brian has a son, daughter and two grandsons and was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer in 2015, which thankfully was treated successfully by radical surgery. As well as of course bowling, he's been caravanning for over 60 years and also enjoys putting his skills to use designing and constructing projects in the house and the garden, and can put his hand to plumbing, electrical work, bricklaying, tiling, carpentry and anything practical! Lucky Pat!

Brian never fails to support the club, along with other clubs in the area, attending sessions and helping others. He deserves a massive thank you from us for being such a committed member of the club and an all round nice man.



Social Events

We have enjoyed some memorable Social Events this year, however a couple were unfortunately cancelled due to lack of support. John Jepson's famous quiz and Race Night proved extremely popular as always.

We continued with our Friday Night Socials which were great fun.

A big thanks to Rob Matthews who will be stepping down as Social Secretary but will remain on the Social Committee, and continue to run the Friday Nights, including some more music quizzes. Kim & Carolyn will jointly run the committee, including the Christmas raffle this year, and any ideas for social activities for next season's calendar will be gratefully received and considered. These bring us essential revenue for the club and are a brilliant opportunity to meet fellow members, especially those new to the Club.



Other News

We're so proud that our very own Pauline Jepson has joined husband John in becoming a National Champion, playing for the Dolphin Indoors Bowls Club. Pauline was part of one of 4 teams of triples who won the Vivienne Trophy, a prestigious National Indoor Bowling competition established in 1997.



Who spotted our April Fool's Facebook post? we think this kit is quite fetching - who's in for next season?? Don't forget to follow us on Facebook @westmoorsmemorialbowlsclub

New Website

In March we launched our new website. We hope you have been finding it easy to navigate and that is informative and useful. You can find all the upcoming events and matches, and a useful link to Bias, plus previous Newsletters, Committee meeting minutes and much more. It's the same domain name as before (www.westmoorsbowls.club) The members area can be accessed initially via the link sent to you all via our web host, Hugo Fox. If you need a reminder please let either Carolyn or David Rose know.



Following on from the successful introduction of new shirts last year for the 75th anniversary of our club, we've decided to extend the range of kit available to our members. We think it should give us a real competitive edge this season and we can't wait to wear it! Socks, hats and cape designed by international sportswear designer Olaf Polir. What do you think?



Open Day

Once again we had a very successful Open Day, with 67 visitors, including 4 new members and 21 who have signed up for coaching.

Thanks to Kim Best our Membership Secretary for organising the day, along with all the members who came and set up the green, acted as buddies for visitors, greeted guests, baked cakes, and helped in the kitchen and bar. Also thanks to our coaches, who spent a long day on the green. And of course the green team who made sure the grass was looking splendid. As always team West Moors came together and showcased our fantastic facilities.

One of the highlights of the day was one of our youngest members Bleu, 14, showing Maureen Champion, 98, Chris's mum) how to bowl. We've had around 80K views of the video Chris took on Facebook!



We're looking ahead to the next few months with eager anticipation, many matches and competitions to be played, the start of our Spoons and Friday Night Triples , and we're hoping for plenty of sunshine.

See you on the Green!

Don't forget to join our internal WMMBC Facebook group for up to date information about what's happening.
Scan QR Code for link.



Thank you for reading!

Please send content suggestions to:	WEST MOORS MEMORIAL BOWLS CLUB. Behind the Memorial Hall, Station Rd West Moors
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