

BEDFORD BOWLING CLUB

Incorporating Bedford Bowling Club (1904) and Bedford Women's Bowling Club (1914)

NEWSLETTER 2026

This newsletter, as last year, will be on the website as a PDF document to view at any time.

New Season

We welcome Paul (Sammy) Cave, Lynn and Peter Frost, Roland Reeve, and Raffaele Ripalunga. We lost a past member this year as, sadly, Jean Goldsmith died early this year. Jean had been a member of the club for 43 years before she retired from the club a couple of years ago.

We still need more members! Especially ladies!! So please remember this year to invite friends along for a friendly "roll up".

Clubhouse Opening and Cleaning

We open the club for playing on Friday, 17th April, at 2pm. Subject as always to weather conditions. Please come along and help open the clubhouse for the summer season. Many hands make light work. The Cleaning Rota for **everybody** is included with this newsletter. Both ladies and gentlemen are included. I have simplified it this year.

Play and roll-ups.

It is hoped that play for the new season will commence from ***Tuesday, 21st April***, but this may have to be put back if the weather lets us down. Our first men's competition will be on ***Wednesday, 29th April***. – so not much time to get used to grass bowling! The ladies County Competitions begin in early May; the first round is a home game on Tuesday 12th May.

Competitions

Ladies & Men's competitions will be run as in 2024. We will again be asking players to **OPT OUT** of singles competitions **if they do not wish to compete**. Players can, of course, give byes later if they find they cannot compete for personal reasons. Players must compete against their selected opponents and not swop around.

As other competitions such as County Leagues, Local Leagues, County competitions will vie for member's time – not to mention holidays, family commitments and so on, there will be **deadlines and rules** for the timely completion of club competitions. **And these will be stricter than last year!**

No changes may be made to the playing order without the agreement of the Club Secretary or Competitions Committee.

Club Secretary: Mr W. Holden, 16 Swindale, Bedford MK41 7TT

Telephone 01234 403551

Annual Subscriptions and Fees

The Club subscription for all social and playing members remains at £35. The Council green fees will be £77.22. A rise of £7.02 over last year. Some members may wish to join other clubs as well as our own. This is OK, but please remember to only pay ONE Council Green Fee! To use our club facilities, you only pay the £35.00 membership fee. You will also have to choose which club you play for in which league! Also, note the deposit for keys is £15 for new members. Or those who lose their keys! Please pay Sue Pegley as soon as you can when you receive your invoice.

Public use of the green

I have not included this in the Cleaning Rota. In all my years as Secretary I have never needed it! If we get an enquiry, a note on the procedure for accepting public bookings is available on request.

Around the Green and Clubhouse

We are once more indebted to Kevin and his team for all their work over the winter in maintaining the green. Which is looking good.

On the awkward subject of cars being allowed into the park. We trialled the new arrangement last year which threw up some issues (like some visitors wanting to leave early!). Ray and Alison will consult with the Borough about these issues and try and get them sorted for this year.

Warwick and Colin will be putting new notice boards up in the clubhouse this year. They will be magnetic 'white boards.' Which can be written on with erasable markers. Notices can be held in place with magnets, so easily changed around.

Matches and Team Selections

Team sheets for all friendly matches will be posted on the appropriate boards. Please sign up! Do so even if numbers appear to be sufficient because it helps the captains to have reserves to call on and it ensures that everyone is given a fair share of the action in friendly matches. Please check the fixture card to see when the first fixture will be held.

To help with the cost of food and transport your committee have agreed a scale of charges for various matches and food. The document outlining these costs/expenses is issued with the Newsletter.

Internal Club Events on the Green

Domestic club events for this year are the Roger Gilmour/President's Day (27th June), Captains' Day (8th August) and the Finale Challenge – formerly the Presidents' Challenge - (16th September). Final Day(s) will be on the 29th and 30st August – over 2 days and we hope to have ALL finals played by the end of Sunday. We hope this year to make more of Finals Days with food and drinks on Saturday evening, 29th August. More details of this later.

Finale Challenge, Wednesday, 16th September.

Monday (Men's) Triples League

We are again taking part this year. We are entering TWO teams again, but in different divisions. Please support Terry and Alan, and our club, by putting yourselves forward as often as possible. Next month we will be circulating a list to all eligible players of fixtures available in which to play. One team will be made up of experienced members, and the other with newer members but with the addition of some experienced members to give a balance.

Tuesday (Ladies) Triples League

The ladies will be competing in Division One this year and the Knock-Out Cup. The ladies hope for another successful season this year.

Wednesday (Men's) County League

We are continuing to maintain a presence in this competition, though we do not generally have a great deal of success. Nevertheless, it gives an opportunity to experience other greens. There will be a similar list to the Triples league (see above) circulated, hopefully by the end of this month as the first match is on the 29th of April!

Club Clothing

We have completed "phase two" of the new uniforms, in that we all have new club shirts and jackets, thanks to Interfoam and RG Precision sponsorship. This year we are trying to get members trousers.

Our **NEW** club bowls stickers are available (free!), and your committee asks you to ensure that in matches all bowls carry the Club stickers.

Recruitment

This continues to be a concern. **Although we recruited quite a few members last year, we are still sometimes struggling to find enough people to make up teams. Many of our members are elderly or unable to compete for 18 ends. So, please try to think up ideas for recruitment this year. We will hope to organise open days for the public on late May Bank Holiday as part of the "Big Bowls Weekend". Please keep the date free in your diary to lend a hand. This will be the 23rd May. We need as much publicity for this event as possible, so any ideas are welcome. Your support in these sessions will be appreciated.**

Also, please note we are now on social media – Facebook page is "Bedford Bowling Club. uk", and there are links to the site from our club web page.

Annual General Meeting

The 2026 AGM will be held at 10.00 hours on Wednesday 4th November 2026 at Brickhill Community Centre. The same location as last year.

Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation

This year's Dinner and Trophy presentation will be at a venue to be decided. We were a little disappointed by Bellini's last year so we are looking for somewhere else.

Data Protection

This year, if you are joining the club, you are automatically agreeing to our use of your data. This is as follows: -

Name, address, e-mail address (where relevant), telephone contact (land & mobile), emergency contact phone number, date members joined the club, membership status, which club keys are held by a member.

Some details (in printed and/or electronic form) will be distributed to all playing members each year for the following purposes: -

1. To enable club captains to contact members to arrange players for club, friendly, County and other matches.
2. To enable members to arrange substitutes in the event they cannot play in a match.
3. To enable members to contact players in a match when they are giving them a lift to an away match.
4. To enable club officers to contact a relative or friend in the event of accident or emergency.

Dates of members joining are held to determine eligibility for Life Membership of the Club.

Membership status is recorded to enable the Treasurer to issue correct invoices each year.

Club keys are recorded to enable the Club Secretary to request keys back from members leaving the club. And return their deposit.

The Committee wish all members a good season's bowling!

March 2026

Enclosures:

Bullet points from Newsletter (also on WhatsApp)

List of Playing Members 2026.

Guide to Club Competitions and Rules

Members' rota for cleaning.