

SEPTEMBER 2025



WEST MOORS MEMORIAL BOWLS CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our 2nd
WMMBC Newsletter

In this Edition we will be highlighting some of the Club's Outstanding Achievements this season, as well as reminding us of some fun and significant moments over the last few months. Enjoy!

An Outdoor Season to Remember

Well, what a few months we have had, playing outdoors in fantastic weather.. What a great summer.

We've welcomed our new members who have thrown themselves into Club life, both playing bowls and joining in some fun events. We've enjoyed seeing their journey and will have some outstanding players for future internal and external leagues, and of course also playing just for fun!



On The Green

After a brilliant response to our Open Day and with 27 new members, we started the season in blazing sunshine and with new friendships being forged. We've enjoyed welcoming our Class of 2025 to the club and its great to see how they've integrated into WMMBC with some already entering league competitions and friendlies.

Our Ladies and Mens' Captains will give full reports of the season at their AGMs in November, but here's some highlights of a highly successful and competitive season for the club.

Introducing Our Internal Competition Winners and Runners Up 2025







Ladies Captain's Day



Mens Captain's Day



Men v Ladies Competition

We had a brilliant turnout for our annual Men v Ladies match back in June.

Despite a couple of ringers in the ladies team (Michelle/Mike and Deirdre, aka Dave) to balance the numbers the men triumphed after losing their crown last year. All played in the best spirit and great fun.

The games were followed by an amazing American supper, a brilliant spread provided by all the members.

We're looking forward to our rematch next year!



Highlights from our external teams and competitions



Our Magificent Four (Debbie, Jill, Kim and Karen) made it all the way to the finals, for the first time, held in Leamington Spa in August, having won at Dorchester.



They were sadly beaten in the 2nd match, having beaten Gloucestershire. A fantastic achievement and they are hoping to go even further next year!



West Moors Men's
A team won the
New Forest Ivor
Fourmy Trophy.

Another great
achievement for
the club this
season.



And meet our incredible
Hotshots!!

The Bowls International Hot
Shots Club is famous
throughout the bowls playing
world. It was launched more
than 20 years ago to reward
players achieving a maximum
score on one end of a
competitive pairs, triples or
fours match.

Well done Linda, Jane, June
and Judith you've made us
proud!

Congratulations to our
ladies Debbie and Jill,
runners up in the
Bournemouth &
District Pairs
competition. A very
hard fought and close
match only losing by a
single shot.





Debbie Fry won the Bournemouth and District Women's Officer Club (for those member's who are or have previously been Officers in their Club - Debbie is a former Vice-President of WMMBC). A huge congratulations!



And the first ever LUST champion from WMMBC was Brenda Rose. This is for players who have not previously won a Ladies Singles competition. Brilliant Brenda!

Jill Bell was the runner up in the Dorset Officer's Cup, heartbreakingly losing by one shot - the tiniest of margins in the last end. However she was the very convincing winner in the New Forest Officer's Cup, playing against a player from Lyndhurst, at Lyndhurst which is an great achievement!



Another one of our brilliant juniors, Austin , along with his partner Martha (from Blandford) won the Dorset Youth U18 pairs, back in July. Fabulous result.



Our two Johns, Merritt and Riddington, won the over 65s New Forest pairs competition at Fordingbridge, with a brilliant bowling display, watched by some loyal supporters from the club. Well done boys!

Meet our Junior Superstar, Bleu

We're so proud of our 13 year old junior member Bleu who won the Dorset U16 Men's Trophy at Sherborne in September, winning in a 3-end tiebreak. He's a credit to the Club, and to Karen's coaching and mentoring.

Karen's predecessor as junior team coach the late Cathy Hunter would rightly be very proud as well.

We look forward to him competing for the Club next season.



Unsung Hero, Ian Smith Umpire



Our Unsung Hero in this edition is Ian Smith, a WMMBC member and fully qualified umpire.

Ian enjoyed bowling but decided to broaden his involvement in the sport with less playing but training as an Umpire, initially travelling to Leicester for a test weekend and qualifying almost 3 years ago, all at his own expense. He's covered 20 events this year in Dorset/Hampshire, which involves a lot of travelling and long days.

His ethos is to never to sit down once the trial ends are completed and to stay alert by anticipating when he may be needed. (this helps the time to flow better).

Before bowls Ian was a keen golfer (better at golf than bowls) but was advised to stop after twice dislodging the cables from his pacemaker!

Ian started his working life as a sea-going marine engineer for 6 years before careers at IBM and GKN Westland. He was also an Army Reservist for 13 years in the Special Forces. Incredibly he has done almost 2000 (yes 2000!) skydives during a 20 year period. Most notably he skydived into Tottenham's White Hart Lane with the match ball and also into The Oval cricket ground.

He has been married to Sandra for 60 years and they are still the best of friends.

Away from umpiring, Ian has a passion for astronomy but now downloads pictures from remote telescopes in Spain and Chile rather than spend hours outside freezing and waiting for the next clouds to appear!

He keeps his mind active by doing Open University free courses, most recently on Nuclear Energy and Geology and his body in shape by walking and cycling.

A man of many talents, Ian developed a taste for red wine while living in France for 5 years and trained with the Wine and Spirit Trust to an Advanced Level.

Thanks for all your hard work and commitment to the Club Ian.

Spotlight on our committee members



Karen Oakes, Ladies Captain

This is Karen's 1st year as Ladies Captain and what a year it has been so far!

As well as being part of the Management team, she has been busy coaching new members, running our successful Spoons and Friday Night Triples competitions and her favourite role - coaching and mentoring the 'Young Guns' our club juniors.

Karen says "It's been an eventful season - full on bowling and coaching. Downing San Miguels with friends has made all the challenges worthwhile!

Highlight of the year? There have been a few but the cherry on the cake..... Bleu winning Dorset Men's under 16 Championship. Nothing can beat a kid's joy at realising their dream"

We couldn't agree with you more Karen!



Kim Best, Membership Secretary

Kim and her partner Chris both joined the Club in 2022 , having just moved to West Moors. She hadn't played bowls before and only joined because Chris was already a bowls player and "if you can't beat 'em, you might as well join 'em!!"

Kim says "I really love it now. I've met so many lovely friendly people and we have a great social life as a result".

She took on the position of Membership Secretary in 2023 and last year helped launch the Member's Liaison role, both interesting and busy positions. She's also a member of the Social Committee. She started short mat at the end of 2023 and enjoys it just as much as playing outdoors, even though it's a completely different game.

When she's not playing bowls she likes to take out her ukulele, a hobby that she started about 2 years ago. She says "I'm not sure that the neighbours appreciate my talent, but I put it down to me not playing loud enough for them to hear it properly - haha!"

Westival



We had a pitch at the WESTIVAL event in July, promoting the Club with fun bowling for juniors with Karen on the MUGA and a human fruit machine, made by Rob and ably manned by volunteers. On one of the hottest days of the years we had fun sharing the WMMBC love with all who visited us.

100 Years Young

Congratulations to long time member Ken Hoare who achieved the amazing milestone of 100 which we celebrated with a party in the clubhouse for members, friends and family. We look forward to his continuing membership and friendship for years to come!



As our incredible outdoor season comes to an end we have so much to look forward to in the autumn and winter months.

We will have a packed social event calendar, including our annual award presentation at Remedy Oak Golf Club which is always much anticipated.

Our Friday evening socials will start on the last Friday of September and continue monthly through the season. We hope as many as possible will attend. More details of this and our full social calendar which includes quizzes, bingo, a race night and much more is on our socials board for all to sign up and have some fun!

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



We will also begin our short mat season, with sessions throughout the week, including a new Friday evening session (except on the social week). There will be internal competitions and external leagues and some friendly matches played.

So there's loads to look forward to and participate in!

We hope you have enjoyed this latest issue and please send in your suggestions for the next newsletter as below.

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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