



West Moors Memorial Bowls Club

NEWSLETTER

September 2026



Welcome to Our Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the West Moors Memorial Bowls Club newsletter. Inside you will find club news, match reports, upcoming fixtures, and social events.



We hope you enjoy this issue. What an Outdoor Season we've had in the sunshine!

As we look ahead to the winter months and our Short Mat season, we reflect on our successes and the fun we've all had.

And we've enjoyed welcoming all our new members who are already integrating brilliantly into our friendly club.



In this Edition you will find

Club news, match results, upcoming events, member spotlights, and a message from our President.

Foreword from the Club President



As we approach the final weeks of what has been another busy and successful outdoor season, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on what has been a fantastic year for West Moors Memorial Bowls Club.

There have been some excellent individual and team performances throughout the season, with members achieving success in club competitions and representing West Moors at District, and County levels in addition to the New Forest. What has been particularly pleasing is the competitive spirit shown by our members whenever they have represented the club. Win, lose or draw, you have continued to wear the West Moors colours with pride, enthusiasm and a real sense of belonging — and that is something we should all be proud of.

We are now approaching what I might describe as the business end of the club year, when our attention turns to the election of the Management Committee for the year ahead. It is important to remember that all positions on the Management Committee are elected by the members, so this is an opportunity for everyone to have a say in who takes on the various responsibilities involved in running our club. This year, Mike Dorman and Kim Best have decided not to put themselves forward for re-election to their current roles, these along with other Management Committee positions play a significant part in keeping the club organised, well run and responsive to its members.

I would ask every member to give some serious consideration to whether you might be able to get involved in helping to run the club – IN ANY CAPACITY! Even if you don't feel able to step forward immediately, there's a valuable opportunity over the next 12 months to spend time shadowing an existing committee member to get a better understanding of what is involved so that you are ready for next year! Succession planning is a vital part of any organisation and our bowls club is no different. Ensuring that new people, with fresh ideas and energy are prepared to step forward and take on responsibilities means that momentum and progress we have built together are not lost. Importantly, it allows us to continue looking ahead with confidence and help ensure that West Moors remains the friendly, welcoming and successful club that we all want it to be.

You will probably be tired of hearing me say it, but our club exists only because of the goodwill of its members who volunteer, step forward and give their time. To help keep everyone informed, we now have a notice board in the clubhouse where important notices and information will be displayed. Please make a point of checking it regularly, particularly over the coming weeks, as details of the forthcoming elections and available positions will be posted there.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to Mike Dorman and Kim Best for all their untiring effort, commitment and support. Both have played an important role in helping to shape the bowls club we have today, and I am extremely grateful for everything they have contributed.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone for your encouragement, support and contribution throughout the year. Whether you have played competitively, enjoyed a roll-up, helped around the green or clubhouse, supported our social events, or simply cheered others on from the sidelines, you have all played your part. And, of course, there is still plenty of bowling to come! I look forward to seeing many of you on the mats during the short mat season, which is another important and much-enjoyed part of our club community. Thank you all — and let's finish the outdoor season in the same spirit in which we started it: proud to be members of West Moors Memorial Bowls Club.

News From Around the Green



Inaugural NAFF Competition

Our first ever 'Naff' competition took place in August, with a fun and relaxed atmosphere and some great bowling. Penny and Tracy took the final to an exciting extra end, with Tracy eventually the winner. Well done to everyone involved.

Derek Celebrates a milestone!

In July we were invited to celebrate Derek Francis's 90th birthday alongside Jane and other members of his family. We were generously treated to a Hog Roast and drinks and we had a fantastic evening. Many happy returns and continued bowling successes Derek!



President v Vice President Day

It was success for Carolyn's VP team in the first fun competition of the season, to regain the crown. Never mind David, there's always next year!

Ladies v Mens Competition

Our annual ladies v men competition was played in the usual friendly but competitive manner, and was followed by an American Supper. The men beat the ladies by just 4 shots in a tight contest.

Hot Shots!

2 teams managed to achieve ever elusive 'Hot Shots' this season. This is when all bowls from one team are closest to the jack.

Our fantastic junior member Scarlett, also achieved a Hot Shot in her first Dorset under 24 competition. Well done ladies!

News From Around the Green



Men's Captain's Day

Another Men's Captain's Day was hotly contested in September, with the 3 teams with the same score. The winners were eventually crowned by Trevor with the total number of ends won deciding the result.



West Moors Fun Run

Our very own Bowling Belles joined the fun, running (or walking!) to raise over £300 for Julia's House and the RNLI. Brilliant, ladies.



Scarlett & Austin are Dorset U16 Champions!

Our junior members Scarlett and Austin kept their cool to win the U16 Open Pairs against strong opponents by 2 shots. What a fantastic achievement!



Debbie Wins the Acorn Cup

Debbie Fry won the New Forest Acorn Cup, a first for West Moors - a brilliant result and well deserved.



A New 'Junior' Club Superstar!

After only taking up bowls around 5 weeks ago, Junior won the Dorset Under 12 Championship, winning all his matches. We're so proud of you Junior, you're a credit to the club and your family.

New Sponsor



In July, David Rose was delighted to welcome Tim Southby, founder and Director of Heathside Travel to officially present us with fantastic new scoreboards.

In addition Tim has commissioned the 'Heathside Travel Trophy' which will be presented when he joins us at our Presentation Lunch at Remedy Oak in October. This new trophy is for the winner of our first Aussie Pairs competition.

Heathside Travel is an award-winning, family run company which was established in 2015. Their team have a wealth of experience providing coaches for corporate clients, private excursions and tours.

From their humble beginnings with just one 19 seat mini coach, they now have a small fleet of modern, luxury coaches from 19-55 seats. They also offer their own day trips and holidays, as a result of demand from their customers.

We look forward to welcoming Tim to our Presentation Lunch and also working with Heathside Travel in the future.

Brochures are available in the club for anyone interested in booking one of their wide range of trips or holidays.

Heathside Travel Ltd,
Top Cottage,
Forest Corner,
Ringwood, BH24 3HW
Tel: 01202 892202
info@heathsidetravel.co.uk



Club Competition Report



Another season of internal competitions has just finished! Hurray, (now we can put our feet up)! It has been an interesting and challenging season on many fronts.

We started with Wet, Wet, Wet and finished with Hot, Hot, Hot then a bit more Hot! The weather has played a significant part in the playing or sometimes not being able to play the internal competitions this season. It is a shame when outside forces out of your control have such a bit impact.

Our next challenge has been 'play by dates': we received far more requests for extensions this season, not sure why; weather again could have had an impact but that didn't necessarily seem to be a factor at the time. This is disappointing for members and us as competition secretaries as we aim and want you to get to play your games. A toss of a coin or Walkover is not the same as playing. Something we can hopefully look at and work with members moving forward so no one misses out where possible.

Unfortunately, there have been many injuries this season which have impacted games and many replacement entrants had to be found, they are those brought in before the first round has been played and therefore formed the team, and substitutes, those brought in after the first round has been played. We would like to thank all those approached as members have been very supportive and willing to step in and play which keeps the competition running. A big thank you from us! For those who had to drop out, see you next year!

More positively, Finals weekend was a great success. The weather mainly held out and wasn't too hot! The catering and bar was on Tap, excuse the pun! The competitors gave us some excellent matches to watch. So many members came to watch and support which was lovely to see. Sadly a couple of members were unable to take part in their finals at the last minute which affected 6 games. This was a great shame having worked hard to get there. We did find substitutes so the games could be played as most were team games and we didn't feel it fair on other team members not to play the game and play it with the atmosphere of finals weekend.

Entries for this season's competitions were up, especially in the Brewer & Brewer and Toro Cup. Please keep the increase going in all competitions, this all adds to the season, and you could be a new face at finals weekend. New bowlers are more than welcome, in fact we encourage you to enter the internal competitions to gain experience and bowling knowledge. The drawn competitions you will be selected with a more experienced player so please don't be afraid come and join in.

More positive news, we started an Aussie Pairs competition for all, it has proved a resounding success with over 40 entrants. Thank you to all that who entered and tried it, for some it may not be their game, but we heard many who really enjoyed the format, so next season let's make it even bigger.

Thank you to all those who entered the competitions this year, we hope you enjoyed your games. We want to thank everyone for your support and hopefully see you next season!

Sue & Gary Dear - Competition Secretaries

Club Competition Finalists



Bennett Cup



Ladies Plate



Mens Drawn Pairs



Brewer & Brewer Cup



Mixed Pairs



Mens Championship



Misty Cup



Mixed Pairs Sets



Mens Two Woods



Toro Cup

Club Competition Finalists



Ladies Two Wood



Aussie Pairs



Ladies Championship



Mens Triples



Mens Pairs



Ladies Pairs



Ladies Triples



Mens Plate

Club Competition Gallery



Ladies & Junior League Results & News

2026 Ladies Season Summary

- Two x League Hot Shots
- B&D Wagtails Division 3 Triples Champions
- B&D Butterflies Division C Rinks - 4th
- New Forest Robins League B – 8th
- New Forest Wrens league C - Runners Up
- New Forest Club Championships - Runners Up
- Dorset East Edna Paisley League - Runners-Up
- Dorset LUST Finalist - Julia Bowley
- New Forest Ladies Acorn Singles Champion - Debbie Fry



2026 Junior Section

- Dorset U12 Singles Champion - Junior
- Dorset U16 Open Pairs Champions - Scarlett and Austin
- Dorset U18 Men's Pairs Champion - Bleu
- Dorset U24 Ladies Pairs - Scarlett - Runner Up
- Dorset U16 Ladies Singles Scarlett - third
- Dorset U16 Men's Singles - Austin - third, Bleu - fourth

The above list of achievements does not occur without a committed team of players, Captains, Secretaries and Coaches. Thank you one and all for your valuable contribution.

Other News

Inaugural - NAFF Trophy - winner 2026 - Tracy

Rena West Singles Trophy at Fordingbridge - 19th September

Ladies Captain's Afternoon Gill Wells competition and cream tea - 20th September

Spoons Presentation Evening - September 16th. This has been an amazing season for Spoons with between 25 and 35 participants for the last 17 weeks.

Ladies' AGM is Friday October 30th from 6.00pm. It is important that outdoor lady players attend to indicate which leagues they wish to play in next season as well as vote in a new Ladies' section committee.

On the Ladies' noticeboard are the entry forms for Dorset County competitions 2027. The forms and entry fees have to be in by November.

We now have 50 outdoor playing lady members including a few latecomers who are most welcome! Sadly, we are saying 'goodbye' to Elaine Tompkins and we wish her and Alan well in their new home. Keep bowling, Elaine, we will miss you!

Karen Oakes- Ladies Captain

Mens & Mixed Leagues

2026 Season Summary

Overall, 2026 was a mixed season from a results perspective for both the Men's league teams and the Mixed league teams. Thanks to everyone who took part and the continued support of everyone involved in the organisation this season. Results were:

- 2 teams getting relegated
- 6 teams remaining in the same leagues
- 2 teams gaining promotion

Men's League Standings

Percy Baker

- Dorset Bowls East Four : 3rd place (out of 4)

2nd Team

- B&D Premier Section 4 : 7th place (out of 10)
- New Forest Division 4 : 4th Place (out of 8)

1st Team

- B&D Premier Section 2 : 5th place (out of 10)
- New Forest Division 1 : 1st Place (out of 8) (Promoted)
- Dorset Bowls Championship : 7th place (out of 8) (Relegated)

Mixed League Standings

B&D Tuesday Evening Triples

- Section 7A - Beavers : 2nd place (out of 8) (Promoted)
- Section 7B - Wolves : 7th place (out of 8) (Relegated)

B&D Saturday Morning Triples

- Section 3 - Woodpeckers : 6th place (out of 10)
- Section 4 - Bees : 7th Place (out of 10)

Other News

The Men's AGM will take place on Saturday 7th November at 11am. I hope to see you all there.

The Dorset County Competition Forms are now up on the Men's Noticeboard. Forms and entry fees need to be in by the end of October.

Trevor Brown - Men's Captain



Our Unsung Hero



John Jepson

"I was born in Middlesex, growing up with an older sister and a younger brother. My early school days were enjoyable enough, provided sport was involved. The classroom was far less appealing. Give me a ball, a bat, or a pair of running shoes and I was happy. I played football for Harrow Schools and represented my school in cricket and cross-country, discovering early on that physical competition was where I felt most at home.

Sport became a lifelong thread with very few activities I haven't tried. However, the ones in which I found real success were bowls, cycle racing, and squash — the latter I played at county level.

My introduction to bowls came at age 20 after a friendly challenge from my father. He played lawn bowls; I played tenpin. I thought my sport was superior, but after he bowled a 161 on his first attempt, I had to try his sport. My first visit to his club was a disaster; I was all over the place. But after a few roll-ups, something clicked and I was hooked.

In 1965 I met Pauline in the bar at Wembley Stadium Bowl — hardly surprising, given how much time I spent there. Her younger sister, also a tenpin bowler, introduced us. Two years later, in 1967, we married.

Shortly after, we moved to Bedfordshire, where we stayed for forty years before relocating to Ferndown in 2007. This November marks 59 years together. We have a family of two daughters, three grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter, with another due this month.

Alongside sport, my professional career continued to develop. I am a Chartered Design Engineer with degrees in mechanical and pharmaceutical engineering. My career involved extensive travel and many challenging assignments, including work on the containment of dangerous pathogens at the Ministry of Defence's Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down — one of my most demanding and interesting projects. I became the company's Chief Engineer and eventually the Managing Director.

Bowls has given me tremendous enjoyment and success. Highlights include:

- 64 Middleton Cup games for Bedfordshire, twice reaching the national quarter-finals
- Middleton Cup selector from 2000 to 2004
- 1982 EBA National Top Four semi-finalists
- 1990 Bedfordshire County Singles winner
- 1991 Bedfordshire County Fours winners (EBA National quarter-finalists)
- 2022 EIBA National Senior Four semi-finalists
- 2023 EIBA National Senior Four semi-finalists
- 2024 EIBA National Senior Four winners
- 2025 Selected to represent England in the British Isles Championships in Belfast



Among these achievements, one moment stands above the rest. In 1977, my father, my brother, and I won the Folkestone Open Tournament together, beating England international Gary Smith in the final. Sharing that victory as a family remains my proudest moment."

John, thanks for everything you've done and continue to do for our Club.

Upcoming Social Events

Macmillan
Caring locally

COFFEE MORNING

TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER
10 UNTIL 12

CRAFTS AND CAKE ON SALE

ANY BAKES WELCOME

TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE £3

EVERY CUP. EVERY SLICE. EVERY DONATION HELPS. **THANK YOU**



PRESENTATION LUNCH

at Remedy Oak Golf Club



SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER

Good friends • Great food • Season awards
A lovely afternoon to celebrate together

WEST MOORS MEMORIAL BOWLS CLUB
More than a game

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

Gather your team!
Test your knowledge!
Lots of fun for everyone!

TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE ALL WELCOME!

Brains Optional!

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
SPORT
MUSIC
TV & FILM
HISTORY
AND MORE...

GOOD FRIENDS • GREAT FOOD • BRIGHT FUTURES



★ WEST MOORS MEMORIAL BOWLS CLUB ★

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!

TICKETS 50p EACH

GREAT PRIZES, INCLUDING CASH!

STAR PRIZE ONE YEAR'S FREE FULL MEMBERSHIP!

1. PICK YOUR NUMBERS, on the sheets on the table
2. FILL IN YOUR NAME
3. POP THE MONEY IN THE BOX

CHRISTMAS DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE ON **SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER**

RAFFLE HAS 2:FFS



More than a game

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL!

30TH OCTOBER

8pm start (after Ladies AGM)

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

Music Quizzes
Games
Bar Open
Good Company

Bring snacks



Social Calendar

Keep up to date with our social events. From quiz nights and Bingo to Friday Night Socials there is always something happening at the club. Check the noticeboard and Website for details.

Final Word & Credits



Looking Ahead

As we look forward to the coming weeks, there is plenty to be excited about at the club. Our Short Mat season and winter Social Calendar await. Keep an eye on the noticeboard and our social channels for the latest updates.

Credits

Editor: Carolyn Dearlove

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