



TALK OF THE TOWN

Newsletter

February/March 2026



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026. I am sure that we are all looking forward to being on the green again, shaking off the winter chill and look ahead to brighter days. A new bowls season is just around the corner, and the club is already buzzing with preparation. There is lot of information in the newsletter – hope you find it useful.

Matthew Rixson (Newsletter Editor)

MEMBERSHIP 2026

Thank you for returning membership forms and fees in a timely fashion. We currently have 31 Male bowlers and 21 Ladies, plus a small number of social members. This makes us quite a small Club and thus requires all of us to step up to assist with running the Club – for example with cleaning, catering, maintenance, operating the bar and helping run Club Days. The £85 full membership fee represents great value – I was looking at fees for other local bowls clubs recently – one nearby is £30 more expensive and charges £4 every time you step on the green – even for roll ups! A significant part of the membership fees we receive goes to pay affiliation fees to Bowls Hampshire and Bowls England – our bill for such fees was £550 this year.

Within the membership forms we asked for up to date information on medical conditions and contact details for a family member – events last year sadly showed this is important. This information is lacking for a number of members – an update would be appreciated please.

Competition entries for Hampshire and BDBA competitions have now been made. Entries for the local Whitchurch competitions are being collected by Steve Harris and NHWBA Ladies competitions by Tracy Thomas and are due in later, in March.

*Malcolm Christian
Club Secretary 2026*

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Club EGM – Friday 20th March at 7pm in the Clubhouse to set up the 2026 season – you will receive an email invitation and agenda/minutes of the 2025 EGM by the end of this month

Open Day for new bowlers/members - Saturday 18th April from 10.00

Opening Drive to start our season – Saturday afternoon April 25th
(The above two dates are obviously weather/green condition dependent)

Whitchurch Triples Leagues start on Wednesday 29th April

The Stan Hardman League starts on Thursday 7th May

President's Day - Sunday 9th August (afternoon).

Club Competition Finals - weekend of September 12-13th.

Other dates will be confirmed and added over the next few weeks and be available in the Member's Handbook by the start of the season.



CLUB KIT

As we look ahead to the 2026 season, members are kindly reminded to place their orders for Club kit early to ensure delivery around the start of the season. All kit is supplied by Karuta Sportswear, and orders can be placed directly through their online Club Shop. Given typical lead times, we recommend placing your order well in advance to avoid any delays. To browse and order your items, please visit:

[Karuta Sportswear Club Shop.](#)



CONGRATULATIONS

Adam White has had a success indoor season so far. Achievements include:

- Area final (1 before national finals) of the pairs.
 - Area final of the open pairs Tuesday 24th Feb @ Palmerston 6pm
 - Area final of the fours Friday 27th Feb @ Camberley 6:30pm
 - Winning two Open Single Circuits events.
 - Adam is currently ranked in the top 2 for the open singles circuit.
- Adam is also still going in the London & southern counties fours. County men's pairs (semi final stage) County mixed pairs (semi final stage).

BREAKING NEWS: Adam won the UK open qualifier and will now compete against the top 16 of the world at Chesterton, Cambridge on Tuesday 3rd March, televised/streamed. Why not watch!

CONGRATULATIONS

James Durrant, Dave Goddard and Ian Willson have had a very successful short mat season this winter including notable performances in county competitions.

Anita Christian has been invited to take part in the selection process to join the County Ladies team in their inter county matches this summer.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

Some members have asked whether we can include a small section in the newsletter for second-hand bowls equipment – an easy way to give unused items a new lease of life. If you have any equipment or accessories that you'd like to sell or pass on or any items you are looking for, please send the details for inclusion in the next issue.

To make listings as helpful as possible, please include:

- A brief description of the item
- Condition and size (where relevant)
- Asking price or whether it's free to a good home
- Your preferred contact details



Any requests for other types of events or help in running them would be much appreciated by your Bowls Committee

BOWLS ETIQUETTE



Why Etiquette Matters in Bowls

Bowls has always been a sport built on respect—respect for the game, the green, and one another. Good etiquette isn't about rules for the sake of rules; it's about creating an environment where everyone can play their best, feel welcome, and enjoy the rhythm and calm of the sport. As we head into a new season, it's a perfect moment to refresh the habits that make our club such a positive place to play.



Respect for the Green

The green is our most valuable asset, and small actions make a big difference.

Avoid dropping bowls Place them down gently to prevent dents and wear.

Stay behind the mat or head when others are delivering to avoid distractions and accidental damage.

Deliver bowls smoothly to keep the surface consistent for everyone.



Respect for Fellow Players

Stand still and silent when someone is on the mat preparing to bowl.

Avoid walking across adjacent rinks when players are delivering.

Acknowledge good shots even from opponents. It's part of the spirit of the game.

Keep conversations appropriate and avoid commentary that could unsettle others.

Be gracious in victory and defeat, remembering that every match is shared time on the green.

Do not use language that is prejudicial, offensive, or profane – bowls is an inclusive sport

Bowls is competitive, but it's also deeply social. The way we behave on the green sets the tone for the whole club. These behaviours help everyone feel valued and respected, whatever their level of experience.



Respect for the Flow of Play

Be ready to bowl when it's your turn without rushing others.

Stay aware of the head and avoid disturbing bowls before agreement is reached.

Know your role and let others fulfil their role

Let the skip direct play and avoid offering unsolicited advice mid-end.

Keep score accurately and check totals regularly to avoid confusion later.

Clear the head promptly once the score is agreed so the next end can begin.

Smooth play keeps matches enjoyable and fair. Good rhythm on the green helps matches run on time and keeps everyone engaged.



Respect for the Spirit of the Club

Welcome new members warmly, offering guidance without overwhelming them.

Help with setting up and clearing away equipment, especially when others may need support.

Communicate availability promptly for matches and events.

Represent the club positively when playing any fixtures.

Etiquette extends beyond the rink. These habits strengthen the sense of community that makes club life so rewarding.



A Shared Commitment

Etiquette isn't enforced by rules—it's upheld by each of us choosing to play the game the right way. As we step into the new season, a renewed focus on these small courtesies will help ensure that every session on the green is enjoyable, fair, and welcoming.