

Oak Hill Bowls Club

January 2025



Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Our application has now been submitted to the Charities Commission for the club to be registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The Commission has indicated that they are experiencing a high volume of work, but we expect to have feedback on our application before our planned club AGM on the 1st March.

Part of our application is a new Constitution for the club. This is broadly in-line with the format prescribed by the Commission, with the main topic covering the overall management of the club by a group of up to 6 trustees. The initial trustees are named as John Abson, David Conway, Pauline Dinner, Gordon Greenfield, Rhys Lewis and Mike Marques.

A working group has now prepared a separate document titled Club Rules, which outlines the way the club is to be managed on a day-to-day basis. This document, which was approved recently by the club committee, is broadly based on the previous club constitution, but makes a number of significant changes. The main changes are :-

- Rather than being managed by a single general committee, the club will have a number of separate committees to manage specific areas of the club's functions;
- A Bowls Committee will be responsible for managing the bowling activities of the club. Membership of this committee includes the Secretary, Match Secretary, Competitions Secretary, Men's and Ladies' Captains, Green Ranger and up to 2 Membership Secretaries. All members of the Bowls Committee must be playing (Full-playing, Associate or Life) members of the club.
- A Social Committee will be responsible for co-ordinating the social activities of the club. This committee will comprise the Social Secretary (a new position), Catering Manager, Bar Manager, Match Secretary, Property Manager and other members co-opted as appropriate.
- Other committees may be established according to the prevailing situation and plans of the club, as designated by the Trustees.
- At the club AGM all playing members will be allowed to vote (Associate members were previously excluded from the right to vote).

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Alastair Lang RIP



Charitable Incorporated Organisation (continued)

We will be seeking to have this new Club Rules document formally approved at the club AGM on the 1st March. A copy of the document will be available in the club-house for members to read and it will also be circulated via email to members, together with the rest of the information about the AGM.

Questions about the document should be submitted to Mike Marques, via email or in writing, at least 4 days before the AGM.

Competition Rules

At its meeting on the 18th January the committee approved a number of minor amendments to the rules for club competitions and the revised rules will be posted on the relevant notice-board. One difficulty in organising some of the fixed-date competitions is the uncertainty about how many members will be taking part. For the coming season we will be trying an experiment of –

- Posting a sheet on the notice-board for members to indicate their wish to take part;
- “Closing” the entry list 2 days before the competition date, so that the draw can be made well in advance of the competition (normally at the Thursday club-night preceding the competition on the Saturday).

We ask that all members respect this attempt to run the competitions more smoothly.

Club Officials

Nominations are invited for the Club Officials who will be elected at the club AGM. The Officials are the President, Deputy President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Match Secretary, Competitions Secretary, Men’s Captain, Ladies’ Captain, Men’s and Ladies’ Vice-Captains, Social Secretary, Catering Manager, Bar Manager, Green Ranger, Property Manager, two Membership Secretaries and the Club Almoner. All Club Officials must be members of the club.

Please note that Julian Shulman has already taken over from David Bowler as Match Secretary, as the bulk of this role involves work during the months October to March, and the majority of the fixtures for 2025 have already been finalised.

A nomination sheet for the club officials will be posted on the main notice board in the club-house. However, for those members who are unable to visit the club during its winter opening hours, nominations can be sent by email (mikemarques86@gmail.com), Whatsapp (07787 868819) or in writing to Mike Marques. All nominations must include the name of the proposer and seconder, and have the permission of the member being nominated.



Christmas Lunch



A number of members met and enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch at the Railway Tavern in New Barnet on the 14th December. The Tavern is one of the club's valued sponsors and we are very grateful for the work of their staff to ensure the event was such a success.

Indoor matches

Oak Hill won the 4-club indoor match at Glebelands on the 8th January, competing against Arnos, Cockfosters and Maccabi. We have 2 further indoor matches – on the 5th March against Bishopswood – and on 22nd March against Glebelands as the second-leg of the matches for the John Golding Memorial Trophy. Please look out for the team sheets and let Rhys Lewis know if you are able to play.



Honours Board

Some members have asked about the updating of the main honours board in the club-house. The proprietor of N&N Signs (the company that update the board free of charge) has been out of the country for a number of weeks as his son was seriously ill in Cyprus. Sadly, his son passed away on Christmas Day, so Nick has only just returned to the UK. We anticipate that the honours board will be updated before the start of the new season.

Social activities

The cribbage group continues to meet on Monday mornings during the winter months, as does the bridge group on Wednesday mornings and the games afternoon also on Wednesdays.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

The provisional opening date for the outdoor season is
19th April (Easter Saturday).

More details will be sent out closer to the date, but we hope you are all looking forward to a happy and successful 2025 season.



Alastair Lang Rest in Peace

We are very sad to report that Alastair Lang, a real stalwart of the club and county, passed away on Monday 19th January.

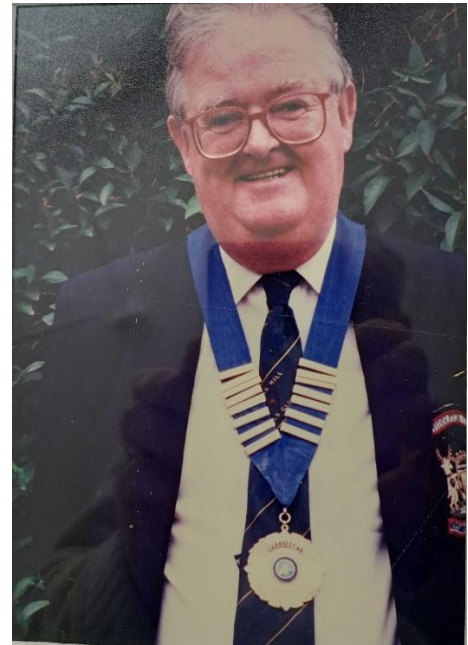
He served Oak Hill in key positions for more than 20 years, being Men's Captain from 1993 to 1995, President in 1996 and again from 2010 to 2012, and Honorary Secretary from 1997 to 2009 and from 2012 to 2014. On the bowling side he won the County Triples in 1998, the Finchley District Triples in 1995, and many Oak Hill competitions, including being the Men's Champion in 1994.

More recently, and despite his health issues, Alastair was a staunch supporter of the club and county at most events. More recently, members remember with fondness his organising of the Golden Pot competition at club-nights.

Alastair always had a positive attitude and his sense of humour was often in evidence. He will be sorely missed, but we will for ever be grateful for his contribution to our club over many years.

If you would like to know more details of which competitions Alastair won - or indeed the whole list of club competition winners, together with the list of achievements of Oak Hill individuals and teams - these are all included in the club Honours Book. This can be found on the shelves in the entrance under the telephone. We also hope that this potted history of the club will soon be available on the club website.

May he rest in peace.



**Alastair as part of the
1999 Ginder Cup winning team**