

Oak Hill Bowls Club

February 2026



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This month's newsletter is a mini-version with the latest news about the club and some of our plans for the coming season.

Annual General Meeting

Our club AGM will be held on **Saturday 7th March, at 11am** in the clubhouse.

A separate formal notice of the meeting, together with a copy of the club accounts for the year ending 31st October 2025, and the minutes of last year's AGM and the EGM held on the 27th September last year, will be sent out nearer the date.

This is the main opportunity for members to express their views on the club, predominantly by voting for the Officers of the club. Nomination sheets have been posted on the notice board in the corridor leading to the toilets. When making nominations, please make sure that the nominees agree to be proposed and they confirm this, either with their signature or by confirming their acceptance to Pauline Dinner.

Close Season Working Party

Mike de Campi and Alan Nichols plan to continue the refurbishment of the inside of the clubhouse by painting the men's changing room in February.

After that we will need help in March / April to do work on the club surround, e.g. painting the rink markers, replacing the ditch mats. We will also plan a "spring clean" of the interior, specifically the kitchen.

We will let you know details of these plans nearer the time.



CIO

Our application for the bowling side of the club to be registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was submitted to the Charity Commission in January.

We have had confirmation that the application has been received. Unfortunately, the Charity Commission have also said that their turn-round time for dealing with new applications is now 23 weeks, much longer than before, so we are unlikely to hear from them until July at the earliest.

If our application is successful we will then –

- Transfer the assets of the current CASC to the new CIO, to be known as “Oak Hill Bowls Club” and formerly wind up the CASC;
- Register the new CIO with HMRC for charity tax reliefs;
- Establish a separate structure to manage the social activities of our club, including the management of the bar, and apply for the new entity to be registered with Companies House as a Community Interest Company, to be known as “Oak Hill Bowls CIC”.

We have informed Barnet Council about these intentions, since they will affect some aspects of our new lease which is still to be concluded.

Indoor Matches

We have an indoor match against Bishopswood on Wednesday 4th March and then the second leg of our friendly fixture against Glebelands for the John Golding Memorial Trophy is on Saturday 21st March.

Rhys will be pleased to hear from anyone who is able to play in these fixtures.

Club Shirts

We have chosen Zapkam to be the new supplier of our club shirts and have sent off an initial order of various sizes of shirts and jackets. It is our intention that these initial shirts will be retained as samples, so that members requiring a shirt can try which size would be suitable before submitting an order. We are hopeful that this initial order will be available for members to see at the club AGM.

The design of the shirts will remain the same and the jackets will look similar, but will also include a hood. Individual shirts can be personalised with the member's name.

County and District Competitions

We have submitted the entries for the Hertfordshire county competitions and expect the draws to be made at the beginning of March.

Entry sheets are available for the **Finchley and North London competitions**, but the closing date for entries is the 1st April, so we will be sending out a further reminder nearer the time.



Recruitment

We are planning a major recruitment drive at the beginning of the new season. Our main emphasis will be on the weekend of **May 8th / 10th**. The club will be open for potential bowlers to come and have a try on the Friday evening from 6pm to 8pm, and on the Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10am to 12pm. The weekend will culminate with a friendly match against Hertfordshire on the afternoon of the 10th, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the club in 1956.

We will need a number of members to help with the recruitment activity – to approach passers-by and encourage them into the club – to take potential bowlers on the green and give them a “taster” session – to serve refreshments in the clubhouse.

We would also remind members that, if they introduce new members to the club, they will be given a discount on their next year’s membership – Sian will have a “free” membership this season because of the other members she introduced!

Subscriptions

The club officers have decided to leave the level of subscriptions for the 2026 season at the same level as last year, i.e. £190 for a full-playing member, £95 for an associate member, £30 for a social member, £5 for a junior member.

Teas and Coffees

There have been suggestions that the charging for teas and coffees should be replaced by a single annual fee.



The club officers have discussed this, but decided to retain the current system of charging £1 for a cup of tea or coffee and 30p for biscuits. This is run on an “honesty” basis, where we trust our members to pay for their drinks by putting the money in the cash box in the kitchen.

We leave it to the conscience of individual members and trust that they will comply with this system.

Potters

We are hoping to organise a group from the club to visit the Potters resort in Norfolk from the 19th to the 23th October.

Anyone interested should contact Jackie Robinson for more details.