



Oak Hill Bowls Club

April 2026

Recruitment and plans for the new season

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Recruitment “70 to celebrate 70”

This year is our club's platinum (70th) anniversary, since its foundation in 1956. Last year we ended the season with 48 full-playing members. At the beginning of this year we are holding a major recruitment activity, with the aim of having 70 full-playing members by the end of the season. To achieve this, the main emphasis is on the weekend of May 8th / 10th when the club will be open for potential members to have a bowls “taster” session –

- From 6pm to 8pm on Friday 8th May
- From 10am to 12noon on both Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May.

To promote this activity we are producing flyers and posters to distribute. We hope that our members will take a set of flyers and give them out to friends and relatives. If every member was to introduce one new member, we would exceed our target easily. (Please remember that we offer a discount on next year's subscription for every member introducing new members to the club). The promotional flyers will be distributed to other users of the park (including the park runners), East Barnet school and other businesses that support the club. We will also be placing an advert in the newsletter of the East Barnet Residents Association.

We have a good supply of sets of bowls that we use for coaching new bowlers, but we do not have sufficient holders. Please let us know if you have any spare bowls holders that you could donate to the club.

Barnet u3a Group

We have negotiated with the Barnet u3a group (University of the Third Age) to start a separate group for their members. This will take place on Friday afternoons, from 2pm to 4pm, throughout the season, starting on the 1st May. U3A members will be charged £5 per session, equivalent to the subscription for an Associate member. The group has been advertised in the u3a weekly newsletter and we already have 12 members showing interest in coming along.



Instructors/ Helpers

We will need a significant amount of help from our members to make all these activities successful. For those who have indicated they will help as “instructors”, we will be holding a training session on Monday 27th April, from 6pm. Further instruction will be available on Thursday 30th April.

We are delighted that Damian Treanor has signed up for a Coach Bowls course to become a fully accredited coach. In addition to instructors helping with potential bowlers on the green, we require help from other members encouraging park users to come into the club and serving refreshments over the weekend of the 8th / 10th May. Please sign up on the sheet available at the coffee morning.

Sponsorship

The amount of sponsorship money we received last year was reduced considerably compared to previous years. We have therefore been having discussions with a number of companies about continuing their sponsorship or becoming new supporters of the club. Vanderpump & Sykes, the solicitors who have been acting on our behalf for our new lease with Barnet Council and our CIO application, have already agreed to support the club, and we are confident that a number of our previous sponsors will renew their support.

Club-nights

We hope to run a full programme of Thursday club-night activities, including meals on most nights. Jackie Robinson, So Ha Liu or Yin Man would like to hear from any members who feel they could cook, or join with other members to prepare a meal.

Subs and Competition Fees

Subscriptions for this season will be retained at the same level as last year - £190 for a full-playing member, £95 for an associate member and £30 for a social member. Individual entry fees for club competitions remain the same as last year - £3 per competition.

Club Shirts

We will be sending off an initial order for the new club shirts and jackets from Zapkam. If it is for more than 5 items the cost will be £27.59 per shirt and £32.99 for a jacket. Individual names can be printed on the shirts. Samples are available for you to try. Please let us know if you require a new shirt or jacket. We also have a supply of shirts and jackets from Aceit, our previous supplier, in some sizes. These are available at a reduced price – £20 for a shirt, £25 for a jacket.

Post-match Refreshments

We believe we should not charge members, who represent the club in friendly and competitive matches, a premium over the normal cost to members, for their post-match refreshments. For this season we will therefore charge £1 for tea and biscuits, and £4 for a “supper” after an evening match.

Indoor Matches

We lost our two-legged fixture against Glebelands for the John Golding Memorial Trophy, but many congratulations to Rhys Lewis and his team who won the Wednesday morning “inter-club” league at Glebelands.

50/50 Club

Members can purchase numbers for our new 50/50 Club scheme to raise funds for the club on the subscription form, or from Kay Comer at the coffee morning on the 18th April. Please join this fund-raising initiative – “you must be in it to win it”.