



Oak Hill Bowls Club

May 2026



Friday night of the recruitment weekend

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Recruitment – “70 to celebrate 70”

We had a promising recruitment weekend on the 8th / 10th May. In all, 17 prospective new bowlers came along and tried the game. Many of them were very keen and have already planned to come back for further coaching. To facilitate this, we plan to run coaching sessions on Monday afternoons at 2pm, Thursday evenings at 5.30pm and Saturday mornings at 10am.

The Monday afternoon sessions will coincide with the Monday afternoon league, which starts on the 18th May. Hopefully, this means that any prospective members coming on Mondays will be able to meet other club members and be encouraged to take part in the league when they join the club.

Three new members have already joined the club. Vernon Raymond is new to outdoor bowling, but has already played in his first Vets league match.

Margaret and Barry Hughes used to bowl at the Met Police club in Bushey, but they have now moved to New Barnet and have joined Oak Hill as Associate members. We hope you will make them very welcome.

Many thanks to those members who volunteered to have training as “instructors” and then helped on the recruitment days. We will continue to need their support for the Monday, Thursday and Saturday coaching sessions, and would be happy to hear from any other members who would like to help with the coaching.

On Sunday we were joined by Dan Tomlinson, the Member of Parliament for Chipping Barnet – see the last page of the newsletter.



Barnet u3a Group

Our group within the Barnet u3a (University of the Third Age) has now met three times on Friday afternoons, with a good attendance.

This is a group exclusive to members of the u3a. The arrangements we have agreed are that their first 3 sessions will be free and that we will then charge each member £5 for subsequent sessions. This is equivalent to the fee for an Associate member. Many thanks to Pete Headland for his efforts in getting this group started.

Opening and Locking up

It has been difficult to find members to help with opening, but particularly locking-up the club-house. Members have also said they found difficulty with the padlocks on some of the doors.

We have therefore replaced the individual padlocks on the main club-house door, the ladies' changing room and the equipment shed, with combination padlocks. The combination is the same number as the key pad on the equipment shed.

When members are the last to leave the club they should therefore close the electric fence and power on the supply, lock the main clubhouse door with their Yale key, and ensure the combination padlocks have been applied.

The clubhouse will be opened in the morning by –

- Monday – Cribbage group
- Tuesday and Saturday – John
- Wednesday – Bridge group
- Thursday and Friday – Julian
- Sunday – Louise

Champion!



Over the 8th / 10th May, Rhys was taking part in a tournament for visually impaired bowlers organised by the Weston-super-Mare branch of the Rotary Club. Nearly 40 bowlers took part from all over the country.

Rhys had to play 8 singles matches over 3 days, but we are delighted to say that he won them all – including beating last year's winner – so he has a trophy to prove his success.

Many congratulations to Rhys.

Whatsapp Groups

A new read-only WhatsApp group has been set up, to post information for members, e.g. team selections. The other groups – roll-up and social – will remain, but we would ask members to observe the intention of the respective groups.

The roll-up group is intended for bowls-related information and requests. Any non-bowling posts will be deleted by the administrator.



Suggestions

We have received a number of suggestions, including some via an anonymous letter. The officers have discussed these various suggestions with the following decisions –

- **Cleaning** – It was suggested we establish a rota for members to clean the clubhouse on a weekly basis. We have found it difficult enough to try to get volunteers for catering and felt a cleaning rota would inevitably mean that the job would yet again fall on the normal few volunteers. We have therefore taken on a new cleaner who will clean the clubhouse on Sunday mornings.
- **Green surround maintenance** – Chris Burvill and Mike de Campi have agreed to organise a group to undertake work on maintaining the green surround. Please let them know if you are prepared to help.
- **Post-match refreshments** – A number of members have suggested we revert to charging £2 per person for tea and biscuits refreshments following afternoon matches. We have agreed to this and will make this change with immediate effect.
- **Rolling the green** – This suggestion was posted via our WhatsApp group following our friendly match at Bush Hill Park, where they apparently roll their green each month. We reviewed this with Terry, our green ranger who has many years' experience of looking after bowls greens and cricket pitches. Terry and John have a separate WhatsApp group with ASM and discuss the state of the green with them regularly. Terry pointed out that rolling is best followed by spiking the green and leaving it for a day without any bowling. Rolling requires specialist equipment and could be costly and impractical during the season. Our green drains very well and we are watering it nightly during the current dry spell. ASM have been sorrel spiking the green to keep the surface open during this dry weather. They hope to start verticutting next week if conditions allow.

Suggestions

The final suggestion was that we set up a group to select teams for the various club representative matches. This is the major responsibility of the club captains and vice captains and they have delegated part of this as follows –

- Men's county and Prentice Cup – Rhys
- Ladies county and SAD matches – Paulette
- Day Cup – Junior
- Vets League – John and Terry Doe
- Enfield & District Sunday League – Rhys & Paulette
- Club Friendlies – Derek

For competitive matches the general policy will be to select the strongest available team from those players available, aiming where possible for consistency. Team selection is not easy – we can never please all our members all of the time – but we ask that all members respect the decision of the various team selectors.

Club Shirts

We have sent off an initial order for the new club shirts and jackets from Zapkam, with the club bearing the cost of postage. For future orders Zapkam have the facility for individual members to process their own. However, if several members require shirts it may be more economical for them to process a collective order. Please let us know if you require a new shirt and/or jacket and we will try to co-ordinate this.

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.



Club-nights and Post-match Catering

The programme for club-night refreshments for the next few weeks is –

- 21st May – Kebabs – Yin and So Ha
- 28th May – Fish & Chips - Ian
- 4th June – Salmon – Gloria and Brenda
- 11th June – Film Night – Annika and Julian

On the 18th June our men are playing a Herts Top Ten competition against Sawbridgeworth, which will involve catering for 21 players. It will therefore be impractical to have a “normal” club-night, but Yin and So Ha have agreed to serve hot dogs, etc. and we hope that a number of members will come along and support our team in their match.

We still require volunteers to provide the food and lay out the tables, etc. for various evening matches. A list is posted on the notice board near the kitchen. Sian has produced a sample shopping list and guideline budget for providing a ploughman’s supper to help those who have not done this before.

Club Competitions

The men’s 2-woods singles competition will be held on Monday 25th May, starting at 10am.

The draws for the men’s championship and handicap singles will be made that day, but we will defer making the draws for the other competitions in the hope that we can encourage more members, including some of our new ones, to make an entry.

Club-night Bowling

We would encourage members to come along on Thursday nights and join in bowling before the club-night food. The emphasis for the next month or so will be on coaching new bowlers, but rinks will be available for members to practice or join a social roll-up. From mid-June we hope to run an organised bowling activity for the Acorn trophy on a fortnightly schedule and we will be publicising this in the next few weeks.

We have been asked to provide other forms of training on alternate weeks, one suggestion being a Markers course. Please let us know if you would like specific training or assistance and we will try to provide this.

County and District Comps

Many of our members have entered county and district competitions and here are some of the results we know –

- Sian lost to Marcia Dunstone, the Herts county secretary, in the ladies county singles – a daunting challenge, but a very good learning experience;
- Matthew Tang beat a bowler from Hemel Hempstead in the men’s county singles in a very close and good match;
- Rob Petty won his first match in the county singles at Harpenden. He also beat Steve Griffiths from Bush Hill Park in the Finchley and North London singles;
- Bill Germaney and Martin Woodrow won their first match in the F&NL pairs.

Apologies to those members who have played matches and not been included in this list. Please let us know your result and we will publish it.

In our first Vets league matches we beat Selborne by 7 points to 1, had a good win away at Winchmore Hill by 6 points to 2, and then had an excellent win by 8 points to 0 at Cockfosters, with a rather depleted team. (Matches are played by 3 triples, with 2 points awarded per triple and 2 points for the overall winner on shot difference).



50/50 Club

Members can purchase numbers for our new 50/50 Club scheme, to raise funds for the club, from Kay Comer.

Please join this fund-raising initiative – “you must be in it to win it”.

Trolley Tokens

To celebrate our club’s platinum anniversary we have bought shopping trolley tokens for all our members. If you have not already been given one, please see Julian.



Our new club flag is now flying proudly



The inside of the Clubhouse is looking rather smart!



Visit by Dan Tomlinson MP

On the Sunday of our recruitment weekend we were joined by Dan Tomlinson, the Member of Parliament for Chipping Barnet. He had a try at bowls and showed lots of promise. Dan was very complimentary about the club and our efforts, and showed interest in coming along to one of our club-nights. A letter from him is on the competitions notice board and more photos are on our website.

