



Winchmore Hill Bowling Club

Newsletter

October 2023

Your Club Needs You

Now the bowling season has ended, all of us should be thinking about how to stay involved with the Club over the winter months.

This is certainly the time to support the Club and here are four easy ways to do so.

Social events

Attend as many social events as possible. As you know these cover a whole range of activities with enough variety to suit everyone. Apart from having a good time, the more you come to these events, the greater is the income generated for the Club, which is for the benefit of us all. There is also the possibility of bringing guests who may perhaps become members themselves in due course.

Attend the AGM

This is your opportunity to have your say, to question the Management Committee, to vote on key issues and, particularly for newish members, to see how the Club works. The AGM is being held on Thursday, 7 December at 7.00pm, so please make sure that date is firmly set in your diary. All members will receive the relevant paperwork in good time before the meeting, so please read it thoroughly, and please come along.

Join the Management Committee

I have already sent everyone a list setting out the various nominations available. A written copy is displayed on the main notice board. Don't hold back, even if you are new to the Club, and don't worry if there is already an established Committee Member in

the post that would suit you. Your expertise from your working life, for instance, may be just what the Club needs.

There are also two vacancies for members who wish to be involved, yet do not want to assume a special responsibility at the moment. These two places are ideal for new members to give them a view on what running the Club entails.

Join Easyfundraising

This is a no-brainer and a simple way for the Club to raise money at no cost to you. All of us buy on the Internet and if the purchase is channelled through Easyfundraising the Club will receive a small percentage, much like a commission.

Rather than me explain in detail, please go to their website www.easyfundraising.org.uk where all is revealed. You will see that the major grocers are

signed up along with the likes of Amazon and Ebay. Sometimes Easyfundraising will even pay the Club a joining fee for new subscribers, but that will need to be managed.

If you are interested, therefore, may I ask that you let me know, so that I can co-ordinate things to the Club's best advantage. Using this scheme the Club has already raised nearly £2,200, but it could be a whole lot better if more members signed up.

David Haywood
Secretary



Mens Captain's Report

I can't believe that the bowling season has come to an end so quickly and my second year of captaincy is reaching its conclusion.

From a personal point of view, I have had a successful but disappointing season. I managed to win through to 11 semi-finals and reach six finals but then the wheels fell off and I lost all six finals. Still there is always next year.

Winchmore Hill Bowling Club successes have continued in 2023 and we are now recognised as a good competitive club.

The internal competitions are now

complete and there were some close and skilful games played in the heat over the finals weekend. Many thanks to Dave Waller for organising the finals programme.

In our external competitions, we finished fourth out of 14 in the Mens Vets League being beaten by one point for third place and four points for second place. In the Mens Vets Henry Rose Trophy, we were runners-up to Broomfield, so well done to our team members (Lionel Reisman, Tony Redondo, Philip Broodney, Dave Waller, Ron Wright and Mick Hine).

In the Finchley and District competitions, we reached two

finals but unfortunately finished runners-up in each. In the President's Cup our team (Lionel Reisman, Dave Waller, Pam Waller and Philip Broodney) was beaten by a strong team from Broomfield and in the Mens triples our team of Mick Hine, Ron Wright and Phil Mayo lost to Oak Hill. Well done to all the players who helped Winchmore Hill reach the finals.

This season we continued our Monday morning coaching sessions for new bowlers and it is very satisfying to see them participating in our end of season friendlies against external bowls clubs.

Many thanks to Ron and his Green Team who have once again produced the best playing surface in Middlesex and Philip Broodney for assisting me as Vice Captain.

The 2024 season is looking exciting and the future is bright. I hope that we can continue to build on the good work that has been done this year.

I have enjoyed my last two years as Men's Captain and I would like to thank all the bowlers who have represented the Club in external matches. I wish Philip the best of luck in his new role as Captain in 2024.

Lionel Reisman



Finchley & District President's Cup team. Philip Broodney, Pam Waller, Lionel Reisman and Dave Waller

Club bowls

We are asking everyone who has borrowed bowls from the Club for this season to return these as soon as possible.

We want to maintain the stock of bowls held by the Club for use at the Bowls Big Weekend and also by beginners before they obtain their own. With this in mind bowls will now only be lent to members

for a maximum of one season and will not be available to purchase.

Not only do we need to retain the bowls we already have, but we are keen to increase the number and selection we have available. If you have any bowls you wish to dispose of please consider donating them to the Club. We particularly need lighter bowls

(size 2 or below) as these are usually easier for newer members to handle.

The bowls we hold are an important Club asset, please help if you can.

Management Committee

Ladies Captain's Report

I am pleased to say that the Ladies have had a very successful season.

We won the Tripartite this year, competing against Selborne and Cockfosters. The format involves our team playing two triples at each of the other two clubs and four triples at home. We have taken part in the competition for nine years now, and won every year except one.

We also won the Brigg League, a competition involving nine other clubs. In this case teams play against each other once, either at home or away, and I am delighted to say we won all of our games.

Well done to Pam and Sandra for doing so well in reaching the last 16 of the National Pairs Championship at Leamington. (See below.)

We hosted the Middlesex Fours quarter-finals and semi-finals and the Middlesex Two Wood Pairs competitions, after which we also hosted a very successful finals day for Finchley and North London (after a very busy weekend with our own finals). Well done to Pam, who won the Singles, and Wendy and Sarah, who won the Pairs.

Everyone commented favourably on our hospitality. The filled rolls, and especially our homemade cakes, were very much appreciated, so much so that we have been asked to host the finals again next year!

A massive thank you to all who helped throughout the season with catering including those who helped with the successful Middlesex days and the Finchley and North London Finals day.

Jacqui Thompson
Ladies Captain



Wendy Goodman and Sarah Hooper – winners of the North London Pairs Competition

Bowls England National Finals

In a major achievement, Pam Waller and Sandra Wright represented Middlesex in the Ladies Pairs at the National Finals at Royal Leamington Spa.

In this annual event, the nation's top club players represent their counties in a high quality and demanding tournament.

In a tough schedule, Pam and Sandra won their first two matches making it through to the last 16 before bowing out against strong competition.

This is an excellent effort by two of the Club's leading players and we are all extremely proud of them.



Rule change

World Bowls has rescinded the rule by which teams would have forfeited the match if a player stopped a bowl in motion from going into the ditch.

37.1.3

New law to introduce penalty for deliberately displacing or stopping a bowl in its original course.

37.1.5.3

New law to introduce penalty for deliberately lifting a bowl at rest to allow their own team's bowl in its original course to pass.

With thanks to Mike Dady for bringing this to our attention.

Finals weekend

Friday 1 – Sunday 3 September

We all enjoyed another amazing Finals Weekend.

On Sunday Mike Dady informed me that in all the years he has been a member of Winchmore Hill Bowling Club there has never been a need to postpone the finals due to inclement weather and this year was no exception.

We were blessed with sun and heat, which for some bowlers wasn't ideal, but made the Club a great place to be. We witnessed some incredible bowling with several matches going to the wire, keeping the tension high until the final end.

Well done to Dave Waller for organising the weekend so efficiently, and for organising the umpires, markers

and turners. The three days is a real logistical nightmare with a huge amount of work involved.

Thanks too to all Members who assisted by being an umpire, marking the matches and turning the scoreboards. To Ron and his Green Team for once again producing perfect greens for the competitors to play on and, of course, we must never forget the team of tea and coffee makers who kept us hydrated.

Wasn't it great to see some of our newer bowlers reaching a final and, in some cases, taking a trophy too?

Chris Daly

Competition	Winner	Runner-up
Ladies		
Championship	Wendy Goodman	Jacqui Thompson
Handicap	Pam Waller	Wendy Goodman
Millenium	Sheila Cude	Denise Rolland
Pairs	Sally Woolley/Julie Daly	Sarah Hooper/Denise Rolland
Triples Burn Trophy	Wendy Goodman/Vicki Gowlett/ Louiza Loizides	Sally Woolley/Liz Goumal/ Sheila Cude
Two Wood	Pam Waller	Sally Woolley
Men		
Championship	Phil Mayo	Mick Hine
Handicap	Stav Partou	Phil Broodney
Junior	Steve Ames	Colin Crane
Pairs	Dave Waller/Mike Griffin	Lionel Reisman/Jeff Lomax
Triples Kerrison Trophy	Mick Hine/Colin Crane/ Peter Pinnock	Malcolm Gorman/Cliff Woolley/ John Stapleton
Two Wood	Ron Wright	Mick Hine
Vets	Tony Redondo	Lionel Reisman
Mixed		
Aussie Pairs	Jeff Hopwood/Leslie Guelph	Lionel Reisman/John Stapleton
New Bowlers	Louiza Loizides	Graham Stokes
Nix Trophy	Mike Sibthorpe	Mike Griffin

Cards and games

As the summer turns to autumn, cold, wet and dark days are on the horizon. Rest assured however that plans are afoot to continue social activities at WHBC. So no need to be despondent.

Canasta

It is a pleasure to announce that the winners of the Canasta Summer League are Dee Patterson and Gill Webster with runners up Mike and Kathy Griffin. Well done to everyone for such a fun and close battle, enjoyed by all participants.

The new Canasta Winter League has been posted on the noticeboard, but we can always add new teams if anyone else wishes to join. It's great to welcome some new players. The League is not taken too seriously and it's a chance to play with different people.



Winners
Gill Webster and Dee Patterson



Runners up
Mike and Kathy Griffin with organisers Colin and Sue Crane

Whether you're in the League or not, we still play canasta every Friday afternoon from 2.00pm. No need to book, just turn up whenever you can. Neither do you need a partner, one will be found on the day if needed.

We charge £1.50 per person for each session to help towards the overheads of the Club and cover the cost of providing tea and biscuits.

Bridge drives

Monthly bridge drives are being organised for members and guests.

Please feel free to invite any bridge playing friends from other clubs, but note we can only accept bookings for tables of four.

Email: rigbycrane@gmail.com to book a table.

Canasta

Winter League

Times – players to arrange

Friday sessions

2.00pm. No need to book

£1.50 pp

Bridge Drives

Start time 1.00 for 1.30pm

£8 pp

2023

Monday 23 October

Monday 20 November

Monday 18 December

2024

Monday 15 January

Monday 26 February

Monday 18 March

Chicago Bridge

Start time 7.00pm

1st Tuesday of the month

Duplicate Bridge

Start time 7.00pm

4th Tuesday of the month

Card and games evenings

Start 7.00pm

Bridge, Canasta, Rummikub,
Mexican Trains, Scrabble
Backgammon & Ming

Card and games evenings

During the winter season, Chicago bridge will be held on the first Tuesday evening of the month and Duplicate bridge on the third Tuesday of the month.

We continue to run a card and games evening on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Again, no need to book.

All our card evenings start at 7.00pm. Cost £1.00 pp.

Sue and Colin Crane

50 Club – a new dawn

After remaining unchanged since 1996, some thought has been given to revitalising the 50 Club, although the basic objectives remain the same

1. One number (or unit) costs £20.

This number will be entered into 12 consecutive monthly draws. You can purchase as many units as you wish in multiples of £20.

2. Prizes are calculated on a monthly allocated receipts basis but the first prize will be no less than £50.

3. You may purchase units at any time during the year and these will be entered in the following 12 monthly draws. For example if you purchase a unit in March, you will be entered in the draw from April to the following March.

4. The first draw for 2023/24 will be made at the AGM in December after which draws will be made every month. Anyone who purchases a unit(s) during October and November will be entered into the December draw, and for the following 11 draws.



Membership Renewal Form

When you renew your membership you will now also be able to purchase 50 Club units.

Bank transfer

Make payable to;

Winchmore Hill Bowling Club
Sort Code 20-29-77

Account 60833622

Payments must be in multiples of £20, marking the transfer details '50 Club'.

Payments at the bar

Payment can now be made at the bar by card. A copy of the receipt will be kept in the till but also please email Malcolm Gorman to let him know the number of units bought and the date of purchase.

It is hoped that these modifications will greatly increase the value and number of prizes and also enable members to enter the 50 Club throughout the year which until now has not been possible.

The very best of luck to you all.

Malcolm Gorman
50 Club Administrator

Payment methods

Cash or cheque

Give to either Malcolm Gorman, Sheila Cude or Jeff Hopwood

Please make cheques payable to Winchmore Hill Bowling Club



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The bowling season has finished and, with that passing, the bar looks forward to serving all our members during the autumn and winter months.

The draught bitter and lager has been put into its dormant state and our 'Guest Ales' will feature prominently. Why not try them for a new experience? Likewise, we have added to our non-alcoholic lagers. Now available are Stella, Becks, Heineken and Corona lagers all at the amazing price of £2.50 per bottle.

Talking of prices, during the cost of living crisis the Club has been able to maintain its prices with 'Guests Ales' at £3.00 per bottle,

small bottles of wine £3.00 and 75cl bottles of wine at £10.

Let's hope Sainsbury's and other supermarkets continue to offer 25% off if six or more bottles of wine are purchased. We will continue to monitor the costs and if necessary some prices might have to be increased.

For the start of the new financial year the range of wines has been enlarged. The popular white Côtes du Rhone is back in stock supported by a variety of Chilean Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier wines. Come and try them.

The bar has had another successful year, with sales

passing the level achieved last year. Margins have been maintained despite the cost pressures.

It is now possible for members to pay their annual membership, competition fees and 50 Club entries using the cash register. (See below.)

As usual, the bar can only be as successful as it is with the continuing support of Club members and the many members who willingly volunteer to take their turn behind the bar. In case you were missed off the rota, my apologies. Just drop me an email and I will add you to the list.

Mike Griffin

Pay Club Membership, Competition Fees and 50 Club entries using the Bar's cash register

How to use the till

Press the **Cider, Stout and Snacks** tab on the till screen

In addition to the drinks and snacks listed, there are 3 additional options:

Membership Subscription, Competition Fees and 50 Club Annual

Press the option that the member wishes to use

The item will appear on the right hand side of the screen

Press Charge

The screen will refresh and the option to pay by either cash or Sumup will be displayed

Once the payment is complete, the screen will refresh itself

Press Print Receipt. This is for the member's record

Press Print Receipt again. This is for the treasurer's record

Write the name of the member on the treasurer's receipt and put it into the till.

Water under the bridge?

The beginning March, and April

We do not have a bridge but, in our case, water was flowing somewhere under the access road from the clubhouse down to Radcliffe Road. In February it became obvious to us there was a leak, but getting it fixed bordered on the farcical at times. We relied on outside expertise but were let down badly as you will see from the following sequence of events.

The first obvious step was to involve our water company who did attend, but claimed it was groundwater seeping from the green area and not their responsibility. They said it was not a leak but that turned out to be nonsense.

At this stage we did not know whether this was solely our problem or whether our neighbours and shared users of the access road were also involved, so an investigation was needed. We appreciated that this could well involve digging up several sections of the concreted access road at considerable expense.

Our choice then was to try and find a specialist leak fixer but, in the absence of our own in-house water diviner, there was no obvious candidate.

We decided, therefore, that it would be better to pass the problem to our property insurers and make a formal claim under our policy. This would cover the cost of any investigation and damage caused to third parties, although we had to pay a £500 excess.

A claim was made in late March through our brokers and we were put in touch with a company called Innovation whose task was to manage our claim. Tammy was our allocated claims handler. We supplied them with all relevant information and photographs.

It took a while to get things going, but finally an appointment was made for 18 April. The engineer who turned up was helpful, but the wrong man. His speciality apparently was waste water disposal and our leak clearly related to fresh water. Also, he did not have the necessary hydraulic equipment to lift all the inspection covers. He promised to report to Innovation.

June

Things then went quiet and I was forced to complain through our brokers. Eventually a team arrived on 2 June. They dug a hole near the inspection chamber outside the clubhouse and another one about a third of the way down the slope towards Radcliffe Road, but a long way from where the water had actually been showing. They left without telling us precisely what they had done, but we assumed that all was now fixed. They did not clear up properly, however, and said that a different team would arrive to make

good, including relaying fresh concrete. The making good did not happen and I complained on 9 June, to be told Innovation were organising an appointment.

July

Things then went from bad to worse. On 29 June I had to tell Innovation that the original leak had returned and there was no point filling up the holes just yet. I followed this up with a conversation on 3 July in which it was clearly agreed that an inspection team would attend on 5 July followed by a team of 'enablers' in due course to do what was necessary: but that is not what happened.

The 5 July appointment was not kept although an engineer did turn up on 11 July to do the making good which we had already told them was not needed until the leak was actually fixed. This engineer nevertheless did restore the concrete etc and also said he would 'report the leak'.

Later on 11 July Innovation claimed by email there was now a second leak some 10 metres from the first one and they regarded this a new claim. At the same time they demanded a further £500 excess payment. I responded that this was nonsense because the leak was showing in exactly the same place as before.

By this stage it was crystal clear that Innovation did not know what was happening and had no control over events. Incredibly, that same afternoon, a new team turned up who then dug up the same holes that had been cemented a few hours earlier. They later packed up and left, leaving a mess, but not telling us what they had done.

On 12th July Innovation continued to allege their team had found a new leak, but we told them this team had given us no explanation and had not dug any new holes, so the clear implication was that the original team had not properly repaired the leak in the first place.

Stalemate

A stalemate developed with Innovation insisting there was a second leak and demanding an extra £500 to come back to finish the job. I complained via our insurers and eventually I received a call from one of the Directors at Innovation who had been brought in to sort out the problem.

He said that it was common for new leaks to appear in repaired pipework because there was often extra pressure on other parts of the pipe following the repair. He conceded, however, that this particular matter had not been handled well at their end. He offered to get a team to return to fix the 'new' leak, but at no cost to the Club. Obviously, I accepted.

August and September

Although a date was fixed for 22 August, this was put back by Innovation to 31 August when they finally turned up. They were there all day and it looked as if the leak had finally been fixed, although an element of making good still needed to be done.

Almost inevitably there was another twist in the tail. The concrete laid on 31 August began to crumble and sink. On 19 September I emailed Tammy with relevant photos and requested the making good should be to the same standard as the original adjoining concrete. I then found out that Tammy had parted company with Innovation. Armed with the name of her successor I re-sent all the photos, but did not even receive an acknowledgement. Without making an appointment, however, a new team did arrive the next day, (20 September), and it now seems the job has been done properly.

A clear issue in dealing with Innovation is the way these matters are handled at their office. Tammy was our allocated claims handler. When she rang, however, she only let it ring for a few seconds and I sometimes missed the call. Even if I rang back a

minute later I was put through to a call centre who would not do anything unless you answered at least three questions about the claim. Once through that hurdle, Tammy was then inevitably unavailable and never returned the call. This made the whole conduct of the claim incredibly frustrating.

This ridiculous saga has wasted a considerable amount of time, not just for me, but more importantly for Ron Wright who needed to be present when their various teams were due to attend. Some of those appointments were not kept, or they were late, which didn't help the process.

It also raises the issue of how to resolve these matters in future. Although the Club answered every query immediately, and always kept the agreed appointments, it still took nearly six months to resolve. I certainly think that Innovation has serious problems. What other organisation would send a man to concrete holes in the morning, and a further team in the afternoon, to dig them up? It beggars belief.

David Haywood
Secretary

Clubhouse redesign?



Costa del Eastbourne

The annual Club outing

Hotel and matches were booked. All we needed was good weather and we were not disappointed. The sun was out throughout our break, arriving Tuesday and leaving Friday. The Langham Hotel was all we expected – sea views, good rooms and good food.

The only fly in the ointment was the parking. There was limited parking on the street, if you were lucky, but the hotel's car park was some walk away. Pity the poor hotel staff who needed to meet you at the car park to let you in or out.

Our party of 30 arrived by car on the Tuesday afternoon. After booking in, most of us relaxed outside the front of the hotel sipping drinks in the sun. After dinner a singer in the bar/lounge performed till 10.30pm and, because it was still warm, some of us sat on the veranda outside the front of the hotel till late.

After breakfast, and following an exploration of Eastbourne, we set off for our first match at Eastbourne Bowls Club; a large outside complex of two rinks, a hockey pitch and a football ground, the home of Eastbourne Town. Imagine playing bowls accompanied by the noise of crowds of 300 or so and the football often landing on the rink!

We had drinks afterwards in the clubhouse to hear we had lost overall by seven shots. In the evening some of the party had an early dinner as they had booked a trip to the bandstand to see a silver band perform, culminating in the 1812 overture and fireworks. We were actually able to see the fireworks from the hotel veranda.

Next day the sun was still shining and a group went on an open top bus tour including a view of Beachy Head. Safely returned we walked the half a mile along the front to the venue of our second match the Parade Bowling Club.

Again, a good bunch of people and an enjoyable match, although some of us found the green very difficult with one side swinging like an indoor rink. Although we won on three rinks, we lost heavily overall by some 31 shots.

During the match the local Noddy train would stop for a little look. One lady on the end rink waved madly, only to be moaned at by her skip. I should add it was not one of our group.

We had drinks in the small clubhouse which was cosy and took part in a raffle with the most tickets I have ever seen. My winning ticket was 41785 and my prize,



from the mystery box, was a shower cap. Sandra Wright was more successful with a bottle of gin while John Hooper won a bottle of wine.

Some other interesting events of the week started when Chris Daly received a phone call in his car from his cardiologist telling him to stop driving and go to hospital straight away. Chris decided to have dinner and return to Enfield the next day and book in to the North Middlesex Hospital. Roger and Wendy Goodman lost a car key and despite looking everywhere there was no trace of it.

Contemplating being towed home they got outside assistance who traced the key to the car: all this pressure on their wedding anniversary!

We waved each day to the Noddy train as it passed our seats as we took coffee on the front veranda of the hotel. How old are we! There was a visit from Daphne Stirling, a relation of Ron Pye, who joined us for dinner. Some of



our senior members will remember her from her bowling days at the Club before she moved to Eastbourne.

Lastly Freddie Williams said his wife Chris, as well as sun bathing on the beach, had braved a dip in the sea. You had to be careful because one swimmer was turned into stone, and is now displayed on the front, as can be seen in the photo.

So, to our last dinner and more entertainment not only from the singer but our own energetic dancers, led mainly by Sandra Wright and Pam Waller, but ably assisted by the Goodmans and Sarah Hooper. Where do they get their energy?

We obviously joined in the singing, including you know what, and the raucous version of 'Living next door to Alice'.

Another very enjoyable tour. I'm looking forward to 2024 already.

Alan Jarvis

A view from the bank

We have reached the end of the bowling season and the start of our winter period with its social gatherings and international entertainers such as Cliff Richard, as well as world-famous quiz master, Garry Matheson. All for £60 a year. Goodbye to bowls for at least six months! This may seem harsh but you may remember I have no interest in bowls or any other sport.

But all good things must come to an end. With spring, comes the return to our shores from Cyprus of the greater blue and white bowlers, who will settle at the end of Radcliffe Road for another summer. Goodbye Everly Brothers!

Now I like to think I am a strong-willed individual, not prone to be led, but even I can succumb to continuous verbal pressure, as I did. The incident happened during the Club open day and I was, as I expected to be, harried by people saying "are you going to have a go" and "why not try it." And so I did.

Now the Bowls Club and I cannot be compared to Saul and the road to Damascus, but I had a very small epiphany, an awakening, because I found I enjoyed the experience. So much, in fact that I decided to become a bowler.

At this point the generous spirit of the members came to my aid, supplying me with a set of woods – woods not balls. Cliff Woolley gave me white trousers, Colin Crane a shirt, and the Club President himself offered me one-to-one coaching.

What an amazing start to my bowling experience. This was short-lived as an email arrived from Chris Daly demanding an additional £80 as I was now a bowling member. He could have waited an hour or so!

It's been coaching on Monday, roll-ups on Wednesday and Friday and no time for golf. I played a friendly match against Bounds Green and participated in the President vs Vice President match – it's all going well.

Then someone said three weeks to go before the bowling season finishes. WHAT! I don't want to watch ABBA or go to Garry M's quiz I want to play bowls.

Hang on though, don't get carried away – it's not that good although it has not yet rained when I was playing. But soon Chris Daly will ask for more money. Maybe I need to review the situation.

BW

The bowling season is over. So what now?

Now that the bowling season is over, the Club doesn't close. There is something on every week with regular Friday Canasta sessions and alternating Tuesday bridge and games evenings. Monthly Bridge Drives have also been advertised starting on 23 October (see page 5). In addition a social programme commences taking us up to the next bowling season. The programme has been sent to all of you previously but you can always find a hard copy on the table by the clubhouse door.

The programme includes quizzes, a 60s/70s disco, a Christmas extravaganza, a New Year's Eve party and a number of tribute acts. For card players there are two Military Whist evenings, one of which starts the programme off on 14 October. It's always a fun evening and, as long as you can play whist, the rest will be explained.

ABBA Chique kick off our tribute acts on 21 October. They are brilliant – a great evening guaranteed – you can dance or sing along. Later in the year we have tribute acts for Neil Sedaka (25 November) and the Valli Boys (27 January) a tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Just a reminder that members can bring a guest up to three times a year, so why not bring your partner or friend. An email will be sent to all members to advertise each event and a list for attending will be put on the Club notice board about three weeks beforehand.

If you are able to help in the organising, setting up or even running a night please let Sue Jarvis know.

Leave the TV and come along to our functions – you will always meet a friendly crowd and have an enjoyable night out.

Sue Jarvis

Jigsaws

The community jigsaw is proving popular, with most puzzles only taking a week or so to finish.

A challenge has been set, however, to complete a 'special' jigsaw for which the cover has been hidden. It takes a different skill set to try and work out the final picture.

This is certainly proving a real challenge for the jigsaw puzzlers. If you are in the Club take a look at it. See if you can spot the secret of the picture.

We have quite a collection of jigsaws at the Club and you may borrow them to take home for a small donation to the President's charity.

Winter social events

2023

Saturday 14 October

Military whist evening

Saturday 21 October

Abba Chique – Abba tribute band

Saturday 28 October

Quiz Night

Saturday 11 November

President's Dinner

Saturday 18 November

Trophy Night

Saturday 25 November

Neil Sedaka tribute evening

Thursday 7 December

AGM

Saturday 16 December

Christmas Show/Panto

Saturday 31 December

New Year's Eve Party

Saturday 13 January

Quiz Night

Monday 27 January

The Valli Boys
Tribute to Frankie Valli
& The Four Seasons

Saturday 10 February

Military Whist evening

Saturday 12 February

Warners Holiday
4 nights at Bembridge
Isle of Wight

Saturday 24 February

60s and 70s Disco
with DJ Grant Roomes

President vs Vice President

Saturday 16 September 2023

This annual competition is held near the end of the bowling season. Our President, Ron Wright, and Vice President, Garry Matheson, tried to ensure that the day was competitive but light-hearted. The dress code was abandoned and everyone was encouraged to wear something colourful.

We divided the competitors into three groups, skips, leads and twos. Names were then randomly selected and nine balanced teams were ready to play.

Each team played matches of four ends before moving on to the next rink. Most players completed 12 ends but, because of the numbers involved, some teams sat out for one game each.

The weather held fine for us and after a noisy and friendly match we all retired to the clubhouse for tea and cakes and to learn that the Vice President's team had won the day. There were no prizes, but another great Winchmore Hill Bowling Club event was enjoyed by all.

The relaxed dress code saw many colourful outfits on the green, the most outstanding was that of Dave Valentine. This is probably a first for our Club when a 'serious' competition is played by a man wearing a Hawaiian shirt and an orange tutu over pink trousers.

No doubt some of the original 1932 members would not approve.

Garry Matheson



A short history of bowls – part 5

Back to the present

It seems that throughout the 17th and 18th centuries bowls continued to be enjoyed, but presumably only by the upper classes. The various laws which prevented everyone else from playing were not finally rescinded until 1845 during Queen Victoria's reign.

In the meantime a brand new development was set to transform the game. In 1830 Edwin Beard Budding invented the lawnmower, a machine designed primarily to cut the grass on sports grounds and extensive gardens, which would previously have been cut with a scythe. His first machine was 19 inches wide and largely made of iron. It must have been cumbersome to use but it meant that, for the first time, greens could be adequately maintained, although not perhaps to the standards set by our own dedicated green team.

In 1848 clubs in Scotland attempted to set up a Scottish bowling association, of which the secretary was William Wallace Mitchell, (1803–1884) a Glasgow cotton merchant. The association failed at this time but, in 1864, Mitchell, published his 'Manual of Bowls Playing' which still forms the basis of the game to this day. He was advised in this work by some 200 other

bowlers, (a committee gone mad). Mitchell was obviously a keen bowler; he was only 11 years old when he played on Kilmarnock bowling green, the oldest club in Scotland, instituted in 1740.

A number of national bowling associations were established during the 19th century. One of the earliest was the Victoria Bowling Association formed in 1880, in what was then the colony, now the state, of Victoria, Australia. The Scottish Bowling Association was formed in 1892. The English Bowling Association was founded in 1903 by the cricketer W. G. Grace who was elected its first president. Bowls England, the current governing body, was formed in 2008 following a merger between the English Bowling Association and the English Women's Bowling Association. Try as I might, I cannot find any information on the English Women's Bowling Association!

Today, according to Wikipedia the games of bowls is played in over 40 countries with at least 50 national authorities.

Sheila Cude

A view from the Green

We have reached the end of another successful season for the green with the Club winning praises from other local clubs about the quality and trueness of our green. All of this is due to the efforts of everyone who helped with top dressing last October and the work of the Green Team who work tirelessly throughout the year to keep the green in tip-top condition for you.

So what are we doing with the top dressing at this time of the year? Throughout the season individual grass plants grow new leaves and old ones turn brown and begin to rot away, particularly during the height of summer when brown patches appear.

This dead material creates what is known as 'thatch' in the top layer of soil on the green. If this thatch layer is allowed to grow too thick it can create an impervious layer that prevents rain penetrating down to the roots, resulting in a poor quality grass and an uneven surface.

So we start the autumn renovation by scarifying deeply into the green to scrap out much of the thatch layer and then tining or poking holes in the surface to allow air down to the grass roots and provide channels for rain to penetrate. We then overseed with a grass seed mixture suitable for bowling greens.

Finally, we reach top dressing day when we spread the dressing evenly over the green. First, to refill the tined holes with soil and to carry fresh seed into the holes and second, to level out any imperfections in the surface to maintain a true running surface.

We need to do this while the air and soil temperatures are warm enough for the grass seed to germinate, which is the main reason we cannot extend the bowling season further into the autumn. We then have to wait until next April to find out if all this effort has been worthwhile.

Ron Wright



"This top dressing job used to take all day until we starting using Amazon Prime's home delivery gardening services."

The trials and tribulations of the competition secretary (Dave Waller) on Finals Weekend

The time has arrived, where do I begin?
Let's see who is playing and what are they in.
Will it be one, even two, three or four
Oh no, I don't believe it, they are in even more!

Shall I use stickers of red, white or blue
I even have shades of a different hue.
Let's try to keep to the same one all through
But on checking the sheet this same colour won't do.

Try avoid playing them on the same rink twice
But if I don't change them, am I being too nice?
Then comes the news I've been dreading all day
"I can't play on Sunday I am going away."

*"My wife's booked a break to York for the day!
Can you possibly squeeze me in on Saturday?"*

Markers, turners and umpires are required
Tea makers, cake bakers and helpers desired
The green needs cutting the equipment put out
Who needs a job, is the familiar shout.

Everything's ready the game due to commence
The players are feeling all nervous and tense
The toss is completed the match underway
When somebody says, *"Am I playing today!?"*

When the weekend is over, the winners been crowned
The last of the scorecards has just been found.
The relief that it's over, the stress has all gone
However, it will all come another year on.

I'd better start thinking of what I need then
To start the process all over again.
So, before I put my brain to the test
I think I need a well-deserved rest.

*Pam Waller
(on Dave's behalf)*

Dave enjoying his well-earned rest at Eastbourne



Recycling Appeal

Please help with recycling kitchen waste

The Club has to pay for the collection of our own rubbish which includes milk bottles, cardboard packaging and plastic trays.

A lot of this waste can be recycled at home.

If you are able to take some of these items home for recycling it would help to reduce the amount we have to recycle.

This would save the Club money.
Many thanks for your help.



Military Whist

This year's winter social season opens once again with a Military Whist evening.

This is whist with a difference. You don't have to be an expert player to take part, all you need is a basic knowledge of the principles of the game, which someone can show you in a few minutes.

Bookings are for tables of four, but if you can't arrange that, put your name on the list anyway, as there may well others who are hoping to make up a table.

This is a great evening, admirably run by our Master of Ceremonies, Malcolm Gorman. If you have ever picked up a hand of cards, do come along if you can.

So just what does a graphic designer do?

Many of you will be aware that Sheila and I produce the club newsletter jointly. Sheila manages the editorial and liaises with contributors and I work on the visual aspects of it. That is the graphics and artwork or the designing part of it.

Throughout my career I have frequently been asked, “What does a graphic designer do?” It’s a question I have always struggled to answer. Having suggested to Sheila that I might write an article for the newsletter about graphic design, I submitted what I thought was an in-depth and amusing piece. Sheila was less than impressed, commenting – “You need to talk more about the newsletter.”

OK. First some background. Behind every kind of publicity material, press advertising, marketing, product packaging, brand identity or web design the hands of creative professionals, including graphic designers, are at work.

So far so straightforward. In this digital age, as in many things, computers have transformed the industry and a lot of the work previously done laboriously at the drawing board can now be done more efficiently on a Mac or PC using software such as, for example, Quark XPress, InDesign and Photoshop.

The work flow has been streamlined and, with the innovation of print ready pdfs, artwork can be supplied digitally, direct to the printer, cutting out a lot of the laborious pre-print processes of the past.

This is not the first time Sheila and I have collaborated having, over the years, produced other publications together. So we have developed a streamlined method of working. For the Club newsletter we discuss the articles we are hoping to include, decide on the general running order, take into consideration any visual material we have to work with and look at ways to present each article.

Each issue of the newsletter starts with a blank canvas. Each issue has its own challenges. Solving those challenges is part of the fun of doing it and is where the combination of creative and technical skills combines.

I work with a suite of programmes made by Serif Affinity which, by the way, I can thoroughly

recommend. Fantastically cheap yet very powerful, there is Publisher – for desktop publishing, Photo – for photographic image manipulation similar to Photoshop and Designer – for vector illustration.

The first task in producing the newsletter was to create master pages, defining the margins and column guides, setting the automatic page numbering and defining type sizes, styles and colours for different graphic elements.

Visuals, such as the club emblem and any other graphic headers for regular articles such as The Green Team were drawn up in Affinity Designer.

When Sheila has edited and emailed me an article I copy it and flow it into one of the pages applying text styles. If there are photographs they are re-sized and cropped. I adjust the resolution, make adjustments to the ‘levels’ – that is the areas of light, dark and colour and then lastly the image is sharpened.

At the same time I am also thinking whether any of the content suggests any creative treatment. Not only do we want the newsletter to be an interesting read but we also try to make the visual content complementary.

Finally, when all the material is in place, Sheila proof-reads all the pages until she is goggle-eyed. We try to ensure that it is as mistake free as possible before preparing the final pdf for distribution. Only then is it emailed to Chris to distribute.

Graphic design encompasses a wide range of disciplines and, to be honest, it would make tedious reading to explain each in detail. I hope though that this gives you at least some idea of what is involved.

Sheila and I take real satisfaction when the final newsletter goes out to the membership and it is always gratifying to receive favourable comments.

We both enjoy producing the newsletter and hope that you find it interesting and entertaining. The success of the newsletter depends very much on the involvement of you – the members. As always contributions are always welcome.

Please contact Sheila at sheilacudebowls@posteo.net with any ideas or suggestions.

Paul Young

The Art Group – come and join us

Tuesdays at 2.00pm

Now that the bowling season has come to an end members of the Winchmore Hill Art Group take up their brushes and begin working on their next exhibit for the Royal Academy summer exhibition.

Well, we can all live in hope, but seriously we are a group of budding artists who meet regularly at the Club on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm and we would like to encourage you to join us.

You would be surprised at the range of expertise we have. We can teach drawing and painting with watercolours, acrylics or pastels. If putting brush to paper is not your forte have you ever thought about painting stones – yes we even have our own rock artist. We can even provide art materials (paints, brushes and paper) to help get you started.

I have spoken to many people who have said they would like to take up art but they cannot draw, or they

are not artistic, but you would be surprised how quickly you can improve once you start.

I speak with experience having been an engineer all my life. I tried starting at home, but there is always some distraction or other things to do, but at the Club there is only your art work on which to focus. Also, there is the support and encouragement of the rest of the group to spur you on. It is quite a relaxing activity and you can produce a masterpiece to hang in the downstairs loo.

Exhibition
At the AGM
Thursday 7 December

Just turn up on Tuesdays and we will start you off. There will be an exhibition of the Art Group's work at the AGM. Do come along and see what we do.

Ron Wright



Blister packs, stamps, crisp packets and bottle tops

Thank you to everyone who has contributed blister packs, crisp packets, stamps and milk bottle tops for collection and recycling by local United Reformed Churches.

You have been very conscientious, such that I may, at some point, need to buy a bigger car to transport them all. It is also interesting to note the range of pills and tablets we all take, although statins and blood

pressure pills lead by a long way.

If I could enter a short plea, however, on behalf of those who organise all this, (Sally and I are simply collectors). First, as far as blister packs and plastic milk bottle tops are concerned, please can we restrict our offerings only to these, and exclude similar items of silver paper etc and plastic lids.

Crisp packets, it seems, are less restricted and can include anything that looks remotely like a

crisp packet, irrespective of what it may have contained. Don't ask me why.

On the plus side your contributions have been very welcome by those at the United Reformed Churches who organise these collections and, rest assured, by continuing to donate these items you are making a real contribution to the future of the environment we all share.

Cliff Woolley

The art of salesmanship

A tricky situation

It started out like any other day at Bush Hill Bowls. A spray chalk here, a measure there. So when the shop doorbell rang again there was no reason to get excited.

A gentleman and his wife entered, he to buy a pair of grey bowls trousers, she to invigilate his spending. "Are those proper bowls trousers?" asked the gentleman's wife, pointing to the rack of Taylor trousers.

"Yes, made by Taylor Bowls themselves," I said, winding up for my special delivery. When the shopper's partner gets in with the first question, it generally means the transaction is by no means a given. It will be a sale in the true sense of the word, not a purchase. More selling than buying will take place, and my special deliveries are where the work of selling gets done. Often the sale will not be to the wearer, but to the wearer's paramour.

"These trousers are made by one of the four major bowlsweat manufacturers and sold only in bowlsweat shops and on bowlsweat websites, specifically for the sport of bowls." Now I am getting into my stride. "You can go to Marks & Spencer, Next, Moss Bros, any gentleman's outfitter, and I guarantee you won't find a pair of Taylor bowls trousers for sale in any of them."

The lady is not convinced. The gentleman, knowing what is coming down the track, retreats and pretends to be interested in a display of black rubber wedges.

"Ah yes, but they look very casual, synthetic obviously, not what I would call smart," she says. "Are

you sure they will be acceptable to the committee at our club?"

I pick up the gauntlet without missing a beat. "Oh yes madam, absolutely. In fact unless you have the misfortune to belong to such and such a bowls club, I can guarantee they won't cause any problem at all."

"And why is that?" she enquires. I notice that the gentleman has become very still.

I warm to my theme. "Well, we get customers in here who tell us that the committee there is very old-fashioned. In particular, they describe the chairman as a real power-crazy dictator who hates change and is quite capable of telling a new member that they are breaching the dress code and must leave the green immediately."

I am waiting for an outbreak of smiles and tut-tutting from my customers, yet the lady seems not to be amused. She turns away, almost crashing into her husband. He has abandoned his wedge window-shopping, crossed the room and is now no more than 12 inches from the tip of my nose.

"That's very useful information," he says, taking the trousers from me and putting them into the shopping bag held by his wife.

"I will have to think about what you have told us. I really had no idea people talked about me in those terms. Now then, Mavis – pay the man!"

Jerry Sanders
Bush Hill Bowls

Recycling reminder

Please
SAVE



Milk bottle tops (any colour)
Empty crisp packets
Blister packs
(from medication of all kinds)
Used postage stamps



Place in the bags/
box outside the
ladies changing
room

Cliff and **Sally** will take them to Winchmore Hill United Reformed Church where they can be recycled for charity and the benefit of the planet



The Royal Game of Ur

The Game of 20 squares

It's the start of the winter season and for social members who love playing games we came across this game which may well be new to you.

The Royal Game of Ur dates back some 4,600 years to Mesopotamia and it is thought that it was popular throughout the Middle East. It was played by all classes of society for around 3,000 years until Roman times when it was superseded by backgammon.

The game was uncovered by Sir Leonard Woolley between 1926 and 1930 during excavations of a Royal tomb.

At the time the rules could only be guessed and it wasn't until the 1980s that Irving Finkel, a specialist in cuneiform, translated inscriptions on a clay tablet held in the archives of the British Museum.

The original rules were apparently quite complex. Since then modern variations have been devised and the set given here is a much simpler form devised by Irving Finkel.

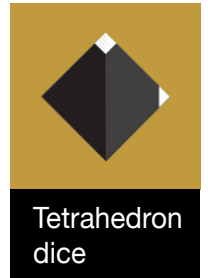
Similar to ludo or backgammon the game is a race between two players. The aim is to move your counters round a squared-off board from start to finish before your opponent.

The original board was a highly decorated three-dimensional box inlaid with lapis, shell and other materials. It also housed a built-in drawer beneath to store the dice and counters.

The board and pieces

Each player has seven counters.

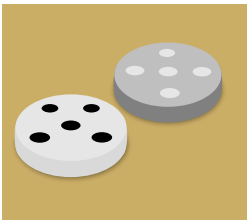
There are four tetrahedron dice with two points on each dice coloured white. (Essentially that gives a 50% chance of scoring a point so a six-sided dice could be substituted counting 4, 5 and 6 as a point score).



There is an entertaining video of Irving Finkel explaining the rules and playing a demonstration game at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZskjLq040I>

The British Museum has produced a deluxe three-dimensional set based on the original of the game. It looks beautifully produced though it is pricey at £115.00.

There is also a smaller, flat-print version for £15.00. Other sets are available online.



Each player has seven counters which are traditionally inlaid with 5 points



An original board. ©The Trustees of the British Museum

Rules

Having decided who goes first the players take it in turns to roll the dice. The score indicates the number of squares a counter can move. If tetrahedron dice are used the white tip of the dice upwards indicates a score.

Each player enters and exits the board on their own start and finish squares.

A score of '0' means no counters can be moved.

A player may choose to either move counters already on the board or introduce another counter from the start square.

Counters cannot be stacked.

Dice points cannot be split between two or more counters.

Counters must move the full number of points diced.

Each player must exit the board via their own side of the board. The exact dice score must be thrown to move the counter off the board.

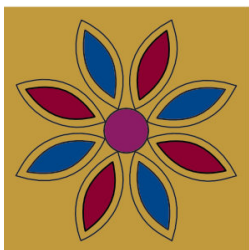
The first player to move all their counters off the board is the winner.

The centre column

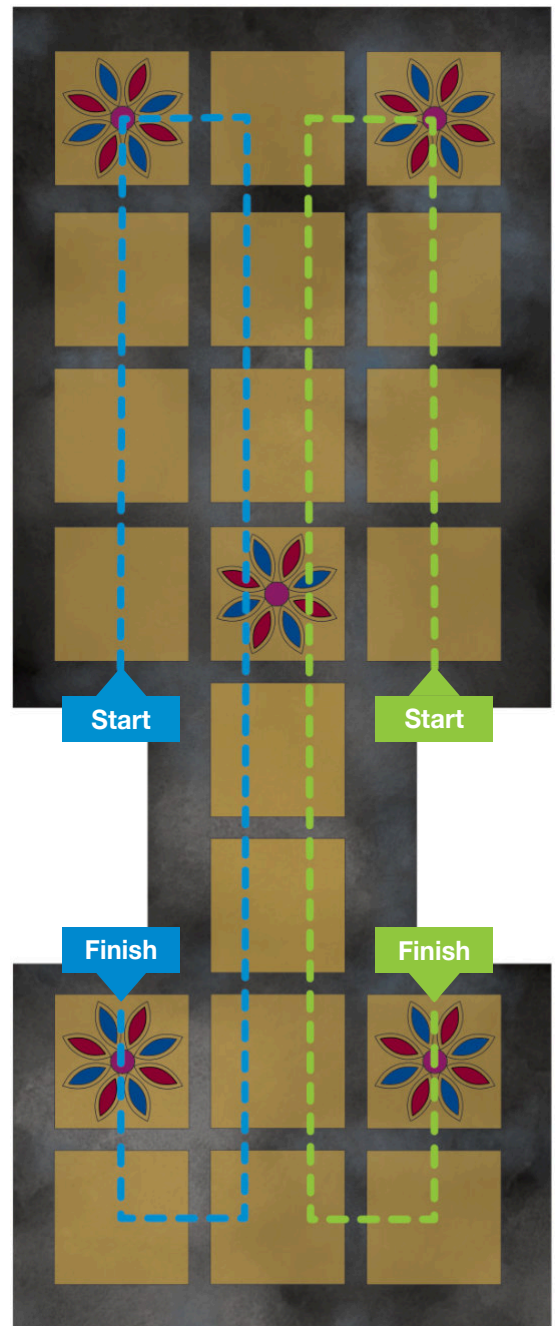
In the centre column of eight squares a player may 'take' an opponent's counter by landing on it. The counter is removed and must start again at the beginning

In a 'rosette' square counters are safe. That is they cannot be landed on by opponent's counters.

If a player lands on a rosette square they also get another throw of the dice.



Rosette squares are 'safe' squares



Editor's mat

I hope that you have enjoyed this edition of the WHBC newsletter. Once again we have tried to include a variety of items. Our Captain's reports are full of good news of the Club's successes while for the card enthusiasts among us we have something completely different in the Royal Game of Ur.

I hope that you noticed Paul's article on the work of a graphic

designer. Paul is responsible for all the design elements you see in the newsletter, not only the layout but all the logos, graphic devices etc. In addition he also helps with the editorial work and has written a number of articles.

So I am using this space to send a big thank you to Paul for all his help with the newsletter. Many more of you have also helped, so a big thank you as well to

everyone who has written articles, sent pictures or helped with ideas and suggestions.

Sheila Cude

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Scrapbook



The walking group on a hike from Kew Gardens to Syon Park with a 'deer' friend

A learner driver, disappointed to hear that she had failed her test remarked, "I don't know why I failed - I only hit the bus once!"

Trustees Day. "Er...does anyone know what we do now?"



Roger (and Colin out of pic) in charge of the catering for the Ladies Tripartite



Ron & Stav. Ted Wright Pairs winners

Sometimes it's not easy organising a roll-up.
Q. "Would you like a roll-up tomorrow at 10.30?"
A. "Yes - what time?"