



HBC NEWS

*Latest news and updates from
on and off the green*

Saturday 6th
December
2025
Issue #2

Editor foreword

Vicky Hodges

Thanks to everyone for your feedback on our newsletter design. We had some positive comments and it's great to see people embracing something new! We've taken the 'constructive' points onboard and have adjusted the layout, column numbers and have changed font with an increased font size too. And we've got some great new regular features too...make sure you scroll all the way down!

Enjoy the read!



Scoop of the Week

Dave Clark – Club Captain

Short Mat - One Day 2 Woods Drawn Pairs Competition

The club held the Short Mat 2 Woods Drawn Pairs Competition last Saturday 29th November. Congratulations to Frankie Wood & Tony Gepp who beat Paul Crook & Ken Hawkins in the final following an extra end tie-breaker.

Many thanks to all 18 entrants who made for an excellent day's bowling with some very close and not so close matches!

Match Booking System

Steve Potts

We all get used to doing things in a certain way. Unfortunately, due to some technical reasons, our current Match Booking System is having to be changed - the programming language it was written in is no longer supported and the server it is hosted on has hardware issues - so it is not being backed-up.

We took the opportunity of this enforced change to re-write the system using modern coding methods and we have developed the system by adding new features. The alternative was to buy in an external bowls management program.

The mechanics of making yourself available for a match won't change. The main changes that users will see are:
1) Look and Feel - the system has been optimised to make it more friendly for mobile phone screen usage (although the small screen will never be the ideal way of viewing the system).
2) Rink booking system. We are using a free version of a paid system. The free option would not have lasted forever so we decided to integrate both the Rink Booking System and the Match Booking System into one place. This is of great benefit to the admin team who currently have to load up all the match details twice into two separate systems.

We plan to go live with the new system next week. We can't have tested everything so please be patient if you discover a bug.

Just let us know if you find any problems or have any suggestions.



Social Events!

Entertainment Team

Our Christmas Party is happening this week, **Friday 12th December**.

If you haven't already signed up, please do so with payment to Hook Bowls, by no later than **Monday 8th December** in order that the Entertainment Team know how many people to cater for.

It's a great opportunity to spend the night with friends and celebrate the season. **'Sparkle and Shine'** is the theme, so put your glad rags on and join the party!

Please can we ask if you are able to bring a raffle prize, these are always greatly appreciated.

Favour to ask

Could we also please ask for any volunteers to help put the tables away and put the mats down on Saturday 13th at 10am.

Support our Bowling Club while you shop with Easy Fundraising

Vicky Hodges

Thanks to Mick Poulter for putting forward a suggestion for raising club funds...without costing you an extra penny! Did you know you can help raise funds for our bowling club simply by doing your normal online shopping? It won't cost you a penny extra - all you need to do is shop through '**easyfundraising**'. And we already have an account set up....so it's really easy!

easyfundraising is an online platform that turns everyday spending into free donations. With over 8,000 retailers - including supermarkets, travel sites, fashion stores, tech companies and even insurance providers who will donate a small amount to our club every time you make a purchase through the easyfundraising website or app.

It's simple:

1. **Sign up** to support our bowling club on the easyfundraising website.
2. **Set up** the online activation through your browser – with simple instructions for you to follow.
3. **Shop online** as you normally would or through the easyfundraising app.
4. The retailer sends us a **free donation** based on your purchase.

Those little donations quickly add up, helping us fund equipment, club improvements, events and keeping our community space thriving. And you don't need to do anything other than download the app, or set your internet browser to choose companies that donate to us.

I'd be happy to show anyone how to set it up. I've already raised a few ££ just by buying a microwave online. It didn't cost me anything but gave me a warm fuzzy feeling – and that wasn't the micro-waves!

It's free, easy and helps keep our club rolling forward!

Winter Wellbeing

Vicky Hodges

Winter offers a different kind of beauty and rhythm. While the green rests and recovers beneath the frost, we can take the chance to recharge too. Enjoy cosy evenings, take time for hobbies and savour the slower pace. Spring and the outdoor season of bowls will be here before we know it.

One of the strengths of our bowling community is how we support each other. If you know someone who hasn't been around the club recently, why not give them a quick call? A simple check-in can brighten someone's day.

And if you're finding winter a little tough yourself, please know that you're not alone - there's always someone here ready for a chat.

Future Social Events!

Entertainment Team

New Year – New Quiz!

Please save the date for our quiz night on **Friday 30th January** where we will be holding a 'bring your own' supper night. We've done these a few times now and they have proved to be good fun and really successful.

Please pop the date in the diary and keep your eyes out for information and sign up details.



What's On This Week?

Chris Vickers

| WHERE TO WATCH OR JOIN IN COMPETITIVE BOWLS THIS COMING WEEK | | | |
|--|------|--|---|
| Saturday | 6th | Friendly v Odiham is Cancelled as Odiham could not raise a team | |
| Sunday | 7th | | |
| Monday | 8th | Roll Up | 1400-1700 |
| Tuesday | 9th | Roll Up Ladies Short Mat League | 1400-1700 1900-2100 |
| Wednesday | 10th | Internal Triples Short Mat league | 1900-2100 |
| Thursday | 11th | JAM League Hook RAVENS v Alencon 25 JAM League Hook HAWKS v Alencon AX There is no Roll up this week | 1100-1330 1400-1700 |
| Friday | 12th | Coffee Morning Hook Bowling Club Christmas Party | 1000-1200 1900-2200 or whenever everyone is shattered! |

****Message from Dave Clark**** - There will be no Thursday Evening Short Mat Roll-Up session on 11th December. This is because the mats will be rolled up and put away immediately after the Short Mat League match is completed at about 5pm, so that preparations can be made for the Christmas Party on Friday.

Scores on the doors....

Team Captains
This is where our Team Captain’s can share the weekly scores from any of the matches this week.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | <div>HOOK BOWLING CLUB</div> <div>Thursday Short Mat League</div> <div>HOOK RAVENS</div> <div>Home against</div> <div>ODIHAM 'X'</div> <div>JAM League Cup</div> <div>1400</div> <div>Thursday 4th December</div> |  |
| | | |
| Mat: 1 | | Result: won 27-6 |
| Lead | Ken Hawkins | |
| 2 | Brenda Grout | |
| Skip | Stan Goddard | |
| Mat: 3 | | Result: won 31-9 |
| Lead | Dave Wilson | |
| 2 | Martyn Kee | |
| Skip | Liz Wilson | |
| Overall Result: won 10-0 (58-15) | | |