



# HBC NEWS

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

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>  
January 2026  
Issue #2

## Editor foreword

Vicky Hodges

Despite the extreme cold outside, this week's newsletter is full of warmth. Let it wrap itself around you like a cosy cuddle and take a moment to grab yourself a brew and read what's going on, in and around Hook Bowling Club this week.

Be safe out there please folks x

## Short Mat 3-2-1 Competition 2<sup>nd</sup> Round and Overall Result

Dave Clark

The 2nd round of the 3-2-1 Competition was held last Saturday. The winner of the 2nd round was Nigel Richardson with 151, 2nd was Doug Wood with 137 and 3rd was Mick Poulter with 133.

The overall winner of the competition from the two rounds was Nigel Richardson with 151, 2nd overall was Graham Stacey with his 1st round score of 143, and 3rd overall was Dave Clark with his 1st round score of 142.

Thanks to everybody who played in either or both rounds and to Dave Moore for a well organised competition.

Special thanks to Christine Poulter and Albert Johnson who at very short notice stepped in when 2 players dropped out just before the start of the 2nd round of the competition.



## A Big Thank You

Bob Grout

I wanted to say a big 'Thank You' to the Committee and HBC members for the M&S gift card.

I was shocked, stunned and very touched. I was more than happy to do the renovation work on the bar storeroom.

Hook Bowls Club has made Brenda and I so welcome. Our only regret is that we did not join sooner.

Thank you everyone, you are great!

## Easy Fundraising - reminder

Vicky Hodges

Back at the beginning of December, we shared 'easyfundraising' with you all. It's a way of raising money for the club without costing an extra penny! It sounds too good to be true....but it really isn't!!

We can all help raise funds for our bowling club simply by doing our normal online shopping...and the retailers who are involved will pay a £% to our club. All the donations add up and before we know it, we could have enough money in our pot for some of those bigger projects!

We are already registered as a cause' so once you've set it up (which is really easy), the retailers, including supermarkets, will donate a small amount to our club.

It's simple and some of you have already done it!!

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.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with me.



Winner of the 3-2-1 Short Mat Competition,  
Nigel Richardson (right) with Dave Clark  
(Captain)

## Club Notices

**\*Best of Luck** to everyone who is taking part in the Short Mat friendly at home against Normandy today!

**\*Key Duty Rota** – Please don't forget to let Chris Vickers know if you are interested in volunteering to be part of the Key Duty Rota. Last weeks newsletter had full details of the new format for key duty. You can contact Chris at [vickerschris@hotmail.com](mailto:vickerschris@hotmail.com)

**\*A shout-out to all the ladies.** Please don't forget that we have a **Tuesday Ladies Short Mat** roll up every Tuesday at 7pm hosted by our Ladies Vice Captain, Linnie. We'd love to see you there!

**\*An apology for the **error**** in last weeks Newsletter where we put Fleet Social as the opponents for the Hawks on 8<sup>th</sup> January - it should have read Fleet United.

## New Music System

Entertainment Team

The Coffee Morning team have done a great job over the years raising funds to buy useful equipment for the club, with the last purchase being the electronic scoreboards which I'm sure you'll agree have been a great success.

Our latest acquisition is a small music system with microphone. It's going to be so useful for not only our social events but also just some background music at the club when needed.

On that note we'd like to have the music system available at all times in the corner of the room for members to use as required, rather than being put away in the cupboard and just coming out for social events.

Anyone can use the system – its user friendly via Bluetooth or USB - instructions are next to the machine if you're not sure. Or please get in touch with any of us.

Thanks all,  
Eileen, Jackie, Pam and Christine

## Social Event Reminder!

Entertainment Team

Don't forget that our next social event is the **New Year Quiz**, with 'Quizmaster Ian' on

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7pm**  
**£4 per person**

Due to the super success of our previous 'bring your own' events, we are encouraging you all to bring whatever food you fancy on the night...from the left-over Christmas cheeses to a full takeaway...the choice is yours.

It's not too late to sign up. And if you don't have a team to join, don't let that stop you, just sign yourself up for one of the teams on the board in the clubhouse or on our website here [Hook Bowling Club - Events](#) and we'll make sure to add you to a team.

Please bring your own food and condiments etc and take any leftovers home with you please. And as always, we are grateful for any raffle prizes donated as the raffle always brings in a good amount of money.



## Pause for thought

Bowls has a habit of teaching us lessons when we least expect it. Patience is one of the first - rushing rarely improves a delivery, while a calm, steady approach often does.

A bowl that feels perfect can miss its mark, while a loose one might just do the job. No end is over until the last bowl comes to a rest, and advice is best shared kindly - usually between ends.

## Scores on the doors....

Tony Gepp (Team Captain, Hawks) and Chris Vickers (Team Captain, Ravens)

A big thanks from Chris for the support for the home game.

JAM LEAGUE – RESULT SHEET	DATE: 08 January 2026
HOME TEAM	Fleet United Swans
AWAY TEAM	Hook Hawks

	HOME SCORE	POINTS	AWAY SCORE	POINTS
RINK ONE	30	4	4	0
RINK TWO	25	4	14	0
TOTAL	55	2	18	0
TOTAL POINTS	10		0	

RINK ONE	LEAD	Desiree Gow
	TWO	Terry Weston
	SKIP	Campbell Williams
RINK TWO	LEAD	Claire Richardson
	TWO	Michael Poulter
	SKIP	Nigel Richardson

JAM LEAGUE – RESULT SHEET	DATE: 08/01/26
HOME TEAM	Hook Ravens
AWAY TEAM	Marnell

	HOME SCORE	POINTS	AWAY SCORE	POINTS
RINK ONE	32	10	13	0
RINK TWO	24	10	17	0
TOTAL	56	2	30	0
TOTAL POINTS	10		0	

RINK ONE	SKIP	Albert Johnson
	TWO	Elaine Bennett
	LEAD	Carole Newman
RINK TWO	SKIP	Liz Wilson
	TWO	Steve Potts
	LEAD	Dave Wilson

**The 2026 Ambassador Cruise Line World Indoor Bowls Championships**

Mike Draper

I really enjoy this time of year when the 2026 Ambassador Cruise Line World Indoor Bowls Championships are set to return to the iconic blue rink at Potters Resorts, Hopton-on-Sea. The competition will run from January 9th to January 25th.

Often called the "Crucible of Bowls," this 17-day festival of sport brings together the World Bowls Tour's top 16 ranked players and a host of international qualifiers to compete for the most prestigious titles in the indoor game.

I thought I’d give you all a little bit of information about it!

**What to Watch For**

The 2026 championships follow a historic 2025 tournament where Scotland’s Jason Banks completed an unprecedented "treble," winning the Open Singles, Open Pairs and Mixed Pairs. All eyes will be on him to see if he can maintain his dominance against a field of legendary veterans and hungry newcomers.

**The Main Competitions**

**World Open Singles:** The blue-ribbon event where the world’s best face off in high-stakes matchplay.

**World Open Pairs:** Tactical brilliance and teamwork on full display.

**Ladies World Matchplay:** Featuring the elite of the women's game (Defending champion: Julie Forrest).

**Mixed Pairs World Matchplay:** A fast-paced fan favourite.

**Under-25s Championship:** A glimpse at the future stars of the sport.

**Key Players & Favourites**

Player | Status | Why they are a threat.

**Jason Banks** | Defending Champion | The man to beat after his historic triple-title run in 2025.

**Stewart Anderson** | World No. 1 Contender | A three-time champion known for his clinical drawing game.

**Paul Foster MBE** |Legend | A 5-time singles winner who always finds his best form at Potters.

**Alex Marshall MBE** | The GOAT | With 6 singles titles, "Tattie" remains the most decorated player in history.

**Julie Forrest** | Ladies Champion | Looking to extend Scotland's recent "clean sweep" of the major trophies.

**How to Follow the Action**

If you aren't lucky enough to have tickets for the International Arena, there are several ways to watch:

- Television: The BBC (BBC Two and iPlayer) traditionally provides extensive coverage during the second week of the tournament.
- Online: The World Bowls Tour YouTube channel streams matches live for global viewers throughout the qualifying rounds and early stages.
- Live Scores: Real-time updates are usually available via the official World Bowls Tour website and Potters Resorts’ social media channels.

**The Potters Atmosphere**

What makes this event unique is the "all-inclusive" resort atmosphere. Spectators aren't just fans; many are residents staying on-site, leading to a loud, knowledgeable and electric crowd - especially during the evening sessions and the final weekend.

I hope you’ve found this interesting. And for those who will be watching....Enjoy!

WHERE TO WATCH OR JOIN IN COMPETITIVE BOWLS THIS COMING WEEK				Key Duty
Saturday	10th	Friendly HOME v Normandy	1430-1730	Dave Clark
Sunday	11th	CLUBHOUSE OPEN ONLY ON REQUEST Internal Competition Booking 1400-1600		
Monday	12th	Roll Up	1400-1700	Eileen/Albert Johnson
Tuesday	13th	Roll Up Ladies Tuesday League	1400-1700 1900-2100	
Wednesday	14th	Wednesday Short Mat league	1900-2100	
Thursday	15th	All Mats Blocked (Committee Meeting) Hawks HOME v Howard Park Ravens AWAY at Marnell Roll Up	1000-1300 1400-1700 1400-1700 1800-2100	
Friday	16th	All Mats Blocked (NHWBA Meeting) Friday Short Mat League	1030-1200 1400-1700	