



# HBC NEWS

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

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>  
November 2025  
Issue #1

## The scoop of the week

Vicky Hodges

Despite the cold weather outside, thank you for the warmth, enthusiasm and community spirit that you bring to Hook Bowling Club.

And welcome to a new format for our HBC weekly newsletter....we hope you like it.

After a handover from Elaine, I'll be taking over the newsletter creation weekly with support from Frankie. Please be kind as we find our feet!

We'd like to ask for the same level of support that you've given to Elaine. Please share your news articles, photos and updates with us by Thursday each week and we'll endeavour to include them in the weekly roundup.

And we'd love to hear your thoughts on the new format. We want to make sure that it works for you all, so please let us know. We've tested it on mobile, tablet and laptop devices. We appreciate that it's different and change can always be tricky, but we are really trying to ensure this is user friendly and works for everyone.



A huge 'Thank You' to our Entertainment Team who have done a super job with the Christmas Decorations this week! The Clubhouse looks jolly and festive – well done xx

## The AGM and Internal Meeting Update

Elaine Hill

We were very pleased to have 53 members present. Much thanks were rightly given to all the people who volunteer at our club. We are a successful club because people are so helpful. Here is a summary of key points. For more information, please see the website.

Tim Shenton-Taylor took over the role of Chairperson just as the Parish Council made many maintenance demands, so he has had a very busy time! Tim has embraced the role and made lots of progress. First up were the changes to our Constitution and next he reported that our club has had a really successful year. Despite adverse weather our green was definitely the best in the area, a pleasure to play on and highly regarded by all our visitors. We have a kept membership of just over 100. Membership and match fees remain unchanged but the sum of them does not cover our expenses and therefore we are very grateful to the social team for the events that bring in cash together with the bar. We must all support these events, including the raffles, for us to stay financially healthy. The club upgrade is nearly finished with just the clock tower to rejuvenate next year. We are well regarded in the area as a friendly, yet competitive club with wonderful facilities.

Next up was our 'ever-cool' Treasurer, Albert Johnson. Albert is an excellent treasurer; his audited accounts are on our website. He has had serious battles with our utility suppliers to reduce costs and our club's funds are in a good position despite all of the remedial work expenses. However, our funds could do with a boost from sponsorship. If you are good at fundraising, please contact Tim.

Everyone was very pleased to hear from our Club Captain, Dave Clark. Dave works incredibly hard as Captain, and we are lucky to have someone who is very committed to the role. Two of our league teams have gained promotion, other teams have done exceptionally well, and this year some individuals have progressed far in the external matches. Cutting down the friendly matches has allowed us to run more club competitions which have been very well supported. There must have been an 'old wound' because Dave was delighted to announce that this year, we won back the Gingernut Cup from Marnell.

Our Ladies Captain, Jane Tatnall, praised her assistants who have helped her to run the ladies' section. Matches and events are well attended and enjoyed by the ladies, they are gaining success and are going to join a Tuesday evening indoor league. Sadly, our winning teams had to pull out of the North Hants League because of inflexible dates, and it is hoped to lobby the organisers for change here. Jane said 'Other clubs say we are fun to play against.'

Following on, Campbell Williams, Trustee, said that the Trustees think the club is well run and a good eye is being kept on expenses so that we are robust for the future.

Officers and team captains were duly elected. Their names and roles are attached to this email.

Continued on next page...

Pam Vivian was unanimously elected Club President. Malcolm Gow generously handed Pam his ‘President’ badge; we thank Malcolm for his wonderful presidency. Pam has been part of the fabric of the club for a long time, and she will certainly also be a great President. We are pleased to offer Honorary Membership to Bob Vivian and David Poulter who have given a great deal of service over the years.

Next came discussion on the cleaning rota. Some people do not want to clean whilst others are happy to take their turn for a couple of hours two times a year. Contract cleaners have been approached and using them would cost £25 per year for each player on top of their membership. On a vote, it was decided to keep the cleaning rota, and the General Committee will discuss an opt out fee for those who do not want to clean.

It was proposed that during the winter months the club will be open Monday to Saturday. If players wish to use it on Sundays a special arrangement must be made with a key holder.

Lastly, ‘Any Other Business’ – a hearing loop was suggested, and the coffee morning ladies thought their funds might be able to help. Finally, the club is going to trial a ‘token’ system for roll-ups because often people do not have £1 coins and large notes cannot be changed.

The Internal Meeting agreed these Club dates: AGM 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026 at 2.00pm; Finals weekend 29<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> August 2026; Annual Dinner 24<sup>th</sup> October 2026.

Steve Potts, Website Manager, announced that his son, David, is developing a new system for match and rink bookings suitable for devices and mobiles. David’s time is limited, so he will not have time to fully test the new system, so could players please report any bugs, and they will be fixed. Much thanks must go to David and Steve for producing this brilliant resource.

There followed lively debate about team selection: should captains pick the best players each week or should they rotate the whole team so that everyone gets a game. Obviously, there are pros and cons to both options. Ultimately, it seems that we need to recognise both good players and improving players - we want to avoid discontent because elitism has crept in. A vote was taken, and the following decisions were reached:

- a. Players should always sign up for games on the dashboard. Captains need to have choice and reserves.
- b. Captains must decide if they are going to rotate the players or if they are going to field the best players when sensible to do so. Each captain must make clear their philosophy to players when they sign up to their team.
- c. A trial extra outdoor club league was suggested by Mike Draper which will begin this summer on Thursday evenings, this will give more games where people can competitively play and develop towards entering external matches. This will run alongside the coaching programme.

And believe it or not with no blood spilt we reached the end!

# Winter Wellbeing

Vicky Hodges

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures drop, it’s not unusual to feel a little less energised than during the summer months. But winter doesn’t have to put a freeze on your wellbeing - in fact, it can be a wonderful opportunity to slow down, look after yourself and stay connected with the community here at the club.

At **Hook Bowling Club**, we’re proud of the way our members look out for one another and winter is a great time to keep that spirit alive. Here are a few simple ways to support your wellbeing over the colder season.

Whether you’re joining our winter roll-up sessions or simply taking a brisk walk, gentle movement helps keep joints mobile, boosts energy levels and supports overall health. Even a few minutes of stretching at home makes a difference - especially for bowlers who want to stay match-ready for spring.

Winter can be a low point for many people, especially when sunlight is scarce. Spending time with others is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to lift your spirits. Our club socials, roll-ups and friendly matches offer plenty of opportunities to chat, laugh and feel part of something, even if you’re not playing that day.

Never underestimate the difference a friendly face can make.

# Fundraising Vacancy

Tim Shenton-Taylor

Do we have anyone within the club who might be interested in finding out more about the Fundraising Role vacancy. We thought it would be helpful to share the duties with you all.

- Liaise with Treasurer to understand financial needs for the year, set target
- Create ideas to raise the target sum
- Maintain the central funder spreadsheet for future handover use
- Reach out to and follow up on potential new funders for donations/sponsorship
- Maintain contact with current sponsors, for continued support
- Communicate status to General Committee via the Chairperson
- Organise banners, boards and sponsorship literature

Anticipated time required for this role <2 hours per week

If you would like to know more about this role, please contact any of the Committee members directly.

Attached:  
Roles and Responsibilities

# Social Events

The Entertainment Team



Please register on the HBC website or put your name on the list in the clubhouse!



This newsletter is only as good as the content that’s in it.

Please send any content that you’d like to be included to your ‘Newsletter Team’ by no later than Thursday p.m.

Send it to [hookbcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hookbcnewsletter@gmail.com)

