



HBC NEWS

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

Saturday 20th
December
2025
Issue #4

Editor foreword

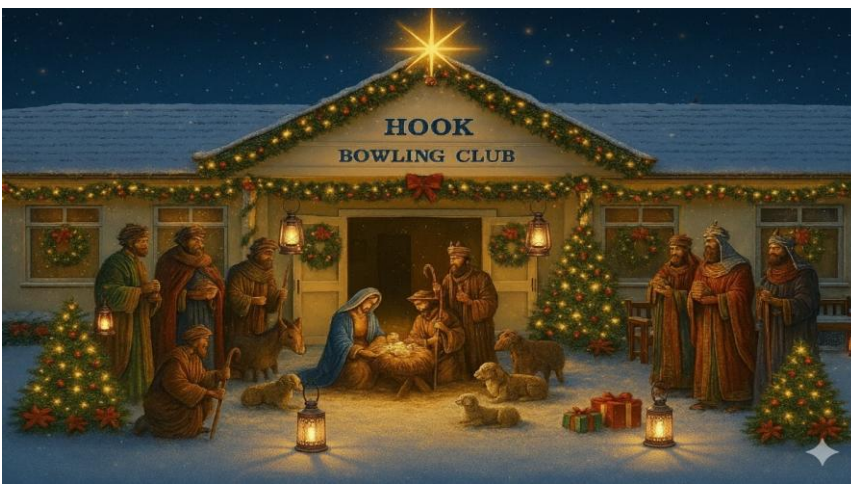
Vicky Hodges

As the year draws to a close, it's a big thank you to everyone who has been part of our bowls community this year. Whether you've been on the green every week, supported from the sidelines, helped behind the scenes, or simply enjoyed the social side of the club, you've all played a part in making this such a special place to be.

Bowls is about far more than the game itself. It's about friendship, laughter, shared moments, and the sense of belonging we create together. This year has given us plenty of memorable matches, good-natured competition, and many reasons to smile - often over a cup of tea (or something stronger!) in the clubhouse afterwards.

As we head into the festive season, I hope you're able to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the company of those who matter most to you. We look forward to welcoming you back onto the green in the New Year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



Social Events!

Eileen Johnson - Entertainment Team

Firstly a very warm welcome to our latest recruit to the Entertainment team, **Christine Poulter**, Christine already does so much to help but it's great she's now officially one of the gang.

Special thanks to **Jane Watson** for providing the lovely table linen and some of the lights for the tables for Friday evening, and also cake for the coffee morning, it is very much appreciated.

A big thank you to everyone who helped put the mats away and tables out on Thursday, and the same again Saturday morning, **great turnout**.

The Christmas party was a great success, everyone appeared to have a good time and we tried to make sure it wasn't too loud so everyone could enjoy chatting and catching up with people they may not have seen for a while.

The star of the show has to be **John Dawson**, with **Barbara Bonser** a close second, they danced the night away with all of us enjoying some great music.

And a big thank you to **Luisa Sousa** for making all the Gluten free food, I'm told it was delicious.

Thanks to **Chris** the DJ who has kept his fee the same for the last two years and promises to keep it the same next year.

We had a beautiful cake this year which was a lovely centrepiece among all the nice food we hope you enjoyed.

Thank you to everyone who provided raffle prizes, we made £161 on the raffle. All in all the club made £468 including bar takings - great result!

The next social date for your calendar is **Friday 30th January** for our ever popular quiz.

We hope everyone has a fantastic Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Best Wishes,
The Entertainment Team



I would like to wish all members
of Hook Bowling Club a very
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
thank you for being part of a good year and
all the best for 2026

Tim Shenton-Taylor



Christmas Party Photos!

Entertainment Team



Christmas Party 2025

**We Wish You a Merry Christmas
(sing as you read!!)**

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a steady good end!

Good bowling to all,
However we play,
It's fun and it's friendly,
Whether home or away!

We'll laugh when we miss it,
We'll cheer when it's close,
The time spent together,
Is what we love most!

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And good bowling next year!



Straight out of a cracker.....

🎄 What do you call a bowler who loves Christmas?
🎅 A “Jingle Bowler”!

Clubhouse Christmas Tippie: The ‘Jack’ Frost Fizz

A light, refreshing festive drink - perfect with or without alcohol.

You’ll need:

- Ice
- Lemonade or soda water
- A splash of cranberry juice
- Fresh lime or lemon
- Optional: prosecco or gin

How to make:

1. Fill a glass with ice.
2. Add a splash of cranberry juice and a squeeze of lime or lemon.
3. Top up with lemonade or soda water.
4. For a festive twist, add prosecco or a measure of gin.
5. Garnish with a slice of lime or a few cranberries.

Why you’ll love it:

Festive, refreshing, and easy to make - for Christmas catch-ups!

Our 2nd Ladies Ten Pin Bowling ‘Xmas Fun’ Outing

Linnie Voce - Ladies Vice Captain

We held our 2nd ladies Xmas Outing last week and it was a huge success.

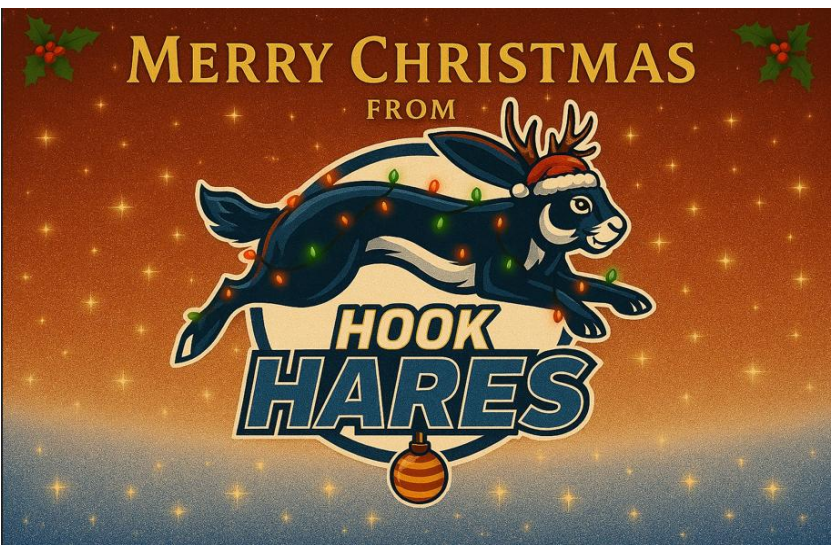
The first game was full of athleticism and stunning bowling demonstrating the agility of the Ladies that amazed the Staff at the Bowling Alley

The exuberance of the Ladies was noted by the other visitors including the children who wondered why they could not behave and make as much noise as we did!

The second game was a little more reserved - I do not believe it had anything to do with the Mince Pies / Cream and Tea that was consumed but we all seemed to a bit slower.

Here’s to next year – when I thought we might go sky diving - everyone was very keen on this idea !!!!!!!

Happy Xmas from all the Ladies at HBC!



**Merry Christmas
to everyone at Hook Bowling Club from all in
the Hook Ravens**



We had a great end to our year with a 10-0 win!

Full report can be found here on the HBC [website](#)



JAM LEAGUE RESULTS FROM THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER

JAM LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

HOOK HAWKS 10 V 0 Howard Park Greens (49-23)

Alencon AX	58 (133)
Fleet United S	54 (165)
Fleet United C	50 (102)
Farnborough Gate	42 (-2)
Howard Park	38 (-67)
Hook HAWKS	32 (-36)
Marnell	22 (-56)
Cove	04 (-239)

Next Match January 8th 2026 AWAY at Fleet Social Swans at 1400

DIVISION 2

Howard Park Yellows 0 v 10 HOOK RAVENS (29-34)

Alencon 25	56 (84)
Odiham D	52 (100)
Hook RAVENS	48 (45)
Cron dall	46 (-11)
Odiham X	38 (-13)
Howard Park	34 (-24)
Farnborough Gate	30 (-36)
Marnell	16 (-145)

Next Match January 8th 2026 HOME v Marnell MJ at 1400

JAM LEAGUE – RESULT SHEET	DATE: 18 December 2025
HOME TEAM	Hook Hawks
AWAY TEAM	Howard Park G

	HOME SCORE	POINTS	AWAY SCORE	POINTS
RINK ONE	33	4	11	0
RINK TWO	16	4	12	0
TOTAL	49	2	23	0
TOTAL POINTS	10		0	

RINK ONE	LEAD	Christine Poulter
	TWO	Dave Clark
	SKIP	Alan Phillips
RINK TWO	LEAD	Sheila King
	TWO	Pam Vivian
	SKIP	Tony Gepp

JAM LEAGUE – RESULT SHEET	DATE: 18/12/25
HOME TEAM	Howard Park Yellows
AWAY TEAM	Hook Ravens

	HOME SCORE	POINTS	AWAY SCORE	POINTS
RINK ONE	15	0	18	4
RINK TWO	14	0	16	4
TOTAL	29	0	34	2
TOTAL POINTS	0		10	

RINK ONE	SKIP	Paul Crook
	TWO	Brenda Grout
	LEAD	Ken Hawkins
RINK TWO	SKIP	Liz Wilson
	TWO	Stan Goddard
	LEAD	Chris Vickers

What’s On This Week?

Chris Vickers

We’ve given you a two-week festive schedule, because nobody wants to be on their emails over the Christmas period!

WHERE TO WATCH OR JOIN IN COMPETITIVE BOWLS THIS COMING WEEK			
Saturday	20th		
Sunday	21st	CLUBHOUSE ONLY OPEN IF REQUESTED Key Duty - Steve Wintermeyer	
Monday	22nd	Roll Up	1400-1700
Tuesday	23rd	Roll Up	1400-1700
Wednesday	24th		
Thursday	25th	CLUBHOUSE CLOSED - Merry Christmas	
Friday	26th	CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	
Saturday	27th	Internal 3-2-1 Competition	0900-1500
Sunday	28th	CLUBHOUSE ONLY OPEN IF REQUESTED Key Duty - Chris Vickers	
Monday	29th	Roll Up	1400-1700
Tuesday	30th	Roll Up	1400-1700
Wednesday	31st		
Thursday	1st	CLUBHOUSE CLOSED - Happy New Year	
Friday	2nd		

Merry Christmas to you all and a very Happy New Year!



As the Bowls England team prepares to take a well-earned Christmas break, we will reflect on a busy 12 months with pride and satisfaction. The year has seen us successfully integrate disability bowls into our activity, seeing a 30% growth in participation. As a sport, we have made a significant step change in ensuring we are welcoming, safe and inclusive, with every one of our 1,800 affiliated clubs now having a named Safeguarding Officer. Media coverage of Bowls' Big Weekend was at an all-time high and the new Championships programme was rolled out culminating in a well-supported National Bowls Finals. On the green our international teams triumphed at home and abroad, and we celebrated another cohort of amazing volunteers at our Annual Awards – and these are just some of the many highlights of 2025.

The progress being made nationally is testament to the passion and endeavour of inspirational volunteers across the country who make our sport tick within their local communities. We appreciate it's not easy, I said as much to Members of Parliament back in April. Running community sports clubs is increasingly complex, support from local authorities is being withdrawn and there's tough competition for people's leisure time. That said, the innate opportunities our sport has overshadow these obstacles. Let's celebrate its accessibility, take advantage of our capacity to grow, recognise our ability to create a healthier society and derive confidence in the many great stories of clubs thriving.

The positivity around the fantastic efforts by volunteers, alongside the confidence our work is engendering amongst key stakeholders, saw us secure over £900k of public funding. This will support our athletes' preparation for Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, the development and expansion of our Junior Talent Pathway, the amalgamation of flat green bowls into one National Governing Body and hosting the 2027 World Bowls Championships, all to create a sustainable and exciting future.

2026 is a Commonwealth Games year, which is always a thrilling time for our sport. We are delighted to have a full complement of bowlers as part of Team England and, with a refined sports programme, bowls and para bowls will receive unparalleled television coverage. In 2022, over 10m watched our sport as England delivered a record medal haul. Next July is our moment to showcase the qualities and values of this great game to new audiences and, it is incumbent on us all to do our bit to seize this opportunity.

If you are running an affiliated bowls club, please embrace our Bowls' Big Summer campaign and ensure your club is active on our Play Bowls club finder and ready to welcome new, casual participants. If you love playing bowls, this is the time to share your passion with friends, work colleagues or family members. You never know, 2026 might be the year they decide to give bowls a try and they'll no doubt wish they'd started sooner! As you bring in the New Year, please make a resolution to do one thing to grow our sport - think of the difference we could make together!

On behalf of us all at Bowls England, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Jon Cockcroft
Bowls England Chief Executive



In memory of all those we have lost in 2025