

## **Bowls Report – Hungerford Club AGM 2024**

Our season started in mid-April and we were again very pleased to welcome Helen Simpson, the Town Mayor, to declare the Green open and to bowl the first bowl. Our thanks go to President Alan Bartter and the Committee for all their hard work during the season.

We took part in the Bowls England Big Bash in May, an event to raise the awareness of Bowls and to encourage new members. We were very pleased with the attendance and gained a number of new bowlers.

Of the 15 Mixed Friendly fixtures only two were cancelled due to the weather. The most disappointing being the match against Sherbourne Tourists in September. These are very enjoyable matches to play in and we always encourage our newer bowlers to play in them. However, unfortunately we lost more than we won. We had an extra Trophy to play for this year. This is the Mick Gainey Shield v Kintbury, played home and away. Mick had played for both Kintbury and Hungerford for a number of years and it was decided to have this trophy in his memory. This season we won all five of our Trophy matches against Westlecot, St Mary Bourne, 3 Mile Cross, Newbury and Kintbury

Our Ashley Baker Mixed League had a very successful season winning the league. Well done again to Ray Hutt and Richard Denton who manage the League.

The KLV A side were more comfortable in Division 2 West and finished mid-table. The KLV B side in Division 3 West struggled due to player availability.

We were delighted to be chosen to host the quarter and semi-finals of the Berkshire County Pairs Competition and we have heard that they will again be played at Hungerford in 2025.

Our application on the Good Exchange was again to raise funds to help pay for the maintenance of the Green and the annual service of the mower. We received a Community Grant of £500 from Greenham Trust Ltd and thanks to grants from the Hungerford Town Council of £300 and the Town and Manor of £350 and other smaller donations which were all match funded we managed to raise £2,600.

All bowlers also pay a rink fee of £1 every time they play whether in a match or roll up. This raised £1,074 this season which also helps to cover the cost of the Green Maintenance.

Our 4 day Tour this year back in Weston Super Mare was again a success. This is a joint venture with Newbury BC. This year we won two matches and lost two. We were again fortunate with the weather only getting wet on one occasion for a very short time.

At the end of the season we had a Fundraising day in aid of the RCBBA Benevolent Fund which helps both men and women bowlers who are having a hard time. We were pleased to be able to send an amount of £150 to this Fund.

The Green has now had all its winter work complete. The Contractors have taken out cores to help the drainage. They have scarified it and over seeded and put on winter fertiliser. They also put on lawn sand to reduce the moss. We are very proud of our green and the way it plays. Our thanks are due to Micky who works alongside the contractors and also to our ladies Sonja Heath and Sylvia Lee who keep the flower beds looking nice.

We open again in mid-April 2025 and welcome anyone who would like to join us and give bowls a try.

Jennifer Bartter  
Bowls Section Secretary/Treasurer