

Bowls Report – Hungerford Club AGM 2025

In eager anticipation of the start of the season our members gathered to open the Green in Mid-April and were delighted on this occasion to welcome Helen Simpson, the Town Mayor, Julie Lloyd, Constable of the Town and Manor and John Williams our main sponsor to declare the Green open and to bowl the first bowls.

Membership numbers remain steady throughout the season, with several new members joining following our Bowls England “Big Bowls “open day.

The extreme temperatures on a number of days during the season meant that a few matches were not played – one being our Trophy game against 3 Mile Cross Reading. Of the other 4 Trophy matches we won 3, the opponents being Newbury, Kintbury and St Mary Bourne and lost 1 against Westlecot Swindon. The Mixed Friendly fixtures were played in a very good spirit and enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks go to the group of ladies who provided our after match refreshments each home game.

Also enjoyed were the Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon Roll ups. A new competition was introduced this season. This was played on Friday afternoons when players gained points each time they played if they were on a winning side. The winner this season was Sally Clay.

We were very pleased to be asked to host a match against a team from the Falkland Isles in July. They were using this as a practice match before going up to Orkney to play in the 2025 Islands Commonwealth Games.

The KLV side, who this year played in the West 2 Division, were very successful finishing 2nd and therefore being promoted back into Div 1. This will provide quite a challenge next season. Well done to Ray Hutt and Richard Denton who manage the League.

Our Ashley Baker Mixed League team had a slow start to the season but still managed to finish 3rd out of 10 in the league.

We were again invited by the County to host the advanced stages of the Pairs Competition which we were pleased to accept.

Our application on the Good Exchange was again to raise funds to help pay for the maintenance of the Green and the annual cost of materials used on the Green. We received a Community Grant of £1,000 from Greenham Trust Ltd and thanks to grants from the Hungerford Town Council of £300 and the Town and Manor of £400 and other smaller donations which were all match funded we managed to raise £3,189.

Our 5 day Tour in September this year was to Torquay. This is a joint venture with Newbury BC. This year we won two matches and lost two but had a day off in the middle on the Sunday when we could do some exploring. We were again very fortunate with the weather. Plans are already in hand for next year’s Tour which will be to the Isle of Wight staying in Shanklin and playing at Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor and Cowes Medina. There are still a few spaces available if anyone would like to join us,

The Green has now had all its winter work complete. Our thanks are due to Micky who works alongside the contractors, to Richard Denton who helps with the Green cutting and also to our ladies Sonja Heath and Sylvia Lee who keep the flower beds looking so nice.

We open again in mid-April 2026 and welcome anyone who would like to join us and give bowls a try.

Jennifer Bartter

Bowls Section Secretary/Treasurer