

## Membership Renewals

Look out for your renewal email (or letter if you have no email address) coming to your inbox very soon.

If you haven't received an email by mid-August, please check you 'junk / spam' folder.

Note that again, no renewal packs or handbooks will be sent out this year.

When you receive your renewal email, please either...

- a. Reply to the email with requested information and pay relevant subs via bank transfer or card / cash / cheque over the bar
- b. Give the requested information directly to a Club Steward and pay relevant subs via bank transfer or card / cash / cheque over the bar

As ever, the volunteers running the renewals would be extremely grateful for your prompt responses. Chasing late responses creates a lot of unnecessary work for our volunteers.

Thanks to Stephanie Gates, Jayne Gill, Neil Ramage and Matt Sellen for volunteering to run this year's renewals.

## Summer Competitions

### 2023 Summer Singles Leagues

Congratulations to the winners of the first leg of each of our seven Summer Singles Leagues ...

Div 1: Paul Gent

Div 2: Darren Mortemore

Div 3: Warren Foy

Div 4: David Hill

Div 5: Les Herbert

Div 6: Paul Obey

Div 7: Mark Barnett

Congratulations also to the promoted runners-up of each League.

The second legs are now up and running and will run through to Sunday 17th September.

### 2023 Club Comps

Congratulations to those still going in the summer Club Comps and making it as far as the semi-finals.

#### Men's Singles

Congratulations to Matt James, Mick Bates, David Young and Nick London who all made it through to the semi-finals. David is now through to the final, awaiting the result of Matt v Nick for his opponent.

#### Women's Singles

Congratulations to Jessica Young who is through to the final. Jess will play either Mary London or Babs Tester, who are still to play their semi-final.

#### Open (handicap) Singles

Congratulations to Paul Gent, Tony Morez, Paul Obey and Tony Scott who have all made it through to the semi-finals

#### Open Pairs

Congratulations to our four semifinalists ... Paul Gent & Ivan Edmeads, Babs Tester & Matt Sellen, Warren Foy & Les Herbert, Neil Ramage & Nick London

## Open Triples

Congratulations to Luke Cheetham, Trish Ellis & Scott Harris and Mary London, Craig Knowles and Norma Wilkin who have made it through to the final.

Good luck to everyone in your next games.

## 2023 Summer EIBA Fantastic 5s

We entered four Fantastic 5s teams this year, which spread us pretty thin but gave the opportunity for lots of our newer bowlers to join in for the first time... a great introduction to competitive team bowls ... and great preparation for the winter team comps!

All 4 Angels teams have done really well. At this stage, we realistically expect 2 or even 3 of our teams to make it through to the knock-out rounds (and the 4th team still have a mathematical chance of qualifying too!). Special congratulations to Tony Morez and the Angel Anacondas, who have qualified with 2 games to play.

Congratulations to everyone who has played a part in this competition and best of luck in your next games.

## 2023 Summer EIBA National Competitions

This summer sees the first ever individual EIBA competitions. As you would expect there is a strong number of entries from the Angels and hopefully we can get representation at the National Finals Weekend (Kempston Park, 22nd to 24th September).

Still going in the various competitions are ...

### Men's Singles

Both Paul Gent and David Young made it through to their area semi-final, but unfortunately had to play each other and Paul is now through to the area final

### Women's Singles

Maureen Wood is through to her Inter-Area play-off

### Open Pairs

We had two pairs through to Area semi-finals (and avoided playing each other!). Unfortunately Gary McIlravey and Warren Foy got pipped in their semi. Good luck to Paul agent and Neil Ramage in their tie.

### Open Triples

We have 1 team through to the Area Final (Paul Gent, Neil Ramage & David Young) and 1 team still to play their Area semi-final (Trevor London, Tony Morez & Nick London).

Good luck to all in your future rounds.

## Winter Season !



The Club's summer season finishes on Sunday September 24th and the Winter Season starts on Monday September 25th.

What does this mean?

From Monday September 25th, the Club will be open on Sundays until 8pm rather than closing at 3pm.

Members with 'social and summer bowling' rights can bowl up until Sunday September 25th. Members who have renewed their full membership for 23/24 can continue bowling.

The Club's summer rink diary currently runs out on Sunday September 25th. The new winter rink diary, pre-loaded with league games, roll-ups, Kent League matches, National Club fixtures, etc., will be opened for booking sometime in the week or two before the winter season starts.

## Winter Triples Tournament

It is proposed to run the customary Open Triples competition during the week of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September with finals being played on the evening of Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>

This event is still in the planning stage so PLEASE LOOK AT THE BOARDS IN THE CLUB FOR DETAILS.

## Winter Leagues

Winter League "Sign Up Sheets" are now up in your Club. The following Leagues are proposed to run.

Monday 2.30pm Open Triples

Monday 7.30pm Pairs League (enter as a team of 2 or 3)

Tuesday 9.30am, Open Triples \*

Tuesday 12pm Aussie Pairs

Tuesday 7.30pm Open Triples (especially suitable for newer bowlers)

Wednesday 7.30pm New Bowler League (starts early November)

Thursday 9.30am Open Triples (teams rolled over from last season)

Thursday 7.30pm Open Rinks (captains' pick, great practice for Kent League!)

Friday 12pm Ladies Triples

Friday 5pm Open 2 - Wood Triples

All leagues will have teams 'drawn up' by the League Steward unless noted above.

Our newer bowlers are especially welcome to join all and any of the above leagues. Where leagues are 'drawn up', the League Steward will match newer bowlers with more experienced bowlers to ensure balanced teams.

Note, however, that the Wednesday evening New Bowler League will only be open to bowlers who have been bowling for less than 12 months at the start of the league.

Many thanks to all members who have volunteered to steward a winter league. The name of the Steward for each league will be on the league 'sign up' sheet in the Club (and on your Club Website). Any queries regarding how the league will be run should go to the Steward.

The league asterixed \* above is currently without a Steward. If you would like to join in with those leagues, please consider acting as Steward. It is very little work, but the league can't run without a Steward. If you would like to know more about being a League Steward, please contact Neil Ramage (07768812148).

Please sign up as soon as you can. League sheets will be taken down when 'full' and by latest 9 September.

## Club 2023 Open Weekend

The Club will be given over to our Open Weekend on Saturday September 16th and Sunday September 17th.

The Bowling Hall will thus be closed for normal bowling on that weekend.

All members are, however, invited to bring friends, family and neighbours and join them for a free-go anytime over the weekend. No need to book, just turn up. Coaches will be on hand between 10am and 5pm to help you and your guests make the most of your visit. The bar and restaurant will be open all day (10am to 5pm) on both Saturday and Sunday, with free tea and coffee for members and guests.

All our visitors to these Weekends leave the Club saying what a fun time they have had. If you don't have any visitors to bring along this year, do come along anyway and enjoy the atmosphere.

Our previous Open Weekends have each directly generated more than 50 new members; we would be delighted if we could continue that success this year.

The key to these successes is good promotion of the event. We would thus be very grateful if members could distribute some advertising flyers to neighbours. Flyers are available from the bar. Just grab the number of flyers you need and tick the road you are going to leaflet (to avoid another member double-leafleting).

We will also be putting lamp-post posters up over the coming weeks and our social media advertising will start shortly.

### **Sunday Market and Town Dragon Boat Race**

Volunteers are needed to distribute Open Weekend flyers at these town events. Please pass your name to a Club Steward or sign up on the Noticeboard if you can help....

Sunday Market : Sunday September 10th

Dragon Boat Racing: Sunday September 3rd

### **Post Open Weekend Taster Sessions**

Everyone who attends our Open Weekend is offered four free 'Taster Sessions' before deciding on whether to join the Club.

Last year we had over 50 guests taking up our Taster Sessions offer. And hopefully we will have at least this number this year!

We thus need lots of volunteer members to help with these sessions. Please consider volunteering. No prior experience is necessary. You will receive all the training you need before-hand from a qualified coach. It's great fun and very rewarding.

Taster sessions will run every day of the week, both daytime and evening. You will just be asked to help with one session a week for four weeks. Sessions are 2 hours long and generally run with between 3 and 6 guests in each.

If you feel you might be able to help here, please message the Club, pass your name to a Club Steward or speak with any of our current coaches.

We had a number of members without any prior experience joining in to help with these Taster Sessions last year, and they all had a great time ... and will be helping again this year!

## Club Social Events

### 100 Club

The 100 Club was set up to support the Club with any projects for the benefit of members but in recent times the subscriptions have only just kept up with the monthly and quarterly prizes so there is little room to fund more projects.

Membership is £12 per year which includes three monthly prizes of £12 in addition to four quarterly prizes of £125, £50 and £25. The next quarterly prizes (in addition to the monthly prizes) are due in September (ie next month). Application forms are available outside the office door.

Previous contributions from the 100 Club include a contribution to the Club's defibrillator, the bowls hall lighting, and the bowls collectors on the Green.

## Eric's Poppies

Many of you will remember Eric Thomas, who sadly died in November 2021. At his funeral many of us were given poppy seeds to plant in his memory, and the ones planted by Paul Buss outside of the club have been spectacular this year. A wonderful way to remember our very own D-Day hero.



## Sponsorship

The club are always looking for new sponsors to help support our club. You may not realise, especially if you are a more recent member, but all sponsorship packages from our Bronze Package upwards include a free membership. So if you have your own business - maybe you are a plumber, electrician, book-keeper or other trade - why not consider sponsoring the club and getting your annual membership too! With renewals around the corner, it's well worth considering. For more details see Paul Gent, Bob Bowlby, or ask Paul Buss for a leaflet showing the different packages available.

## Ed's Amazing Bike Ride

'Congratulations to Ed on a fantastic achievement in his sponsored bike ride from John O'Groats to Land's End - Two weeks, a bike, a tent, 1000 miles, solo and unsupported. He raised £3660 pounds for Hospice in the Weald and for the refurbishment of the Skate Garden Community Project of which he is a member.

He enjoyed spectacular views in Scotland but found Cornwall the most arduous with very steep hills. Apart from being eaten alive by midges and suffering extremes of temperature (cold by night and hot by day) everything went according to plan with no major dramas.

Ed would like to thank all his generous sponsors for making the trip so successful'.

## President's Day



President Jim Parker thanks everyone who participated and especially the large number who arrived in fancy dress.

Everyone had a fun afternoon and £575 was raised for MacMillan Cancer Care.

Quite surreal to see a nun, Elvis, and the Grinch bowling alongside Ann Boleyn. You had to be there.

We will be holding a Macmillan **BIG COFFEE MORNING** in the club on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> from 10.30 – 12,30

Please come along and support it. Raffle, Bring & Buy, Coffee and cake. Cakes welcome and items for both raffle and Bring & Buy. Please note that anything given for the bring and buy, unsold will be donated to a charity shop unless you specifically ask for it to be returned.

Please look out for posters around the club.

