



**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

## General Club News

### A message to all our New Members

If this is your first Newsletter, then ... welcome!

The Newsletter is compiled with content from any member who wishes to share news or information with their fellow members. If there is anything you would like to share through the Newsletter, please just message your volunteer editor via the Club's website. You can find previous editions of the Newsletter here.... <https://www.angelibc.co.uk/news/monthly-newsletter>

In the meantime, we hope you are enjoying your time in the Club and have found plenty of opportunities to bowl. We now have an additional New Bowler "Turn Up and Play" session starting at 5pm on Tuesday afternoons (with Matthew). As with all these sessions there is no need to book, just turn up to play on the day if you can make it.

Other great 'Turn up and play' sessions for our newer bowlers are [Thursday afternoon 2.30pm](#) (with Lyn & Les, including the New Bowler Ladder), Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm (with James and Mark) and Friday evenings at 7.15pm with Liz and Neil.

You are also welcome to join in with any of our regular roll ups, which are detailed on the club website here <https://www.angelibc.co.uk/bowling/club-roll-ups>

The Wednesday evening league is also now all set up with teams drawn and matches booked, starting Wednesday December 20th. So, you have a few weeks to get a bit more practice in before then! We have 6 teams in this year's New Bowler League... best of luck to everyone joining in and a very warm welcome to the Angels.

### 2023 Club Open Weekend

We had a great Open Weekend this year. Many thanks to all the organisers and volunteers who helped in any way. The feedback from our guests was again excellent. The words 'friendly', 'fun' and 'well organised' coming up again and again. Everyone left with a smile on their face.

We had over 120 visitors over the 2 days, with 16 Full Members and 4 Social Members signing up over the weekend and more than 50 visitors signing up for tasters over the following 4 or 5 weeks. Thanks also to everyone who helped with these tasters.

As a result of all our efforts we have now gained 55 new members since 1 September. A fantastic start to achieving the goal of 100 new members for the whole year.

The Club is looking for a volunteer to oversee the organisation of next year's Weekend. If you think this could be you please message the Club or speak with a Club Steward or Neil Ramage. We have a well rehearsed blue-print now that seems to work.

### Festive Opening Hours

The club's opening hours will be as follows...

Sunday Dec 24 early close at  
Monday Dec 25 closed  
Tuesday Dec 26 closed

Sunday Dec 31st early close at 12.30  
Monday Jan 1st closed

## Club Ventilation

Since covid hit the Club has been working steadily to identify whether, and if so how, we need to improve the quality of ventilation in the Club. After conducting rigorous tests, the decision has been taken to enhance ventilation within the bowling hall. The capital expenditure required to fund this has been 'baked' into the Club's 5 Year Plan.

We are now at the stage of reviewing a short list of options and investigating whether any of these would qualify for grants. It is intended to carry out the necessary works over 2024.

## Car Park Flooding

The two most frequent sources of club flooding are 'water in our ditches' and water in our car park'.

There is not a lot we can do about 'water in our ditches' as this is caused by the water table rising so high it seeps into our ditches from below. All we can do here is save the carpet by rolling it back out of the ditches.

The 'water in our car park' risk is caused by the neighbouring stream becoming so high that water flows back up into the car park. This can pose a risk to the club itself, but normally "just" results in the car park becoming inaccessible. This happens despite 'one-way vales' being fitted... and certified as working just a few years ago!

It may be that we can carry out further works to alleviate the car park flooding risk at least to some extent. To this end, Keith and Bob are in discussion with Tonbridge & Malling Council and are looking to engage the environment agency. We believe there are affordable things we can do here.

We will update members further as these discussions progress.

## A message from the Chairman

Car Park: The speed limit in the car park is 5MPH Please observe it. When entering the lower car park level please drive with extreme caution as members are continuously entering & leaving the club and not all are as nimble as they once were.

Pay before you Play: The bar staff have requested that all members pay for their fees for their game before playing this will alleviate the situation of them having to find people to ask for unpaid fees. One way in which we can support our bar staff who do a great job for us.

## Lost property

Our lost property box is overflowing with coats, caps, cloths, gloves and, incredibly, ten pairs of glasses. If you think any of these items may be yours, please contact the bar staff who will let you have a rummage. In the new year we will be sending all unclaimed items to a local charity shop.

## Sponsors

We are grateful to the following companies for renewing their sponsorship this year:

Abbey Funerals: Absolute Creative: Ananda Clinic: Ellis & Co: JP Glass: The Resourceful Coach: Tonbridge Angels FC:  
Welham Jones

We also welcome new sponsor Home Instead to our family.

Each of these companies support our club financially or by providing their services in exchange for the exposure to our membership base. This support is important both to us, and to them, so **please make sure you use their services whenever possible**. We are in discussions with more sponsors and hope to announce these soon.

We will be updating our signage around the club shortly, along with the details on the website. Please ensure that you keep an eye on the sponsors page on the website to see what benefits are available from these sponsors.

**New sponsors** - we are continually looking for new companies to help grow this support. If you are aware of any company that provides a great service which other members could benefit from, then please let Paul Gent or Bob Bowlby know, so they can make contact.

Paul has also created a form at <https://forms.gle/p7MWQepSj79j7Gab8> where you can supply information for potential sponsors. There are some suggested trades but at the bottom there are 3 Other boxes for you to fill in. Many thanks for your help.

## Memory café

Many of you are aware that Chris Parker, as chair of the Tonbridge Dementia Friendly Community, runs a twice monthly memory café at the club. You don't need to have a dementia diagnosis to attend and anyone who is struggling with memory loss or cognitive impairment is welcome to come along. The group is volunteer led, and free of charge, although donations are welcome. Activities include music, craft, quizzes and bingo.

## Volunteering

Prior to Covid, the club employed a centre manager and office staff. The financial impact of covid, along with the reduced membership post covid, meant that we were unable to justify the cost of such staff, whilst maintaining the club building and your membership and rink fees at an affordable level. Some of the administrative work has been taken on by the bar staff and a good deal more by volunteers. Our club directors are all volunteers, supported by a few club members who have taken on some administrative jobs. Could you help in some way? Do you have a skill set that would be useful? For example, could you help to organise our open weekend once a year? This is your club, and if we want to continue to grow and keep costs down, AIBC needs your help. Please chat to any member of the board or to Paul at the bar if you think you could help or just want to learn more.

## Bowling News

### A challenge to find vacant rinks for Counties & Nationals?

We encourage all members to enter the various County and National Competitions made available by the Kent County and EIBA associations and we have a good number of entrants this year in all competitions, singles, pairs, triples and rinks.

At the same time, we have vibrant leagues running at various times throughout the week, as well as organized rolls ups running on Monday afternoons, Thursday lunch times, Friday evenings, with Assisted Bowling also on Friday mornings. In addition, there are a lot of internal Club Competitions now running with 'play-by-dates' this side of Xmas. We also have various groups enjoying regular 'private' roll-ups.

The result is that we have high demand for rinks, especially in the evenings and at the weekend, to the extent that it becomes difficult as National and County 'play-by-dates' loom for these to be completed by the required date. As with the Club County and National competitions, individual entries do also take precedence because of the play-by-dates, under the rules there is no leeway to extend over the dates by a day or even two. Our Bowling Committee request that for all organized and "private" roll-ups, if you are requested by an entrant or two to give up a rink or change to an outside rink then please agree to do so. If a rink is required on a Friday morning the accessible bowling team would greatly appreciate as much prior notice as possible since some of the less able bowlers and those with dementia struggle with change and lack of continuity.

As a Club we want to see all Members, whatever level, enjoying the bowling facilities that the Angel provides but ask for a little patience from those not quite so competitive during our high demand period. The high demand for rinks will ease as we move into 2024 and quarter, semi finals and finals are reached in National, Kent County and Internal Club competitions.

Also, with this in mind would all league captains be sure to ask a Steward / message the Club to free up your rink as soon as you know a league game isn't happening.

## Social Club News

Hello from the Social Committee!

Firstly, thank you very much for the support you gave us for Adam's magic show, it was pretty overwhelming and we sold out in two weeks. If you attended, I'm sure you'll agree it was very impressive, hopefully to be repeated at some point.

The quiz on Friday 17th had an equally enthusiastic response with 20 battling teams, perhaps it was the lure of a cash prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places! This will definitely be a constant on the calendar.

Our next event is the Christmas disco which is taking place on Saturday 16th December from 7pm. Tickets are £5, please purchase from the bar. Bring family and friends, come along, and celebrate the season and be festive with us.



The Grand Christmas Raffle is also being organised, tickets are 50p each and are on sale in the club. Cash prize, hampers, vouchers to name but a few of the prizes to be won. We will be holding the draw at 12 noon on Saturday 16th December, please come along and raise a glass or a cup of tea with us! If there is anyone out there who works for a company who would like to make a cash donation or a voucher of any description, big or small, please contact me. Items for hampers and luxury goods are very welcome too.

Thank you to all who have completed a questionnaire, your answers will all be taken into account and are very helpful. If you haven't completed one, they are on the desk just before the bar.

Thank you all for your continued support, we really appreciate it!

Jude Knowles Social committee Chair

## MacMillan Cancer Support Fundraising



Some of you will remember the Presidents Day in July when we raised £564, thanks to the efforts of Summer Captain, Babs Tomlin, her employers have added a further £287.50. Our most recent fundraiser, the Big Coffee Morning raised a total of £707.8 Thanks to all those who made cakes and helped organise and sell on the day or just bought a raffle ticket. Our combined efforts as a club means that we have donated to MacMillan a total of £1559.31. You are all stars.

## Five Lakes Bowling Breaks

Please see the promotional posters from Five Lakes.

A Monday to Friday break in January (and some of February) are nearly price.

All inclusive, four meals, all drinks and accommodation.

## 100 Club

November's prize winners are:

Mrs S Gates. Mrs A Baker. Mrs S Fuller Each win £12

December is the big quarterly draw with £125 as the top prize. Get your entries in by the end of the month to be included in the draw. Entry forms by the office door opposite the loos.

**Bowls Breaks at the UK's Only All-Inclusive Resorts!**

Potters Resorts is the number one choice for Bowls Breaks in the UK. As a proud supporter of Bowls at Potters, we're committed in giving you the best bowling break experience anywhere.

Across two beautiful locations, choose between a coastal break under the wide Norfolk skies, or escape to the Essex Countryside and relax in 320 acres of park land.

**Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk**  
Having the largest indoor tournaments of the two Resorts with up to 500 Bowlers across 34 indoor irks, call by our only ever Bowls Ambassador Greg Hopton. Breaks including Indoor Bowls, Short Mat and Carpet Bowls are available on weekends throughout the year not forgetting The World Indoor Bowls Championships in January.

**Five Lakes, Essex**  
Having many smaller tournaments across 5 newly fitted irks by Davis Bowls including Indoor Bowls, Short Mat and Pro Coaching are available on selected dates throughout the year.

As well as fantastic bowls facilities you'll be able to enjoy all of the below as standard on your next short bowls break!

- ✓ Comfortable Accommodation
- ✓ Full Board & Meals a Day
- ✓ Sports, Leisure & Activities
- ✓ Drinks included throughout your stay
- ✓ West End Quality Entertainment

**How about coming as a Club?**  
For further information on Bowls Breaks, Group Bookings and Incentives available, why not call our friendly Sales Team on 0333 3207 474

Potters Resorts

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