



HAMPTON BOWLING CLUB



www.hamptonbowlingclub.co.uk

**BUMPER END-OF-SEASON
EDITION!**

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 8th November

----- 12:00 for 13:00 Annual Club Luncheon and Prize Giving

A complete list of dates/fixtures can be found on the Club's Web site -

<http://www.hamptonbowlingclub.co.uk/MatchDiary.html>

Ladies vs Gentlemen

The Ladies vs Gentlemen match on Saturday 14th September was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, ending in a much closer result than many expected. The Ladies pushed the Gents all the way – final outcome was 2 apiece on rinks, but with the aggregate points margin in the men's favour.

Patricia Cavanagh conveys her thanks for all the food provided by members and their assistance in preparation and clearing up afterwards. And indeed, thanks to Patricia who provided delicious jam and cream scones for attendees at the final roll up day.

Premature Celebrations

HBC celebrations on winning the NPL League proved premature, as subsequent checks on the scorecards submitted during the season showed that Strawberry Hill had actually topped the league table and should have been presented with the cup. Congratulations to them. The photo is a unique memento that perhaps proves Andy Warhol's oft misquoted claim that "In the future, we will all be famous for 15 minutes"!



Annual Luncheon and Prizes Presentation



The venue for the Club's annual luncheon and prizegiving has been confirmed. It will take place at Fulwell Golf Club (Wellington Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1JY). The date is Friday 8th November arriving from noon, to sit down at 1pm.

There will be a two-course meal from a menu offering meat/fish/vegan options for the main course, and a dessert selection. A separate form will be e-mailed to all members with instructions on making choices from the menu and payment. Completed forms may be returned to Maureen Keown either by email or post.

Donations of prizes for the raffle are encouraged. It will be helpful if these can be delivered to the Clubhouse or to Maureen and Kevin's home address over the coming few weeks. If you don't have keys, the Clubhouse will be open on Thursday afternoons between 13:30 and 15:30, when cards are being played. If none of these options is suitable, please bring them to the event. No jigsaws please...

South Middlesex Mixed League matches



The final two scheduled matches in the SM Mixed League were both at home, against Bishop Duppas and Staines respectively. The first was washed out completely before play could commence. The photo shows the extent of flooding on the green, and pooling of water over the paved area in front of the Clubhouse gates. The duck ponds on the green show one reason why some of your woods, despite their bias, occasionally track on a physically impossible arc! It was agreed to split the 10 points available in the league table 5-5.

Lovely weather for us!



The other match was a loss to Staines. They won comfortably by 8-2, taking the rinks 3-1 but only shading the overall shots by 68-64. Perhaps the Hampton players had been celebrating their title win a little too much!

A group of Hampton BC SML players show off the trophy

Internal Competitions Finals

The finals of the 2024 Club internal competitions took place over the weekend of 7/8th September, with a small attendance of spectators for the pre-finals session held on the afternoon of Friday 6th. Scheduling considerations also forced one match to be played on the following Monday.

Friday 6th September

Overhead conditions on Friday could be described as 'dreek'! At any point it seemed possible that an umpire might emerge brandishing a light meter!



Hampton Bowling Club



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Aussie Pairs: [Dave Bevan/Maureen Keown vs Kevin Keown/Martin Wilson](#)

Dave trailed the jack on both the first and second ends, but after 9 ends the score was 8-3 to Kevin and Martin. After a good 11th end for Dave and Maureen the margin was reduced to 9-6. Kevin saved 3 shots with his last bowl on 12th end. The 14th end was played to a very long jack, which Kevin knocked into the ditch for 13-7. Martin was heard to comment that his opponents' luck seemed to be out. A prophetic observation, as on the very next end they knocked the jack through to their rivals' waiting back bowls, dropping 4 shots. Desperately unlucky! The match concluded two ends later with a final score of 19-9 in favour of Kevin and Martin, the outcome being decided largely by the 14th and 15th ends.



Mixed Triples: [Richard Duke/Hugh Howell/Jules Palmer vs Roy Fullicks/Marie Kelsall/Katharine Wallace](#)

Hugh began very brightly, delivering 2 woods to within inches of the jack on the second end, and after four ends Richard's team led 7-0. A good 5th end for Roy's team pulled the score back to 7-3, but at the halfway point the deficit was still 4 shots. On the 11th end Richard managed to rescue 2 shots from a losing position to drop just a single. After that, progress towards victory was steady, ending in a final score of 19-11 to winners Richard, Hugh and Jules.



Saturday 7th September

Much brighter and warmer than the previous day.

Men's 2 Woods: [Kevin Keown vs Richard Duke](#)

After 7 ends the players were tied at 4 all and by the conclusion of the 13th end, Richard led by a single shot, 8-7. Inexplicably, on one of the following ends, both players suffered a sudden lapse in form, all four bowls finishing two or three yards from the jack. Order was quickly restored however, and after 16 ends, Richard had drawn ahead by 3 shots, going on to win the match on the 20th end, 15-10.

Ladies' 2 Woods: [Jules Palmer vs Katharine Wallace](#)



Jules was fastest out of the blocks and raced to a 9-0 lead after 6 ends. Fortunes then swung rapidly the other way and after the 15th end Katharine had caught up to 8-11. The comeback continued, so that by the end of the 18th end Katharine had got right back into the match and was just one shot behind Jules, 11-12. After two more ends the deficit was still only one. Katharine gained a further shot on the 21st end taking the match into a deciding extra end, where with some excellent woods she sealed the win by two shots, 15-13.

Men's 3 Woods: [Roy Fullicks vs Martin Wilson](#)

Martin made the faster start, but Roy caught up before Martin nudged ahead again. After eight ends he led 9-7. Roy rallied to achieve parity at 10-10 after 10 ends. The next two ends were split with one shot each. Roy then pushed on to stand 15-11 after the 16th end. Two shots to Martin on the 17th meant he was only 2 shots back beginning the final end. At this point the game took a bizarre turn! Roy bowled all three of his woods several yards beyond the jack, leaving Martin to bowl his three words close to the target and win the match overall by 16-15. Sadly, Roy had believed there was still another end to play, and after his opponent drew a close shot with his first wood, he decided to bowl his woods well past the jack, with the intention of trying to knock it back to them. Such are the hazards of bowling!



Men's Championship: [Richard Duke vs Martin Wilson](#)

Martin made a slow start and Richard was able to build a substantial lead early in the match. But from the 10th to the 14th end Martin was in control, although managing to win each of those ends by only a single shot. The match was closely contested from there on, with the scoreboard showing 16-15 to Richard after the 19th end. Despite Martin's best efforts, the next three ends saw Richard dominating again and he completed the win by 21-15.



Ladies' Championship: [Pauline Rush vs Katharine Wallace](#)



The Ladies' Championship final produced a seesaw nail-biting contest. Pauline won the majority of the early ends to lead 11-4 after nine. At this point Katharine stepped on the gas to secure an 18-12 advantage by the finish of the 16th end. Pauline recovered to score two shots on each of the next three ends, meaning the players were all square at 18-18 after 19 ends. Katharine took a single shot on the 20th end, leaving her needing just two shots for the title. On the next end she bowled well to be holding the 2 shots required. However, in a dramatic finale Pauline produced a magnificent last wood to take the jack away from Katharine's woods and give her the 3 shots she needed to pip her opponent at the post! Congratulations to both players for such an enthralling close match.

Sunday 8th September

The mercurial weather gods were at their mischievous best today bringing sun, warm conditions, thunderclaps and rain at various times!

Mixed Pairs: [Jules Palmer/Richard Duke vs Maureen Keown/Roy Fullicks](#)

Richard and Jules opened with 3 shots on the first end, but this was countered on the second end by Roy and Maureen with 3 shots of their own. Roy and Maureen established a small lead over the next eight ends and led by 2 shots at beginning of the 11th. This was to prove a pivotal moment in the match as Richard and Jules bagged 5 shots to lead for the first time. Four ends later, Richard knocked the jack through to waiting woods for a 6 shot tally. This effectively decided the match, which concluded on the 17th end 20-11 in favour of Richard and Jules. The 11 shots scored over just two ends by Richard and Jules proved decisive.



Ladies' 3 Woods: [Katharine Wallace vs Pauline Rush](#)

In their repeat match-up from the Ladies' Championship final, an even start this time, with scores level at 4-4 after 7 ends. Katharine scored 4 shots over the next two ends to open up an advantage. A nip and tuck struggle ensued for several ends until Pauline edged ahead on the scoreboard – 10-9 after 14 ends. With available opportunities running out, Katharine managed to collect 4 shots over the next three ends, leaving Pauline needing all 3 shots on the final end to force a tiebreaker. In a tense finish, she only managed 2 shots, and Katharine had her victory.

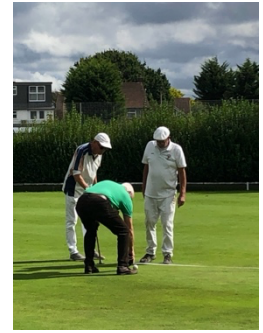
Ladies' Pairs: [Maureen Keown/Marie Kelsall vs Katharine Wallace/Sue Coats](#)

Katharine and Sue made the stronger start and after four ends led 6-3. Undeterred, Maureen and Marie nosed into the lead with 4 shots across the next 3 ends. Thereafter they took control of the game, scoring steadily to build a 17-7 lead after 15 ends. With the writing already on the wall Katharine and Sue snatched 2 shots back on the 16th end, but Maureen and Marie crowned their win with 6 shots on the 17th and last end. The final score was 23-9.



Men's Pairs: [Richard Duke/Martin Wilson vs Jaap Hamel/Bill Rush](#)

After 3 ends Richard and Martin had secured an early 6-1 advantage. Bill and Jaap fought back well to trail by only a single shot, 8-9 at the halfway mark. This phase of the match included a lucky break where a flick off one of Bill's woods moved the jack over for three shots! It also featured a disputed jack length, requiring the long tape measure to be deployed on the green. The jack was just 4 inches short of the required minimum distance! After the recast jack, Bill and Jaap won the end by a single shot. From the 10th to 15th ends Richard and Martin produced an irresistible run of 14 shots without reply. On the 16th and 17th ends Bill and Jaap responded with 3 shots, resulting in a final score of 23-13 to Richard and Martin. An entertaining match for the spectators, just as the rain came in the middle of the bright sunshine.



Alexander Cup: [Dave Bevan vs Jules Palmer](#)



Dave began strongly, conceding Jules only 3 shots in total during the first 10 ends. By then Jules had found the lines and pace of the rink and with the scoring by both players only light, the match was level at 14-14 by the finish of the 21st end. Dave scored 3 shots on the following end, but starting at the 25th end Jules suddenly clicked into overdrive and was able to shut out her opponent, increasing her score by six shots over the next 3 ends, to win on the 27th end by 21-18.

Monday 9th September

The weather continued fine, allowing the finals programme to be completed without delays or interruptions.

75 Points: [Dave Bevan vs Richard Duke](#)

In the Open 75 Points competition for the Eddie Clark trophy Dave, whose record suggests that he thrives on this format of the game, was not quite able to match the pace set by Richard, who completed a clean sweep of wins in all of his finals' matches. The final score in this one was 80-70.



Hearty thanks to all the competitors, markers and spectators who contributed to making the finals a special event. Again, thanks to Patricia Cavanagh who provided tasty sustenance for those who attended.

AGM Motions

The date and venue for the AGM will be circulated as soon as they are finalised.

At the 2025 AGM there are a number of matters on which the Committee plans to present formal motions. These include:

Club match official uniform

Should the Club adopt navy blue as an alternative/replacement for trousers/shorts/skirts?

Entry fee for internal Club competitions

Should there be one? This would help defray the costs of trophy engraving, prize money etc.

Club Rules updates

The Club's rules have not been updated since 2021. There are several changes/additions/deletions needed to make them suited to the present day and compliant with requirements of Middlesex Bowling Association and Bowls England and other relevant bodies. The proposed new rules will be distributed before the AGM.

Annual Subscription

The annual subscription has been £20 for many years. Affiliation fees to Bowls England rose by £2 per annum in 2024 and are expected to rise in the future with inflation. An article in the July 2024 Club Newsletter set out all the costs we need to cover in the course of a season. Is an increase to say £25 justified?

AGM Nominations

In preparation for the AGM early next year a sheet for election of the Club Committee members has been posted in the Clubhouse. You can enter any nominations there or send them to the Club Secretary. The positions are listed on the last page of this Newsletter.

Rink Marker Mishap

During the work recently to trim the hedges around the bowling green, the metal rink marker for Rink 4 was inadvertently swept up with all the clippings by the contractors and lost, along with a couple of rink boundary markers.

Graeme Waldmeyer immediately stepped into the breach to manufacture replacements.

Thanks Graeme!



Key Safe

To forestall an emergency if the key to the Clubhouse door is mislaid or not in its normal place, a keysafe has been installed next to the Ladies Changing Room entrance. The code is the same as that for the security alarm inside. If you ever need to use the spare key, please ensure that it is returned to the keysafe afterwards and inform a member of the committee.



Returning Keys

Keeping track of all the keys in possession of club and committee members can be a headache. Those with locker keys and clubhouse gate keys will have paid a refundable £5 deposit for each. If you leave the Club please make sure that those keys in your possession are returned to the Club Secretary. This helps to maintain adequate sets of spares and to provide a replacement immediately if a particular key is lost or mislaid. FB1 keys for the padlock on the car park entrance gate can be provided on request.



Pre-owned Clothing

Two items of men's bowling clothing are available to purchase for a reasonable donation to Club funds. These can be viewed in the Clubhouse. Please contact Cliff Laking or Katharine Wallace if you are interested.



Rain-wear trousers

Fleecy jersey

Underwater Bowls?

At Putney Town, where a Hampton triples South Middlesex knock-out competition match took place earlier in the season, the Hampton team were surprised by some of the paraphernalia on display outside the clubhouse. Prepared for all weather conditions, I guess!



Committee and Roles for 2024:

President	Chris Squires	020 8979 3700
Chair	Richard Duke	07809 350396
Secretary, WebMaster, Middlesex & Richmond/Barnes Delegate	Cliff Laking	07802 907661
Treasurer	Maureen Keown	07960 988409
Club Captain	Kevin Keown	07578 159841
Catering Sec.	Pat Cavanagh	07588 355500
Vice-Captain (Men)	Bill Rush	07484 353269
Vice-Captain (Ladies), Internal Competitions Sec.	Katharine Wallace	07748 633734
Fixtures Sec.	David Willis	07765 256540

If you have any proposals or suggestions for the running of your Club please contact any committee member or put a note into the box used for the green fees.

If you see any errors in the newsletter, or if you have any material to include in future issues, please inform the author, **Cliff Laking**,
e-mail: hamptonbowlingclub@outlook.com