



HAMPTON BOWLING CLUB



www.hamptonbowlingclub.co.uk

NEWSLETTER – April 2026

Dates For Your Diary:

Sun 26 th April	-----	Mayor's Trophy (Teddington)	A	14:00 for 14:30
Sun 26 th April	-----	Open Day	H	11:00 - 16:00
Wed 29 th April	-----	Walton-on-Thames	A	14:30
Sun 3 rd May	-----	Sunbury	H	14:30
Wed 6 th May	-----	Bishop Duppas	A	14:30
Sun 10 th May	-----	Byfleet	H	14:30
Thu 14 th May	-----	Club Comp entries close		
Sun 17 th May	-----	Ashford	H	14:30
Tue 19 th May	-----	Draw for Club Competitions		
Sat 23 rd May	-----	Open Day	H	14:00 - 17:00
Sun 24 th May	-----	Cambridge Park	H	14:30
Wed 27 th May	-----	Fordbridge Park	A	14:30
Sat 30 th May	-----	Club Day	H	14:30
Sun 31 st May	-----	Bishop Duppas	H	14:30

Match Diaries

Sign-up sheets for the first four matches of the season are posted on the noticeboard in the club house. These are Friendly away at Walton-on-Thames, Home match against Sunbury in the South Middlesex League, Friendly Aussie Pairs Away at Bishop Duppas and Friendly Aussie Pairs Home match against Byfleet.

If you would like to play in any of these please put your name down on the sign-up sheets in the clubhouse or let the Club Captain know. He also needs entries for SMBA competitions by **26th April**, not 26th May as in an earlier email!



Besides the Match Diary which can always be found on the HBC Website, fold-up pocket Match Diaries are available for all members. Please ask the Club Secretary if you do not already have one.

Monday Night Triples League

A total of eight teams from four clubs have entered this year's South Middlesex Monday Night Triples league. The league is now open to both men and ladies, meaning that teams can be either all men, all ladies or any combination of men and ladies. If you have already signed up for this league, please check that your name appears in the list on the clubhouse noticeboard. If you wish to play and are not yet on the list, please let Richard Duke know.

DATE	MONDAY NIGHT TRIPLES 2026							
18-May	Staines Red	Staines Blue	Stanwell Red	Hampton	Duppas	Stanwell Blue	Mas Red	Mas Blue
25-May	Staines Red	Hampton	Staines Blue	Stanwell Blue	Stanwell Red	Mas Blue	Duppas	Mas Red
01-Jun	Stanwell Blue	Staines Red	Hampton	Mas Blue	Staines Blue	Mas Red	Stanwell Red	Duppas
08-Jun	Staines Red	Mas Blue	Stanwell Blue	Mas Red	Hampton	Duppas	Staines Blue	Stanwell Red
15-Jun	Mas Red	Staines Red	Mas Blue	Duppas	Stanwell Blue	Stanwell Red	Hampton	Staines Blue
22-Jun	Staines Red	Duppas	Mas Red	Stanwell Red	Mas Blue	Staines Blue	Stanwell Blue	Hampton
29-Jun	Stanwell Red	Staines Red	Duppas	Staines Blue	Mas Red	Hampton	Mas Blue	Stanwell Blue
06-Jul	Staines Blue	Staines Red	Hampton	Stanwell Red	Stanwell Blue	Duppas	Mas Blue	Mas Red
13-Jul	Hampton	Staines Red	Stanwell Blue	Staines Blue	Mas Blue	Stanwell Red	Mas Red	Duppas
20-Jul	Staines Red	Stanwell Blue	Mas Blue	Hampton	Mas Red	Staines Blue	Duppas	Stanwell Red
27-Jul	Mas Blue	Staines Red	Mas Red	Stanwell Blue	Duppas	Hampton	Stanwell Red	Staines Blue
03-Aug	Staines Red	Mas Red	Duppas	Mas Blue	Stanwell Red	Stanwell Blue	Staines Blue	Hampton
10-Aug	Duppas	Staines Red	Stanwell Red	Mas Red	Staines Blue	Mas Blue	Hampton	Stanwell Blue
17-Aug	Staines Red	Stanwell Red	Staines Blue	Duppas	Hampton	Mas Red	Stanwell Blue	Mas Blue
24-Aug	CONTINGENCY							

Maintenance Day

A huge thank you to everybody who attended the Maintenance Day on Saturday 4th April. Keeping the Clubhouse and surrounds in good condition is no small task and it needs the efforts of Club members to look after our facilities.

Thanks to the wonders of time-lapse photography, we can see the several of the workers relaxing before and after carrying out all the hard work!



Locker allocation and Keys



Over the past two or three years the lists of locker holders' names in both the Ladies and Gents changing rooms have become increasingly inaccurate. Work is in progress to bring these up to date. Lockers are available for a refundable deposit of £5. Likewise, keys to the iron gates outside the club house are also available for an additional £5 refundable deposit. The Secretary can also give you a FB (Fire Brigade) key that unlocks the padlock on the gate from the car park into the green.

Open Days



Members can pick up posters advertising our Open Days from the clubhouse and ask local businesses to display them on their notice board or in their shop window.

We need support from experienced members at Open Days. These also provide a good opportunity to come along for a roll up.

Hearty thanks to Michael Morris, who single-handedly hoisted the Club's Banner on the poles adjacent to the Carlisle Park car park, in the process demonstrating his Boy Scouts knot tying skills to great effect.

Footwear

There is a strict rule that flat-soled shoes must always be worn on the green. Bare feet are **not permitted** under any circumstances, especially for safety reasons. Apart from protecting your feet, the insistence on flat-soled shoes is based on several other considerations.



Flat-soled shoes help protect the playing surface of the green. The quality of the green matters. Lawn bowls is played on carefully curated grass that needs to be kept level and undamaged. Shoes with heels, spikes, or deep treads can dig into the turf and leave marks or dents, which affect how the bowls track. Flat soles spread your weight evenly and minimise damage.

When you deliver a bowl, your body is low to the ground and your motion is controlled. Flat soles give you a stable base and better contact with the surface, helping you to stay balanced. Raised heels or uneven soles make it more difficult to achieve those aims.

Finally, the game of bowls depends on precision - small differences in the surface can alter the path a bowl follows significantly. The wearing of flat-soled shoes helps to keep conditions fair, equal and predictable for all players.

Condition of Green



In the first few months of 2026 the Committee has been engaged with Krinkels, who maintain the green on behalf of LBRuT, about seeding of bare patches, coverage of the sprinkler system, and control of moss and weed infestations. The photo shows the “new” pervasive weed variety that has become visible recently. It is especially evident in areas where moss has previously died off.

Over the next few weeks, potentially toxic chemical treatments will be applied to the moss/weed growth, so ***please wash your hands after playing.***

As is typical of green conditions in April, the green is still very soft and slow running. It takes much greater effort to deliver bowls to longer jack distances. This means that members generally prefer to play to much shorter jacks. To protect the vulnerable edges of the green from damage, it is requested that the mat be placed a good distance from the gutter, say at least 5-6 meters.

Club House Cleaning

Over the past couple of seasons several attempts have been made to come up with a fair way to schedule the weekly cleaning of the clubhouse and surrounds. This task normally takes no more than an hour.

At the 2026 AGM it was resolved that when members sign up, they will be required to select a free slot on the cleaning rota sheet. The final rota will have your name on it in a particular slot. Members can swap their slot with someone else, but substitutions remain the responsibility of the individual named originally on the rota. The expectation is that every member able to undertake cleaning tasks will meet their obligation. Although the rota lists “Week beginning Monday ...” the cleaning can be undertaken on any convenient day during the week.



Sadly, although many members have renewed their membership, at this point the cleaning rota has only a handful of names entered. In fairness to those who have unselfishly borne the brunt of this chore previously, that situation must not be allowed to continue through the 2026 season.

Centenary Planning

2028 is the centenary year for HBC. The more local residents and businesses we engage with, the better the centenary celebration will be. Two seasons are barely enough for us to be ready unless we start now and get members involved.

In the background paper circulated before the AGM, some of the many and varied tasks involved in preparation for this milestone were listed.

- Are we going to produce a booklet detailing the club's history?
- Who is going to research the records of the club in order to compile any publication?
- Who is going to plan the communications to other clubs and other local organisations?
- What advertising are we going to do?
- Are we going to have mementoes for the event?
- What functions or special matches are we going to hold?

Please come forward with more ideas and/or offers of assistance. If you have particular skills you are able to contribute, please let the Committee know.

Local Elections

Proposals were submitted to LBRuT over a year ago for improvements to our facilities - primarily extending the spectator viewing area, and providing a hard standing area adjacent to the equipment container shed for the construction of a temporary or permanent structure. Unfortunately, barely any material progress has been made in the past year. Despite escalating to the chief executive of the council, progress has stalled.



With local council elections taking place in May, there is a good opportunity for members who reside in the wards around or near to Carlisle Park to lobby candidates who come calling. Ask them, if elected, to pledge support for the club's plans to extend our facilities in time for the centenary in 2028.

In a separate email to all members, you will find a list of suggested questions you can put to candidates who arrive on your doorstep.

Mayor's Cup team

The HBC team for this year's Mayor's Trophy will be: Pauline Rush, Marie Kelsall and Bill Rush, our victorious triple from last year.

Fees from LBRuT

LBRuT has published the following schedule of green fees for the 2026 season. The Club has requested a reduction from the Council for members aged between 16 and 59, similar to that granted last season. Increases in prices from 2025 are around 3-4%. For those who are "Pay & Play" members, a sheet to log payments made can be found on the noticeboard to the left as you enter the clubhouse.

Bowling Green (incl VAT)

	2025/26 Charge £	2026/27 NET £	2026/27 VAT £	2026/27 Charge £	Additional Information
Season ticket (16 - 59 years)	201.00	174.17	34.83	209.00	
Casual play per hour or part of hour (16 - 59 years)	5.60	4.83	0.97	5.80	
Season Ticket (under 16 or 60+)	103.70	89.67	17.93	107.60	
Casual play per hour or part of hour (under 16 or 60+)	2.90	2.50	0.50	3.00	
Season Ticket - Fairer Access*	103.70	89.67	17.93	107.60	
Casual play per hour or part of hour - Fairer Access*	2.90	2.50	0.50	3.00	

*Fairer Access rate available to: those in receipt of one of the following; Housing Benefit, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Working Family Tax Credit, Disability Allowance, Carers Allowance or Universal Credit (Proof of eligibility required)

Committee and Roles for 2026:

President	Vacancy	
Chair	Richard Duke	07809 350396
Secretary, WebMaster	Cliff Laking	07802 907661
Treasurer	Maureen Keown	07960 988409
Club Captain	Kevin Keown	07578 159841
Catering Sec.	Vacancy	
Vice-Captain (Men)	Bill Rush	07484 353269
Vice-Captain (Ladies)	Jules Palmer	07944 391556
Internal Competitions Sec.	Jules Palmer	07944 391556
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