



HAMPTON BOWLING CLUB



www.hamptonbowlingclub.co.uk

NEWSLETTER – August 2026

Dates For Your Diary:

August

Tue 11	-----	Staines Ladies	H	14:30
Sat 15	-----	Bluewood Cup (3 Club comp)	A	10:00 (Fordbridge Park)
Sat 22	-----	Stanwell	H	14:30
Sun 23	-----	Sunbury	A	14:30
Thu 27	-----	Staines	A	14:30
Sat 29/Sun 30	-----	Club Finals (Aus Prs/75 Pts/Triples)	H	10:00
Mon 31	-----	Presidents Day (Captain vs Chair)	H	14:30

September

Tue 1	-----	Staines Ladies	A	14:30
Thu 3	-----	Bishop Duppas	A	14:30
Sat 5	-----	Ladies v Gents	H	14:30

South Middlesex Mixed League

Results have improved since the publication of the previous newsletter, the most recent being a near reversal of the away result against Fordbridge Park. Hampton BC were again on the losing side, but by a narrow margin of 4-6 league points.

The table before the Fordbridge Park home match looked like this.

2026		SOUTH MIDDLESEX B.A. MIXED LEAGUE TABLE										20/07/2026			
Team	Matches Played	W	L	D	Match Win Points	Rinks Won	Rinks Lost	Rinks Drawn	Rink Win Points	Default Points	TOTAL POINTS	Shots For	Shots Against	Diff	
Fordbridge Park	10	5	5		10	23	15	2	48		58	707	667	40	
Bishop Duppas	8	6	1	1	13	22	10	0	44		57	630	441	189	
Ashford	11	5	6		10	20	22		40		50	680	762	-82	
Staines	8	5	3		10	17	13	2	36		46	535	491	44	
Hampton	8	5	2	1	11	13	18	1	27		38	561	530	31	
Strawberry Hill	7	4	3		8	14	14	0	28		36	461	481	-20	
Stanwell	8	1	7		2	13	18	1	27		29	496	574	-78	
Sunbury	8	1	7		2	8	22	2	18		20	471	614	-143	
		68	32	34	2	66	130	132	8	268	0	334	4541	4560	-19

Close Call

After the rollup on a recent Tuesday evening, Richard D. and Jules P. were pitted against each other in the 75 Points internal competition.

From the outset, the match developed into a titanic tussle between two closely matched players.

The very first end required a measure with callipers to determine the shot bowl, and the marker was obliged to use his measure on several subsequent ends.

After five ends the score was 26-24 in Richard's favour. After the eleventh end the scores were level at 55-55. The scoring was extremely tight on the following few ends, with both the thirteenth and fourteenth being split with 5 points apiece. At this point the overall score saw Jules just in front by 71-69. As the crucial fifteenth end was likely to decide the outcome of the match, every bowl was vitally important in the effort to accrue enough points to deliver victory. Richard edged that end 6-4 and consequently the match was drawn.



An extra tie-break end was needed to determine the winner. After 7 of the eight bowls had been delivered, Jules held enough points to win the decider, barring Richard's achieving success with the difficult shot in prospect. Needing to move the jack away from the opponent's holding shot bowl, he had only half of it to aim at. His bowl appeared to be travelling exactly on track to achieve this, but was just fractionally over-weighted, slipping past the target by a whisker! Victory to Jules, but what a great game! It would surely have made the perfect final!

Neil Denny Cup 1-2-3

The annual Neil Denny Cup event was played on Sunday 26th July and attracted a good number of players and spectators. The winner of the bowling competition was Sheila Tan, who is pictured being presented with the trophy by Club Captain, Kevin Keown.

But this was just one of Sheila's successes in a remarkable afternoon!

In the "pick a number" lottery, Sheila scooped the jackpot! And in the raffle after the delicious tea, she picked up a further prize!!

1 – Neil Denny Cup !

2 – Lottery !!

3 – Raffle !!!





Hungry players tuck into the buffet

Relaxing with a cool drink during the intense summer heatwaves.

From left to right - Roy F., David L., Fiona P., Steve P., Gary K.



Defibrillator

Hampton BC has had its own defibrillator for a number of years, but the model we have no longer has replacement parts provided by the distributor.

Rather than invest in the expense of a new unit, the Committee has decided that in future we will rely on the publicly available (and maintained) unit installed on the wall of the Carlisle Park pavilion opposite the entrance to the tennis courts.



Charity Quiz

The next Hampton Social Club Charity Quiz will be held on the night of **Friday 28th August**. Please note that the quiz is held at the Hampton Social Club, 26 Ashley Road, Hampton TW12 2JA, across the road from Hampton Railway Station.

Hampton Bowling Club will be the **sole beneficiary** of all the proceeds from the quiz.

Make a note in your diaries and consider entering a team. Also please let the Club secretary know of your interest. We had several teams participate in 2025 and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.



More details will be provided by email in the coming fortnight.

Club Bowls

Very old bowls have now been removed from the store and disposed of, but stocks of various sizes need to be kept up to date.

ALL club bowls should be kept in the container store, so they are available for use by any club members, u3a players, etc. The committee is aware that some club bowls may be kept in individuals' lockers - a former committee member may have given permission for this. However, as a general rule, club bowls should be available for use by any member. If you have any stored in your locker or in the changing rooms, please place them back in the container store after use and also let David W. know which bowls they are, so the inventory can be updated.

When you use club bowls, please always return them in their original carrier or tray and place them in the correct position on the shelves. This saves others having to sort through lots of bowls to find the size they want.

At the end of the season, if we have too many sets in any particular size, we may auction those surplus bowls.

Generally, unless there are special circumstances, members would be expected to acquire their own bowls after their first season. New bowls are expensive but bowls shops often sell off excess inventory in autumn/winter at a discount, as they take in new stock. Some players have also obtained bowls through part exchange and relatively new bowls can be bought from online retailers, eBay, dedicated Facebook groups, etc.

State of Green

There have been major issues with the state of the Club's green during the 2026 season. There are many factors contributing to this, not least the exceedingly dry and excessively hot summer being experienced. Coupled with major problems affecting the automated irrigation system, this has resulted in:

- large dry grassless areas
- sandy zones with little or no nutrition in the soil to support new seeding
- residual patches of dead moss
- uneven and unreliable watering
- an uneven surface that hampers bowls tracking predictably
- bowls running at varying speeds over different sections of each rink

The Committee has been working constantly with the LBRuT, owners of our green, and their contractors who carry out mowing and all the other tasks associated with keeping the surface in good condition.

A number of measures have been taken over the last few months to improve matters – a major overhaul of the components of the water reservoir and the mains supply connection, replacement and adjustment of sprinkler heads, and review of the watering schedule program timings.

Some improvement is evident, and we are hopeful that the remaining problems will be dealt this winter in time for the 2027 season.

Be assured that this is a major priority for the Committee.

Rinks Rotation

During the bowls season, every Monday of each week, the direction of the 6 rinks is rotated between facing the clubhouse and facing the car park.

If you are the first to play on a Monday afternoon, please shift all the rink markers around according to the calendar posted on the wall of the clubhouse directly beside the men's dressing room.

Monday Night Triples

The improved form in the SMBA Monday night triples has continued and Hampton were sitting mid-table with just a couple of rounds still to be played.

In a recent match Cliff L., Steve P. and Richard D. eked out a good away victory against Staines Blue by 17-13 shots. After a strong start from Hampton, winning a number of ends in succession, Staines burst into life and pulled back the deficit. However, Hampton dug in, and with good concentration, transferred the pressure back onto their opponents, drawing away again towards the finish.

The most current table follows:

MONDAY NIGHT TRIPLES LEAGUE TABLE					2026			
WEEK 10								
TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DRAWN	SHOTS FOR	SHOTS AGAINST	SHOTS DIFF	POINTS
STANWELL BLUE	12	9	2	1	266	144	122	19
STAINES RED	11	8	3	0	215	148	67	16
MASONIANS BLUE	11	6	3	2	180	173	7	14
BISHOP DUPPAS	12	4	6	2	192	211	-19	10
HAMPTON	12	5	7	0	167	232	-65	10
MASONIANS RED	11	4	6	1	167	182	-15	9
STAINES BLUE	12	4	7	1	168	199	-31	9
STANWELL RED	11	2	8	1	148	214	-66	5
	92	42	42	8	1503	1503	0	92
Outstanding Games	Stanwell Red vs Masonian Blue	Staines Red vs Masonian Red						

In their latest match at home against league leaders, Stanwell Blue, Hampton BC achieved a creditable result, losing by just 5 shots, 16-21.

Bowls for Sale

Our recently retired president, Chris Squires, is offering his set of bowls for sale to club members. Please contact the Club Secretary if you are interested.

Details

Brand/model	Taylor Blaze
Size	2H
Colour	Blue with yellow flecks
Registered	2023
Condition	Excellent
Price	£100

Moment in Time



This photo captures a tranquil moment during a recent roll up. Bowlers featured are Elaine H. (on the mat), Sue C. (holding next bowl) and Julie F. (watching on).

Scorecard Blues

At a recent interclub match, Roy F., who was skipping one of the Hampton BC triples teams, had a panicky moment when, just as play was about to begin, he couldn't locate the leather folder containing the scorecard for his rink.

Thankfully, after several anxious moments searching for it, it was spotted by one of the other players. The photo gives a strong clue to its whereabouts!

It must be stressed that such "senior moments" are by no means the prerogative of just one or two members. Even the writer was guilty recently of temporarily losing his woods, again just before a match started...



Committee and Roles for 2026:

President	Muriel Alexander	
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