

# BOWLED OVER



## THE HENLEAZE BOWLING CLUB NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2026

### HEADLINE NEWS

- In a flash the season is nearly over, all league matches having been played and just 10 friendlies to go.
- Let's not forget the all-important club competitions though, plenty more hotly contested action to admire. As ever, the finalists will appreciate all the support we can give over the weekend of September 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>. Not forgetting the Fixed Jack competition on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Entry £1 on the day, just turn-up between 2pm and 4pm and have a go.
- Talking of competitions, well done to Val Osmond for reaching the Ladies Two Bowl Champion of Champions County Final, narrowly losing by just two shots.
- Captain's Day was very well supported and most enjoyable both on and off the green; a big thank you to those who organised the event.
- Well done to everyone who helped and supported the recent Lloyd trophy semi-finals and final.
- Members will have seen an email message that it's going to be a busy closed-season for our greenkeeping team, as they employ a range of treatments aimed at improving the green's playability. Good luck!
- There is the possibility of a Special General Meeting being called in the next month or so. It's to do with a change to the club rules, further details to follow.
- Some of us were involved in the making of a short film a while back. We'll be uploading it to the club website during September.
- With a large number of men joining us in recent months, we are in the enviable position of entering another team into the Bristol & District Men's League for next season. Our submission will be reviewed at the league's AGM later this year.

### I HEARD IT ON THE GREEN

"Did you see that? This green is just awful".

I've heard it said about several greens and it's neither helpful nor sporting. A lot of people work hard to get their club's greens in the best possible condition but, as we well know, it's not an easy task. Many greens that I've played on are relatively slow or very fast, or have some 'tricky lines' to find which, some might say, is the art of bowling. It is the same for both teams and you rarely hear a top player openly criticise. If you do have some constructive comments, please have a chat with our own club greenkeeper; good ideas are always welcomed.



### WHO's WHO

**Margaret Thompson**  
Club Secretary

Born in Cornwall, I grew up in Plymouth, Devon. After marrying George who was a serving army soldier we lived first in Cyprus, then Wales and finally Germany. On return to civilian life we settled in rural South Gloucestershire, surrounded by farmland before Aztec West, Cribbs Causeway & Bradley Stoke existed.

When George took early retirement, he immediately started bowling which he loved. I was still working and only after much persuasion tried bowling too. Playing mainly indoors at Thornbury for over a year I had difficulty playing backhand, perhaps due to having to bowl in a pleated skirt with an attached nylon underskirt plus tights!! Thankfully times have changed.

When I left UWE, I joined with George bowling outdoors. As well as playing locally we enjoyed bowling holidays all over England and Wales. We bowled on the Moray coast in Scotland, in Lancashire (joining in with Middleton Cup winners) and even tried Crown green bowling in Yorkshire. We played indoors at Potters and Warners. We also bowled abroad in mainland Spain, Majorca, Tunisia and for many years in Tenerife. Happy times.

George joined Henleaze in 2009 and I had to go on a waiting list before joining later that year. I served as Ladies Captain in 2018 and played in the Ladies League.

I have struggled to bowl lately, so as my contribution to the club I decided to volunteer as secretary in order to support the General Committee and hopefully to benefit all HBC members.

### FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

A decent season all round with no relegations or promotions in the respective Bristol & District leagues. Consolidation with much potential one might reflect.

|          | Division | Position |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Ladies A | 1        | 4        |
| Ladies B | 2        | 5        |
| Ladies C | 3        | 7        |
| Men's A  | 2        | 5        |
| Men's B  | 3        | 6        |

### YOUR FEEDBACK

Regarding the newsletter, please contact the editor Viv Collins, in person or via email: [viv.collinz@gmail.com](mailto:viv.collinz@gmail.com)  
For any club matters, please contact our Members' Representative Sandra Waite, again in person or via email: [waitejohn40@gmail.com](mailto:waitejohn40@gmail.com). And, should you have a formal complaint to register, forms are available from our Safeguarding Officer, Alexia Gardner: [mrsqandmry2@talktalk.net](mailto:mrsqandmry2@talktalk.net).