



THE FRIENDS OF ENGLISH BOWLING

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025-26

Remembering



It is with sadness that we mark the passing of two dear Friends this year: Terry James and Barry Dillon. Both long-serving members, whose presence and contribution to Friends will be truly missed.



Finals at Leamington

The finals are always a highlight, and this year was no exception — *This year, some of our committee members assisted in presentations of 25 competition finals thanks to Kath's well-organised rota.*

Welcome to Our New Members

Since June, we've welcomed 18 new members — and we're delighted that they're all actively playing. We look forward to seeing you at next year's fixtures and sharing many great games together.

Treasurer's Message: Help Us Cut Costs

We now incur monthly bank charges and transaction fees on cheques and cash. To help reduce costs, please use BACS wherever possible.

- Pay membership renewals by BACS
- For match fees, wait until all matches are announced and pay in one lump sum
- Email Adie with match details and copy me in
- Any additional matches can be paid as they occur. If you're unsure how to use BACS — just ask your grandchildren, they'll know!

Clive Handscombe

August Highlights: National Championships & Friends Competitions

Leamington hosted the National Championships, including our Friends 2 Wood Pairs and the annual match against the BE Select Team.


BE's team this year included members of staff comprising team managers and coaches naming some: Moira Drost, John Bell, Mal Evans and Sandy Hazell. After a great game the Friends came away in second place. An after match meal was enjoyed in the clubhouse, preceded by the speeches. The raffle with prizes donated from both sides, made a goodly amount which will be put back into the game of bowls.



Friends Top Rink, with Mike Bertrand, Michael White, Maxeen Fletcher, Paul Songer & Jackie Bryant



Kath, with our Two Wood Champions, Maxeen & Neil Fletcher

 **The Friends Pairs Competition** saw 21 teams compete on a warm day at Leamington. After a long day and five 15-end games, the final concluded at 6:30pm with husband-and-wife teams Maxeen & Ian Fletcher winning over Susanne & Vincent Knaus. A good day! Well played all bowlers, we hope for the same good support, and sunshine for next year.

Looking Ahead

We're already planning for next year's fixtures and events. Stay tuned for updates and keep your diaries ready!

Match Reports You May Have Missed

While our match reports are published online and in *Bowls International*, we know not everyone gets to see them. Here's a sample from this season:



Fosseway BC Celebrate 90 Years

Sunday, 13th July 2025

Friends were delighted to mark a 90-year milestone with Fosseway Bowls Club. Although the heat had eased slightly, the sun remained in full force, accompanied by a welcome gentle breeze. John Thompson led as Friends' Captain of the Day, no doubt hoping for a win today.

The bar, cheerfully managed by Brian, was kept busy, and we were kindly treated to savoury rolls — a welcome snack to tide us over before play commenced. There was ample time to relax and catch up ahead of the game.



Fosseway's Captain, Chris Tresslar, warmly welcomed everyone. Today's match included two trial ends,

followed by a planned refreshment break after the ninth end. The match proved a success for Friends, who won on three rinks, drew on two, and lost just one — ending with a final score of 114–96.

Following the game, a superb



summer salad was served in the spacious clubhouse, providing the perfect setting for animated conversations. It's always uplifting to hear familiar voices sharing stories and laughter. Fosseway Bowls Club had clearly gone to great effort to make the occasion memorable, and Friends were honoured to be part of their 90th anniversary celebrations.

Captain Chris shared insights into the club's journey over the past nine decades and expressed sincere

thanks to all members for their continued support. Friends' Captain John gave a brief overview of Friends, emphasising that it is an inclusive organisation — open to all who shared a love for the great game of bowls.

As tradition dictates, the highest scoring rinks on both sides were duly congratulated, with a commemorative certificate presented to Captain Chris.

The day concluded with a generous raffle, with proceeds donated to the Heart Foundation.

As the sun dipped lower, it was time for Friends to part ways and journey home — hearts full and spirits lifted.



Friends Captain of the Day John Thompson presenting Captain Chris Tresslar's memento

John Thompson
Captain of the Day