



THE FRIENDS OF ENGLISH BOWLING

NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2026



Greetings from the Chair

I hope you have all wintered well and are looking forward to the new season and to meeting up with friends old and new. Although the greens have been resting, your committee has been working hard throughout the closed season.

- **Paul** has been diligently managing our membership and keeping in touch with members.
- **Adie** has put together an excellent new programme of matches—plenty to tempt you, if time allows. If you haven't yet applied, he is still happy to receive entries.
- **Mike** has refreshed the format of our Two-Wood competition at Leamington during Finals week. It looks very promising, so do give it a try.
- **Neil** has kept us all promptly informed with clear messages and minutes.
- **Danny** has taken on the annual review of our GDPR and Safeguarding policies.
- **Clive** has continued to present our finances in a clear and accessible way, filed last year's accounts, and managed a generous legacy left to the Friends by a former member.
- **Graham**, my invaluable sounding board, suffered the heartbreaking loss of his wife, Margaret, just before Christmas—a shock to us all. Despite this, he has continued to support me with our annual review of the constitution.
- **Carolyn** has worked tirelessly to keep our website up to date—an increasingly vital resource for us all.
- **Steve Atkinson**, newly joined and our first committee member from the North, has settled in quickly and is already making a positive contribution.
- **Jenny** provides us with a candid and invaluable perspective, reminding us of both Bowls England guidance and our own history—always helpful in our discussions.



Kath



Mike



Graham



Neil



Steve



Paul



Danny



Carolyn



Adie



Clive



Jenny



We are fortunate to have such a strong committee, and we are keen to maintain a strong and growing membership. Please do spread the word—personal recommendation remains the most effective form of advertising.

We wish you all a very happy and enjoyable new season. **Kath Lloyd, Chair**

News from your Treasurer

The new financial year is underway and it's great to see that most of you have already renewed your subscriptions. We have had a small drop in membership this time, which simply means there's room to welcome more friends and colleagues into the fold. Do spread the word — every new member strengthens what we can achieve together.

Your support really does make a difference. The more we collect, the more we can contribute to the wider flat green bowls community, whether that's grassroots development, junior involvement, or the important work of Disability Bowls England.

A quick reminder about bank charges: we now cover these in full, so electronic payments by BACS are very much appreciated. If you're paying for matches, it's a big help if you can make one combined payment rather than several smaller ones.



Once you've made your payment, please send an email to Adie — with a copy to me — confirming the breakdown.

This makes balancing the accounts much smoother.

Looking forward to seeing many of you out on the greens as the season gets going.

Clive Handscome, Hon. Treasurer
clivehandscombe@hotmail.com

thank you for being a Friend

Membership Update

A very warm welcome to all our new members. We're delighted to have you with us and hope you're looking forward to a full season of celebration matches.

To all our returning members, welcome back — and thank you for your continued support.

	2025	2026
Total Individual members	168	160
Total County members	24	20
New Members	18	22
Members who left us (various reasons)	30	32

As always, membership numbers shift for many reasons. Of the 32 members who left this year, 15 kindly let me know, 11 did not make contact, and sadly we lost 6 members who passed away. Our thoughts are with their families at this difficult time. If you need any help or have questions about your membership, please feel free to get in touch.

See you on the Green
Paul Robson - Membership Secretary



2025 Winners
Maxeen & Neil Fletcher

FoEB 2-Wood Pairs Competition – Entries Now Open

The outdoor season is fast approaching, and many of our Friends are already looking forward to rounding it off with a great day of bowling at Leamington Spa in the FoEB 2-Wood Pairs Competition.

Entry forms have now been sent to all members, and replies are already coming in. The competition will take place on **Friday 14th August 2026**, running throughout the day.

This year brings a refreshed format, guaranteeing every pair a **minimum of three games**. Last year's event was a real highlight, with 20 pairs enjoying excellent weather and

a friendly, competitive atmosphere. The revised schedule also builds in time between matches, giving you the chance to watch some of the National Championships or simply relax with food and a drink. If you'd like to take part, please get your entry in soon. **Almost half the places have already been filled**, and there will be **no entries accepted on the day**. I look forward to seeing many of you there. **Mike Bertrand, Competitions Coordinator**



Like many, I can't wait for the season to get underway — fingers crossed for some decent weather, nothing too dramatic this year. I've not treated myself to any new bowls gear, and my trusty old bowls are still by my side, but could this year be the one I splash out in?

I'm really pleased that the Friends 'kit' now gives the option to wear something other than greys with our white Friends top. It's a great chance to show off my own club colours with green trousers or shorts, and the County kit gives another choice of blue.

Don't forget you can keep up to date with reports and photos from all our past and current games. We're grateful to *Bowls International* magazine for the opportunity of an article in each monthly issue. If you're interested in Friends article and more, they have an app available to download.



Friends of English Bowling Celebrate 25 Years in Style

You could say the tables turned in November (writes **Carolyn Hunt**, website officer). Instead of marking other clubs' milestones, the Friends of English Bowling celebrated their own – 20 years in operation. Match secretary Adie Lloyd masterminded and organised a special trip to Portugal for members. Sunshine, bowls, and superb accommodation at the Hotel Vila Galé Cerro made it a true celebration. The hotel, perfectly located near the beach and the cobbled streets of Albufeira Old Town, provided the ideal base for three scheduled matches



Bowls International covered Friend's Anniversary Celebration



Bowls International covered Friend's Anniversary Celebration **AND ON THAT NOTE** After the success of our 20th Anniversary Tour to Portugal, **Adie** is pleased to announce that he has booked a break in Benalmádena from 4–11 November 2026 which 43 members will be heading to.

Carolyn Hunt, Web Secretary