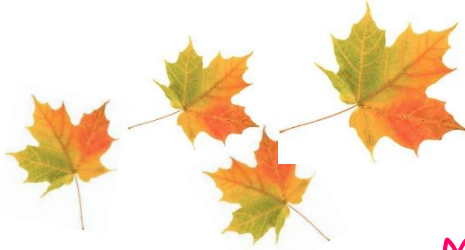




THE FRIENDS OF ENGLISH BOWLING

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN/WINTER 2026-27



Chair's Highlights

A year of extremes – flooded in winter, scorched in summer – yet full of friendship and continued support for counties, competitors and spectators at the Bowls England Finals.

Behind the scenes, the committee has kept everything running smoothly:

- Constitution reviewed – no changes this year.
- GDPR updated and circulated
- New Safeguarding photo-permission document introduced for host clubs.
- Committee nomination form refreshed

A small plea to all members playing in our matches: **please let your opposite player know that the game report will appear on our website and in *Bowls International*.**

It helps ensure everyone is comfortable and aware.

My thanks to a dedicated committee, and to all our members for your valued support and the enjoyment you bring.

Kath Lloyd



Membership Secretary's Update

The 2027 membership list opened in April, and since then we have welcomed **21 new members** — our strongest intake for several years. Even better, almost all are active bowlers, which is wonderful to see.

I am currently reviewing the membership list to check who is not yet included in our Google Group. A reminder: **the Google Group is not a social media platform.** It is simply our secure email distribution list. If an email does not have my name at the top, it has not come from me. I am the only person with access to the Group, so you will only ever receive information directly relevant to your membership of the Friends.

Many of you will know that every celebration match doubles as a recruitment opportunity. Captains give a brief history of the Association, leaflets are placed around the room at dinner, and we highlight a few of the perks of being a member. It would be hugely beneficial if members could do the same within your own clubs and when playing around your county.

To help, we have a two-page flyer which I will send out with the next Group email. Please feel free to copy it, pin it on a notice board, or email it to bowlers you know. **Every little helps.**

Thank you for being a member — and I look forward to welcoming many more.

Paul Robson

Match Secretary's Highlights

It's been a wonderfully warm season, and my thanks go to everyone who supported our matches across the length and breadth of the country.

Our trip to **North Devon** proved especially fruitful. A local club, previously unaware of the Friends, learned about us during a League match at Rock Park BC. Their enthusiasm has led to **three fixtures in North Devon for 2029** — a fantastic outcome from simply sharing who we are and what we do.

Adie Lloyd



It all happens at Leamington : We're at the end of the outdoor season already, where did the time go? National Finals have now been completed and within that time at Leamington Spa the 'Friends' held their Two Wood Pairs competition and their annual game against a BE Select team.

It was a new format for the Competition with 22 pairs taking part. The teams were put into two leagues and each team were to play three other randomly picked teams. Points were earned for winning the game and also for ends won. It led to some tight matches with no one knowing who was through to the semi's until all the results had been collated. The Semi's had Trevor and Barbara Dean v Michael & Margaret Morris with the Dean's coming out on top 12 – 9. The other Semi was between Dawn Slaughter & Andy Hunt v Colin & Liz Bingley finishing a win of 16 – 6 for Dawn & Andy. After a short break we had the final, a nip & tuck, with Trevor and Barbara finally coming out on top 11 – 6 The new format worked well so when the competition opens next year get your entries in quickly as there is only room for 24 teams.

Friends v BE Select – Highlights

Our match against the BE Select began in light rain but soon cleared, and the 16-end game stayed close throughout. BE Select edged the win 87–84, with three rinks each. Royal Leamington Spa BC provided an excellent meal afterwards, and the raffle raised £260 — thank you to everyone who donated prizes

Michael Bertrand

Safeguarding – Key Points

Safeguarding continues to be a shared responsibility across our sport, ensuring bowls remains a safe, positive and welcoming environment for everyone.

Over the past year:

- Our Website and Code of Conduct have been reviewed to stay fully aligned with Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) guidance.
- Relevant safeguarding training has been completed.
- Policies and procedures remain up to date and in line with national standards.

No safeguarding incidents or concerns were raised during the year — a reflection of everyone's awareness and commitment. Thank you for your continued support and understanding of the importance of safeguarding within the Friends.



Danny Holland

The last say from the Website Officer

26 games were reported and photographed last year, and this season has proved just as busy. A little autumn housekeeping: the 2020 and 2021 games will be removed, in line with our five-year coverage policy. They'll still be safely stored in the archive.

Our monthly articles in **Bowls International** continue to provide excellent publicity and keep Friends' summer memories alive throughout the year.

Thank you to those who have stepped in with photographs when I couldn't attend —truly appreciated. The various Captains of the Day deserve a shout out. It falls on them to sum up the day and send me a report after their game. It's never the most enviable job, rather like having to write about a school trip, and all you want to do is just remember the day out with friends! Still, it has to be done and is much appreciated, and posted on the website with accompanying photos.

I thoroughly enjoy my role within the Friends, long may it continue.

Carolyn Hunt

A word from the Treasurer:

A reminder that **subscriptions for 2027 will be due shortly**, and early payment is always appreciated. To help us avoid bank charges, please pay by **BACS** directly to:

Friends of English Bowling Sort Code:

30-90-38 Account Number: **52915160**.

(And not by cheque — and if you need a hand, grandchildren are usually very capable!)



The Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 were circulated before the AGM and are available on our website. Our current reserves stand at £100,000, from which we will shortly pay £25,000 to Bowls England in support of the National Championships, Youth Development, and Disability Bowls England. We have again chosen to donate more than we receive in subscriptions, as our healthy reserves allow us to continue doing so for many years. We firmly believe these funds are better invested back into the sport than sitting in the bank.

Clive Handscombe