

## New Members

I'm delighted to welcome Chris Willies to the club, Chris, who is 26, lives in the village and works for the County Council. He is a prolific short-mat bowler, having won a number of national and regional titles and has represented England for the past eight years. This is his first try at the longer format.

The season might just be about to start but we're still looking for new members, whether they're new to the area, new to bowls or considering changing clubs. If you know anyone who might like to try their hand at the game or move to Woodford from another club, please let me know (01327 261560 or chairman@woodfordbowls.co.uk).

## Gardening

Under the stewardship of Norman and Barbara Langdon, the areas surrounding the green are looking fantastic. If anyone can donate any bedding plants or colourful plants they will be gratefully received and if you're able to give them a hand, you'll be most welcome. The pots are all filled with soil and compost and waiting to be adopted, so dig out some flowers or get the children or grandchildren to fill it for you.

## Karen Hall

As many of you will know Karen fell pregnant towards the end of last season. Unfortunately she lost the baby in the late stages of pregnancy. I have sent Karen and Richard a card expressing our sadness at the news and offering our condolences.

## Ladies Gala — 24th July

We are delighted that Katherine and Peter Nicholl have agreed to donate a trophy for the ladies gala. Our thanks go to them both and also to Sue North who made the approach. The Katherine Nicholls Cup will be competed for on an annual basis.

## Clubhouse Rota

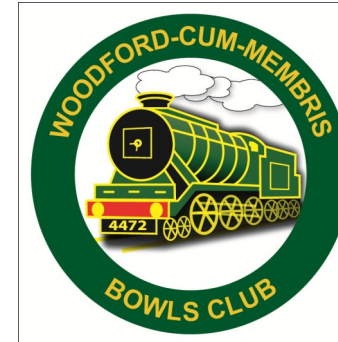
At last November's AGM, it was agreed that we should have a clubhouse rota to ensure that it is kept clean throughout the season. The list is enclosed with this newsletter. If the date you've been allocated is inconvenient, please find another member to swap with and mark it on the sheet in the clubhouse.

## Honours Board

For many seasons I've looked on with jealousy at other club's boards. Now, with her incredible powers of persuasion, Sue Collett has managed to persuade Hartwood Kitchens of Moreton Pinkney to donate a solid piece of oak from which we will craft an honours board. I'm reliably informed that it will be completed before the end of the season.

## Date for your diary...

5th June	Club Open Day	24th July	Ladies Gala
23rd June	Scout's Visit	24th & 25th Sept	Finals Weekend
25th June	Quiz Night	7th Nov	Presentation Dinner
3rd July	President's Day	24th November	Club AGM
17th July	Captain's Day		



# Woodford-cum-Membris Bowls Club

Newsletter

April 2011

[www.woodfordbowls.co.uk](http://www.woodfordbowls.co.uk)

Much has changed at the club since this time last year. The time and money spent on the green is beginning to bear fruit. The thousands of pounds worth of materials given to us by numerous companies are changing and improving the landscape. And Chris has almost finished building his second set of steps.

Again, I want to reiterate that this is your club—we each own a piece of it. Yes, the committee and I make the final decisions but we want the ideas to come from you. If you have something to say about how we can further improve the club, on or off the green, Brian, Linda, Sue, Mike and myself want to hear from you.

On the green, under the leadership of Brian and Sue, I have every confidence that this season will be a successful one. We've lost a few fixtures but gained another two. We've also got a calendar of social events lined up and so here's to a successful season both on and off the green. Most of all let's enjoy it!

### Green Report

Led by Ken Barber, the green team has continued its industrious work on the green and its surrounds and it's starting to pay off. The green is looking lush and where there were previously bare patches, there is now a small covering of new grass. If the current weather continues I'm hopeful that within the next few weeks the entire green will be covered.

I've also received another very generous offer from Dean Broughton, a turfcare specialist who previously worked on our green free of charge. He has offered to visit the club and aerate the green once a month for the remainder of the year. All he has asked for is a donation towards the cost of petrol. I bit his hand off.

### Sponsorship & Donations

During the winter a number of people and companies volunteered their time, advice, services and products to help us get the club and green into shape. The products and services we received total over £15,000. That doesn't include the amount of time people put in. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support and generosity. Without their help, I'm not sure that we'd be bowling this season.

Ken Barber	Dean Broughton	Andy Johnson
Paul Shrimpton	Travis Perkins plc	John Nicholls Ltd
Mark Hammond	Dave 'Bobcat' Martin	Symbio Ltd
Whetherday Nursery	Main Line Timber Ltd	Spotty Button

### Competitions

I'd like to thank two of our longest-standing members, Derek and Gina, for helping Brian and I to make the draw. All competition sheets will be posted on the notice board in due course. In previous years we've always encountered a build-up of matches in August and September, so if we could all plan ahead this year we should be able to avoid any chaos. If for any reason you're unable to play your match by the stated date, please let your opponent and Tom Rigby know as soon as possible. Likewise, if anyone has any questions please ask Tom and he will do his best to blame someone else.

### 200 Club

March's winners were...

£50 John Cook  
£10 Richard Acton  
£10 Linda James  
£10 Liz Hayward

April's winners are...

£50 Richard Acton  
£10 Tony James  
£10 Valerie Moseley  
£10 Margaret Goodwin

There are only a handful of members who've yet to dip their toe into the exciting world of the 200 Club — a vital source of fundraising. If you would like to buy a number in the draw or add another to your collection, please contact Sue and Brian Collett on 01295 760223.

### Tea Rota

This season's tea rota is enclosed. If the date you've been allocated is inconvenient, please find another member to swap with and mark it on the sheet in the clubhouse.

### Social Club Exhibition — 14th May

On Saturday May 14th, the village is holding a historical and photographic exhibition at the Social Club. Local clubs and organisations have also been invited to either display or promote themselves, which gives the club a great opportunity to recruit new members. We'll put together some information and photographs and I'd like four volunteers to help on the day — two from 9am until 11am and two from 11am until 1pm. Any volunteers?

### Car Boot Sale

Sue North has kindly volunteered to run a stall at the next village car boot sale. If you have anything that we can sell to raise funds for the club, please either tell Sue or Tom and we will collect it from you.

### Daventry & District B.C.

Sadly, our friends at Daventry & District B.C. have been forced to close their doors due to dwindling member numbers and a lack of funds. I have contacted the club secretary and offered Woodford as an alternative for its members. We were due to play them on 30th July and 27th August and we are busy trying to arrange alternative fixtures for these dates.

### Quiz — 25th June

I'm hosting another quiz night to raise funds to put towards anything the club might need during the remainder of the year. Last year was a great evening, with over 40 people in attendance. However, only about a third of them were club members. So this year, unless you've got a pretty good excuse, come and enjoy an evening amongst friends, share a few drinks and a fish and chip supper. More details to follow next month.

### Scouts visit

I have arranged for Woodford Halse Scouts Group to visit the club on Thursday 23rd June, from 7.30pm to 9pm. During the evening we'll introduce them to the game and set up some fun tasks. There are 12 Scouts in all, aged between 11 and 18 and they'll be accompanied by two or three leaders. I need three volunteers to help me on the evening. Any volunteers?