



Annual Report 2025/26

President – Margaret Morris

It has been my pleasure to be the President of Banbury Cross Indoor Bowls Club again this season. My thanks go to all of our committee members who work so hard to make the club successful. I am sure you would all agree with me what an amazing job our Chairman Andy does to promote the club and the game of bowls, his commitment is endless, also his dedication to bring on the younger generation of bowlers with his Youth Academy scheme. It is great to see the support of the parents and grandparents when the youngsters are playing.

I would like to thank Julia our club secretary and Ladies Captain for everything she does, that includes her time spent looking after the hub as well. Thanks also go to Terry our Treasurer for looking after our finances, a very important role. Our other committee members include Harry, Richard, Ian and Carol without them all we wouldn't have a club. Thanks also must go to our two safeguarding officers Sarah and Liz for their support.

The leagues have been very popular this year with good attendance, the friendly games have been very successful too with some good wins. Our Charity games have been great fun, some in fancy dress, raising several hundred pounds this season for Katharine House Hospice, thanks go to everyone for their support and generosity.

Last but not least we must not forget Betty's Roll ups which take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, thanks go to Tony and Pauline Smith for their dedication in running these sessions.

Congratulations must go to all members who have participated in the competitions this season, well done to all the winners and the runner's up, we have seen some excellent bowling.

A final thank you must go to all members that have helped in the running of the hub and helping with the junior bowlers. We look forward to seeing you all again next season when we hope to have a new carpet fitted.

Committee Chair – Andy Winter

If you've ever held the tiller of a boat you will know how easy it is to drift a degree or two off course. (I imagine it is the same principle for those who fly.) There is a need for a hand on the tiller at all times to keep a check on direction and to call for the adjustments as needed. The same principle works its way into the life of any group that sets out to achieve goals of one sort or another, it is all too easy to get bogged down in the minutia of the day to day challenges and forget to look up and check that you are all still heading in the same direction. Our development plan has served us well and you'll have seen small changes and developments again during this year that are signs of us maintaining a focus and holding our direction. Our end of season review will take place with the new committee in a couple of weeks time and work over the summer months will hopefully make any adjustments needed to get us back on track and ready for a new season in September.

One of the signs of a healthy organisation is its ability to draw in new people. It is fabulous that Sarah and Liz joined us our joint Safeguarding Officers. Another sign is that of being open and ready to take on new ideas and regenerate itself at regular intervals. It is for that reason that if re elected this year I want to let you know that it will be my last year as Chair of the Committee. This is necessary to create new leadership, to provide regeneration, and to keep us moving in the right direction with new social, league, and competition formats, and refreshed approaches to the recruitment and retention of members. It will also create a bit more space for the development of the Youth Academy and the Area Youth League which I hope will begin to take shape over this summer.

Thank you to our Committee for their tenacious work over the last year – there is much that goes on behind the scenes that doesn't get drawn into the light but which is very necessary to keep the wheels of our club turning smoothly. And thank you to all those whose generosity of spirit, time and money, has helped us to keep up with the expectations that we each have of a good place to meet together, a good place to compete together at whatever level is appropriate, and a good place to welcome in and nurture new bowlers.

Club Secretary / Club Captain– Julia Lambert

Firstly a big thank you to my fellow committee members for all the support they have given over the last year. It makes this role so much easier when you are part of a cohesive team.

Sadly, this year we lost Greyfriars as a friendly. However, we were able to form a new relationship with Daventry which we hope to take forward in coming years. Also as we had a full calendar we were unable to hold our friendly with the Fire Service but I have been assured we can fix a game with them early at the start of next season.

We had a total of 18 Friendly's this season with only Slade missing a scheduled fixture to us. This was due to them being unable to field a team.

I am pleased to say that the names put forward for each friendly has been excellent – thank you all for your support - moreover our Junior players Ethan and Mason have really put their best foot forward and have volunteered for nearly every friendly and to Ted, Elise, and George who have also played. Well done, you are our future and we hope you continue to enjoy playing with us.

I'm pleased to see that the Hub remained open for most of the season. Thank you to all the volunteers that have stepped up to help. There is nothing like a nice cuppa after two hours of bowling.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer season for those who bowl outdoors. I'll probably see you all on the greens at some point.

Treasurer – Terry Humphreys

See separate document with Annual Accounts

Marketing Officer – Harry Barrett

Objective: Build on the strengths achieved in 2024/25 whilst researching other opportunities to:

- Improve the perception of the club both internally and externally.
- Investigate new ways of using Multimedia more within the club.
- Improve ways of communicating to both members and the wider community, club activities, events and achievements.

Progress to Date:

- **Pre-Opening:** Six weeks leading up to the start of the new season we launched our branded advertising campaign aimed at the community and villages within North Oxfordshire. Posters were sited in major Supermarkets, Post Offices, Train Station and Doctors, along with a 1k door to door leaflet drop. We also obtained free advertising support from "Read it" (Banbury Free Magazine) that enabled us to promote this season's opening of the club to a wider audience.
- **External Advertising:** We filed for planning permission at the beginning of the summer for an external notice board, to be sited facing the roundabout. This was finally granted, and the notice board was erected in October 2025.
- **Club Dress:** Thank you to everyone who have migrated to the new Kit. Just over 70% of members are now wearing it. This has made a significant improvement to ambiance and perception of the club.

- **Multimedia:** All sports (when using multimedia) are seeing a significant growth in membership. 3-5 years ago, websites would have been the main go to tool for promoting sports clubs, and we are no exception, as you can see from the following.

Bowlers Newsletter in 2024 = 166 and 2025 = 170

Facebook Followers in 2023 = 247, 2024 = 653, and 2025 = 707.

Website Daily Visits in 2023 = 127, 2024 = 349 and 2025 = 190

Many thanks to the Committee for their support, and particularly Carol Rycraft, who has spent many hours helping me behind the scenes.

League Secretary – Richard Boscott

This year's leagues have had a better completion of games than 2024/2025 season but fewer leagues were organized. There were no evening leagues other than Wednesday Sapphire and Banbury Super League (BSL)

We will be sending emails out soon for signing up for next years leagues please look out for this. I would like to thank Andy Winter for work that he has been doing behind the scenes, with Woodgreen and the youth section.

Competition Secretary – Richard Boscott

This was my first year running the competitions and has been stressful to run, with people dropping out, not turning up, and games being re arranged from the date fixed, and reminding people that they are playing to name but a few. Trying to find replacements, often at the last minute, has also been a hassle. A total of 14 subs used have been used from the published names, some for genuine reasons, but please consider if you can play before entering next year.

Diamond League – Ian Jackman

A big thank you to all 55 Club players who contributed to the playing of the 2025/26 Diamond League which became a very close run thing right up until the final end of the final Round 11. 2 shots made the difference!

Congratulations to "the Shadows" who pulled off the League win, and commiserations to "The Beatles" who were very close on their heels.

This year the original 36 team players became 38 when 2 reserves were called in to replace team members who retired from their teams early. I commend the support of a further 11 regular reserves who were called upon to cover for players who were either away or unable to play on the day - without your support the League would not be able to function.

Overall, it was another great season and it is your spirit, effort, and commitment that makes Banbury Cross Indoor Bowls Club what it is!

I hope that you will all join us again next season to create another successful Saturday morning Diamond League.

Highlights:

Seeing 2 of our younger Club bowlers Mason and Ethan participate regularly in the Diamond League. A bright future beckons!

The excitement of the final ends of two matches in the final Round of the Diamond League - just 2 shots made all the difference between the winners and second spot!

The joy, camaraderie, and competitiveness in sharing the green on Saturday mornings with fellow Club members. You are the Club - and the Club is you.

Committee Member – Carol Rycraft

Have had many meetings with Harry and have been playing a key part in the editorial of newsletter and website, both of which have seen an increase in subscribers and visitors, resulting in the club being promoted further afield.

Responsible for ordering club shirts etc. for those members who seem to have difficulty in ordering for themselves.

Also, communication with members with any suggestions etc. and feedback to the Committee when necessary.

This season, along with Margaret, was pleased to be able to help in food shopping for our Christmas Fancy Dress game which again was a great success.

Key Highlights of the Season

The vast improvement of the young players who have been included in many of our games this season.

Lots more spectators. The new seating makes it more comfortable.

The fancy dress games seem to be very popular and good fun.

The Edd Frost Gala.

Lots more members wearing our club shirts.

Banbury Youth Bowls Academy – Andy Winter

The Banbury Youth Bowls Academy has continued to develop its work in this third season of bowling indoors. We have remained a with 6 regular players and all of our young bowlers have participated in either or both of club friendlies and charity matches, growing in confidence, ability and resilience as they discover the finer arts and sometimes harsher reality of playing with adults. However, their progress is considerable and we are pleased that 4 new players have recently joined the academy as a consequence of our work with local schools and there are others in

the pipeline. We have also had contact with Brackley Youth Bowls Academy and the prospect of a regular Saturday Youth League for next season is being explored.

The North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership has continued its considerable and appreciated support of the Youth Academy and the persistence is now having the effect that local schools are requesting that bowls be a part of their regular programme. We have also enabled an after school programme to take place with Bloxham School over the winter and we hope will lead to a sustained programme with Bloxham Bowls Club outdoors over the summer.

Thanks are due to many of you – around 16 have worked with the schools programme - and there has been a regular team of 6 who have supported and enabled the work with the Academy.

Thank you to all those who have supported this work, it is great for the sport, it is great for young people, and it is great for the community.

2025/26 League Winners

Monday 10am Triples

Mick Morris

Monday 2pm Australian Pairs

Carol Rycraft

Wednesday 10am Triples

Mick Morris

Wednesday 6pm Sapphire League

Delia Crouse, Dawn Hewitt, Martin Hirons

Wednesday 6pm Super League

The Lynx

Bob Brown, Phil Gladden, Martin Hirons

Friday 10am Australian Pairs

Mick Morris

Saturday 10am Diamond League

The Shadows

Linda Coles, Phil Gladden, Graham Tilbury

2025/26 Competition Winners

Ladies Singles

Dawn Hewitt

Ladies Singles – Never won

Tina Piotowski

Ladies Pairs

Eloise Jones

Jackie Humphreys

Ladies Triples

June Bone

Jackie Humphreys

Tina Piotrowski

Men's Singles

Craig Redmond

Men's Singles – Never won

Craig Redmond

Men's Pairs

Craig Redmond

Dave Varney

Men's Triples

No result

Men's Fours

Bob Brown

Phil Gladden

Terry Humphreys

Ian Jackman

Over 60's Open Singles

Craig Redmond

Mixed Pairs

Eloise Jones

Craig Redmond

Mixed Triples

Chick Boyd

Dawn Hewitt

Pat Riley

Mixed 4's

Ian Jackman

Eloise Jones

John Pardoe

Brian Ray