

Report from Sally Daniells, Chairperson of the Henley-on-Thames Bowling Club.

I would like to take this opportunity to promote the Club which, for those of you who are new to this lovely town, is situated on the river in the Leichlingen Pavilion in Mill Meadows. We think we have the best positioned green in the county because, whichever way you look, you have a fantastic view of the river, its surrounds and the passengers on the passing paddle steamers always find time to give us wave. We recently had the hedges lowered and we now have a great view of the bandstand and we also have new double gates which were donated by the Town Council. We have tidied up the side gate near the footpath so people get a better view of the green as they pass by. However, we do like to encourage the public to come in and sit in the garden and watch us play and, if we have time, have a chat.

The coronavirus pandemic delayed the start of last season's bowling, so we didn't get on the green until the May Spring bank holiday but once started, we had a busy bowling schedule albeit slightly constrained by having to sanitize all our equipment and maintain social distancing. We didn't have any matches against other Clubs but we are extremely hopeful that this season will see us back to normal, certainly by mid-June.

At the end of last season, the Town Council re-laid the paving round the Pavilion and moved the street lamp to a better position to give us more room in our car park. Taken together with all the hard work the Park Services staff have done over the winter to keep hedges and trees in order, the area around the Pavilion is looking very smart and we are very grateful for the hard work they do.

We have more than 80 playing and social members and last season saw us attract 7 new bowlers and convert 1 social bowler to playing. Even before this season starts, we have attracted 5 new players which is very encouraging but we are always looking for more so, do come along and have a free lesson and see if it's the sport for you. It's good healthy exercise played outdoors in the fresh air and, it doesn't put too much strain on the body. We are looking to attract players of all ages from teens upwards. We play against other clubs in a couple of leagues and we also have many friendly games so, whether you are the competitive type or not, we have something to suit all.

During the non-bowling season, October to March, we still have plenty of activities although the pandemic curbed that this year. We would normally have the occasional Quiz, a Jazz evening, an end of season Awards Dinner, weekly Art Classes, weekly Whist games, Christmas Lunch, New Year and Easter Walks (followed by a light lunch in the clubhouse) and so on. All-in-all, we are a friendly club with plenty of opportunity to play a lot, socialise a lot or both, whatever suits.

If you think you might be interested in joining or fancy having a lesson or two, contact us through our website at <https://henleybowlingclub.wixsite.com/home>.

Thank You