



Newsletter 08/26

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August Diary

	Club Fixtures/Events	
Aug 1 st	Friendly v Begbroke	Home 2:30pm
Aug 2 nd	OMTL v Banbury Central	Home 2:30pm
Aug 3 rd	Club night – Roll-up	6:30pm – 10pm
Aug 4 th	Friendly v Filkins	Away 6:15pm
Aug 7 th	Social evening	From 6:30pm
Aug 8 th	Friendly v Supermarine	Away 2:30pm
Aug 9 th	Friendly v Amersham	Home 2:00pm
Aug 10 th	Club night – Roll-up	6:30pm – 10pm
Aug 11 th	Friendly v Witney Town	Away 6:30pm
Aug 13 th	Men's League Cup – Chipping Norton	Away 6:15pm
Aug 13 th	Hockey Club AGM	7pm – 8:30pm
Aug 14 th	OMTL v Chipping Norton	Away 6:15pm
Aug 14 th	Social evening	From 6:30pm
Aug 16 th	Friendly v Shrivenham	Away 2:30pm
Aug 17 th	Club night – Roll-up	6:30pm – 10pm
Aug 20 th	Art Class Summer Workshop	10am – 5pm
Aug 21 st	Social evening	From 6:30pm
Aug 24 th	Club night – Roll-up	6:30pm – 10pm
Aug 25 th	OMTL v West Witney	Home 6:15pm
Aug 27 th	Men's League Cup – Semifinal	
Aug 28 th	Club night – Roll-up	6:30pm – 10pm
Aug 29 th	Preparation for Gala	10am – 5pm
Aug 29 th	Friendly v Headington	Away 2:30pm
Aug 30 th	GALA	All Day
Aug 30 th	Club night – Roll-up	6:30pm – 10pm

Men's League Oxfordshire Mixed League Friendlies Internal Club Competition OSMBA League

Congratulations to Burford Town Men's League team who gained promotion to Division 1.

Tables & results for - Division 2 - 30-Jul 2026								
Team	Games				Shots			Total Points
	played	won	drawn	lost	for	against	diffce	
South Oxford	10	7	0	3	743	606	137	38
Burford	10	8	0	2	682	624	58	38
West Witney	10	6	0	4	658	632	26	34
Witney Mills	10	5	0	5	643	614	29	31
Carterton B	10	3	0	7	612	735	-123	22
Banbury Borough	10	1	0	9	580	707	-127	17

Needing two points to be sure of promotion at the game at Carterton, where we are never very successful, proved to be a very tight affair. With hindsight it would have been nice to have gained a half a point from somewhere to be promoted as champions.

On being promoted from division three last year our aspirations were to be able to survive in this league but what we have achieved, given the club's membership, has been quite remarkable.

From the Bowls Oxfordshire archives our history in the Men's league is as follows :-

I think we entered the league in 2018 or 2019 then no league 2020 due to pandemic.

2021 Promoted to division three with Banbury Borough.

2022 Relegated to division four with Banbury Central B

2023 Promoted as champions to division three with Banbury Central B.

2024 Finished fourth in division three.

2025 Promoted as champions to division two with Carterton B.

2026 Promoted as runner-up to division one with South Oxford.

Everyone involved with Burford Town Bowls Club should feel very proud of the club's outstanding season and enjoy the kudos that comes from these achievements you belong to a County Division one club.

Burford v Witney Mills

At Burford 2nd July 202

Burford		shots	points	Witney Mills		shots	points
R2	B. Parker	21	1	L. Day	7	0	
R3	T. Stacey	22	1	K. Siford	16	0	
R4	T. Wilkins	12	0	C. Weller	16	1	
R5	J. Lafford	13	0.5	A. Wiggins	13	0.5	
	Aggregate		2	Aggregate		0	
	TOTAL	68	4.5	TOTAL	54		

Burford had a fine win against the team leading at the end of the first half of the season, namely Witney Mills. The result was 68-54 and 4½ -1½ points to Burford. Bob Parker had the best rink score (21-9) against Miller Les Day. However, there were two really good come-backs, notably involving Jack Lafford's team, who were 13-4 down after 11 ends and won all the remaining ends to achieve a draw 13-13. In comparison, Tim Wilkin's team were winning 10-4 after 10 ends, but Chris Weller's team found an extra gear to complete a 16-12 rink win and gained a valuable point. Meanwhile South Oxford, made their intentions clear by winning 6-0 against Banbury Borough. The highest winning margin was attained by Richard Green's team of 11 shots, but all other rinks secured wins, as the club move to the lead position in the league. The surprise in the division was a 64-58 win by Carterton B against struggling West Witney, securing 4 points in the process. The highest winning rink for the Carterton side was D. Pilcher beating Andy McIntyre's team by 22-12. John Hurren.

Burford v West Witney

At Burford 9th July 2026

Burford		shots	points	West Witney		shots	points
R1	J. Lafford	16	1	K. Alder	13	0	
R2	J. Hurren	7	0	M. Shephard	22	1	
R3	T. Stacey	13	0	A. McIntyre	16	1	
R4	B. Parker	21	1	D. Leighfield	12	0	
	Aggregate		0	Aggregate		2	
	TOTAL	57	2	TOTAL	63	4	

Leaders South Oxford ploughed on and retained the top spot after beating Witney Mills 66-52. Chris Weller's rink scored their only point against Neil Whiting's team. South's other rinks had solid wins and Richard Green had the best win beating Les Days' team by 9 shots. Burford failed to close the gap by losing to local rivals West Witney. The margin was only 6 shots, but that was enough to gain the extra two points. Martin Shepherd had a strong win 22-07 over a tired looking Burford team, skipped by John Hurren. Jack Lafford and co, dug deep to finish 16 – 13 to beat Kevin Alder and Bob Parker had a strong win against a team skipped by Dave Leighfield. The third game was between Carterton B and Banbury Borough and the Carterton lads won by 72-61, gaining 5 points, to back up their recent form. C. Steffans had the best win (24-11) for Carterton, while T. Cooper won the only point for the Borough. John Hurren.

Burford v South Oxford

At Oxford 16th July 2026

	Burford	shots	points	South Oxford	shots	points
R1	J. Lafford	15	1	K. Mobley	13	0
R2	B. Parker	17	0	N. Whiting	25	1
R3	J. Hurren	20	1	D. Tidball	15	0
R4	S. Gould	16	1	R. Green	13	0
	Aggregate		2	Aggregate		0
	TOTAL	68	5	TOTAL	66	1

Division 2 leaders, South Oxford played host to second placed Burford and this proved a very tight match on all rinks. Burford's Bob Parker and his team were 11-11 after 8 ends, but Neil Whiting's team surged ahead for a 25-17 win after a strong second half. Burford won the other three rinks by relatively small margins and there was a lot of interest in the final game to finish, as overall Burford were only one shot ahead of their opponents with one end to play. South Oxford took the lead until new bowler Dave Lewis produced an accurate draw to take the jack back slightly. Later players effectively blocked the routes to take this shot out, but Burford were delighted to retain this lead to win another shot and overall victory by 5 -1 points.

Witney Mills reminded the top two teams that they were still in the promotion race by beating Carton B by 67-58 shots and 5 points. Darren Wakeman's rink took the only point for Carterton beating Chris Weller by 19-21. All other rinks were close, but the Millers won all three to close the gap on the top two teams.

West Witney secured the other win in the division by beating luckless Banbury Borough 66-57, taking 4 of the points. Dave Leighfield and Andy McIntyre both won with 21 shots against their opponents, with John Brooks and T. Cooper taking a point each from their Witney opponents. The latter had a late scare as Shep found a 4-shot advantage on the last end. The win for West witney should help to retain a place in the second division next year. John Hurren.

Burford v Carterton "B"

At Carterton 30th July 2026

	Burford	shots	points	Carterton "B"	shots	points
R1	J. Hurren	18	1	D. Wakeman	12	0
R2	J. Lafford	13	0.5	C. Steffens	13	0.5
R3	S. Gould	18	0	D. Pitcher	19	1
R4	T. Wilkins	14	0	D. Surman	16	1
	Aggregate		2	Aggregate		0
	TOTAL	63	3.5	TOTAL	60	2.5

Leaders South Oxford lost to West Witney 4-2 with both Andy McIntyre and Martin Shepherd picking up good wins for the home team. Only Neil Whiting for South Oxford managed a creditable win to keep their hopes of winning the division, with Dave Tidball closing a tight game to win by 1 shot at the last end.

Burford struggled at Carterton and all 4 rinks were close contests. Burford's only rink win was skipped by John Hurren, with Jack Lafford scraping a ½ point at the death. However, a 3 shot difference in the totals ensured they won 3½ - 2½ overall. As a result, both South Oxford and Burford will be promoted next season and South Oxford won the league courtesy of a better shot difference. Congratulations to both.

Banbury Borough won their only game this season against Witney Mills by one shot only. John Brooks and his team secured the small advantage by winning their rink 20-7. Kevin Siford and Chris Weller won their rinks for the Millers, but there would have been some head scratching at the end of the day. John Hurren.

Oxfordshire Mixed Triples League 2026					Updated 28/07/26			
Division 1								
Team	Games				Shots			Total Points
	played	won	drawn	lost	for	against	diffce	
West Witney	4	4	0	0	313	210	103	39
Banbury Chestnuts	6	3	0	3	368	338	30	36
Burford	4	3	0	1	296	235	61	35
Hanborough	5	2	0	3	319	326	-7	30
Chipping Norton	3	3	0	0	215	189	26	26
Witney Town Panthers	4	2	0	2	251	259	-8	22
Banbury Central	4	0	0	4	227	298	-71	11
Bloxham	4	0	0	4	171	305	-134	5

Burford v Hanborough

At Burford 7th July 2026

Burford		shots	points	Hanborough		shots	points
R1	Bob Parker	21	2	Pauline		16	0
R2	Jack Lafford	9	0	Jackie		19	2
R3	Michael Papermichael	18	2	Alan		17	0
R4	Steve Gould	22	2	Graham		10	0
	Aggregate		6	Aggregate			0
	TOTAL	70	10	TOTAL		62	2

Three shots dropped on the third end gave Hanborough a 3-2 lead on Rink1 but then Bob's triple scored ten shots on the next five ends for the score to be 12-3 but then dropped five shots on the 9th end. Nine shots to eight in the second half gave a final result of 21-16. Jack's triple did not score until the 5th end by which time their opposition had scored six shots. Unfortunately this trend continued and they only scored eight shots whilst conceding thirteen and ended up 9-19 down. A very good recovery on Rink3 saw Micael move from being 4-10 behind at the 10th end to being 16-13 up at the 14th end. Two shots each at the 15th and 16th ends put the scores at 18-15 and by managing to keep the loss to two shots on the last two ends Michael's triple came out 18-17 winners. By scoring seven shots before a reply Steve Gould on Rink4 were 7-2 up at the 4th end and then scored six shots on the next four ends. Even dropping one shot on each of the next three ends Steve's triple then scored nine shots to five over the concluding ends and finished victors at 22-10 and claimed the pens.

Burford v Wychwoodat Wychwood 14th July 2026

Burford		shots	Wychwood	shots
R1	Tim W	15	Bob	11
R2	Steve G	19	John	11
R3	Jack	17	Peter	13
13	John H	10	Pete R	21
R5				
	Total	61	Total	56

Burford v Malmesburyat Burford 19th July 2026

Burford		shots	Malmesbury	shots
R1	Jack L	16	Rob L	12
R2	Steve G	22	Roy	9
R3	Trevor W	23	Graham M	10
R4	Jeff B	11	Bob St	23
R5	Michael P	11	Tony	18
	Total	83	Total	72

Burford v Charlburyat Charlbury 24th July 2026

Burford		shots	Charlbury	shots
R1	Tracey	9	Cynthia	16
R2	Ted W	21	Eddie	10
R3	Ian	14	Clive	20
R4				
R5				
	Total	44	Total	46

Burford v Woodstockat Woodstock 26th July 2026

Burford		shots	Woodstock	shots
R1	Steve G	18	Barbara	19
R2	Michael	18	Brian	18
R3	Jack	18	Cilla	14
R4	Jeff	13	Rob	18
R5				
	Total	67	Total	69

Witney Town Monday Triples League.

Witney Town Monday Open Triples 2026								
Team	Games				Shots			Total Points
	played	won	drawn	lost	for	against	diff.	
Cruisers	11	8	0	3	194	155	39	18
Meercats	10	7	1	2	163	140	23	15
Wickers & Glancers	10	7	0	3	186	125	61	14
Cee Bees	11	7	0	4	182	167	15	14
Burford Lions	9	6	0	3	190	111	79	12
Try Again	10	6	0	4	199	130	69	12
Loose ends	11	5	2	4	182	160	22	12
Dark side of the Loom	10	6	0	4	171	158	13	12
Bobbins	11	5	1	5	176	194	-18	11
Olivers Army	10	5	0	5	200	137	63	10
Rebels	10	4	1	5	181	158	3	9
Breakaways	11	4	0	7	165	214	-49	8
Jammy Dodgers	10	3	0	7	137	194	-57	6
Tail Enders	10	2	1	7	133	184	-51	5
The Millers	9	2	0	7	108	199	-91	4
Buttercrosses	11	2	0	9	132	253	-121	4

Tough month of fixtures against three of the top teams in the league in which we beat Wickers and Glancers, Rebels and Cee Bees but lost to Cruisers by one shot which places us in 5th place but in a favourable position with our games in hand. Second is a possibility if we can win our remaining games and assume others above us in the league do likewise.

Allan Tuckwell Memorial Trophy 5th July.

Congratulations to Jess Bolton and Jeff Bizzell in winning the inaugural Allan Tuckwell Memorial Trophy by defeating Tracey Godfrey and Steve Gould in the final.



The trophy was presented by Jo Rushton, Allan's daughter, and Pat Tuckwell, Allan's brother, with Cotswold Care Home sponsoring the day.

Percy Cook Trophy 11th July.

Congratulations to Jack Lafford and Jeff Bizzell on winning this year's Percy Cook trophy having beaten last year's winners Darren and Trevor Wakeman in the final.



Jess Bolton (comps secretary), David Mann (Percy's great grandson) Jack, Jeff and John Mann (who was married to Percy's granddaughter).

We were delighted to have found relatives of Percy Cook who attended to make the presentation and they expressed their family's appreciation that the trophy is still a well-supported part of the club's fixture calendar.

Burford Town Council Award.



Dave Lewis kindly sent me a couple of photos from the Mayor's Award evening where Pat Walker and Doreen Dowley collected the club's Community Award.



Bert Clough, Pat Walker, Doreen Dowley and Ted Walker representing the club at the Mayor's Award Evening.



Pat and Doreen with the award.

2026-2027 OSMBA and Club Short Mat.

Those who have expressed an interest in playing in this winter's West Oxon league have been registered with the league.

Next month there will be a sheet on the noticeboard inviting those interested in playing in the club's short mat pairs on Mondays and/or short mat triples on Fridays.

Hosting county matches.

We played host to the Men's County game against Wiltshire on Tuesday 28th. Below is a match report given by Alex Fleming. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day such a success and we have verbally been assured that we will be invited to host a County game again next year.

BO Men v Bowls Wiltshire (friendly) at Burford B C on Tuesday, 28 July 2026

Oxfordshire hosted Wiltshire at Burford Town Bowls Club, looking for a 5th successive win. All the rinks found the green tricky, a lot are with the dry weather we have had.

On rink one, in a game that could have gone either way, Bernie May, Martin Heath, Simon Hastings and Alex Fleming, thanks to good bowling from Martin, we just about did enough to win 14-10. Rink two was close as well Nick Baldwin, Bob Wright, Tony Lynch and Brian Bloomfield were all square after 16 ends but dropped two 1's to lose 15-13. Every time I looked, Nick's orange woods were on the jack.

On rink three, the impressive Dale Thorne, President Alan Scholan, Brian Clarke, who had a good game, and newbie Chris Weller won the pens with a 26-11 win. Former Middleton cup player Chris found the big step up to the midweek side a struggle early on, but had a good second half and probably did enough to get selected again.

Rink four was an interesting game, Roger Oliver, Richard Morris, Mick Morris and Les Days were level after 12 ends, picked up a 5 on the 13th, 1 on the 14th, then dropped 7 shots on the next 3, but picked a 2 on the last end to win 17-16. Mike Jones, Keith Dunsby, Richard Green and Tim Jupp all played well as a rink to win 19-12.

Paul Robbins, Mickey Conrad-Banks, John Hurren and Keith Buckle, who has been in outstanding form for the County, struggled throughout and lost 16-8.

The final score was Oxfordshire 97, Wiltshire 80. But the real winner of the day was Brenda and her kitchen team who put on a wonderful meal which was a credit to the club.

During the after-match speeches President Alan Scholan presented County Secretary Chris Weller with his colt's badge.

Alex Fleming



Thames Water.

Finally got there!!!!

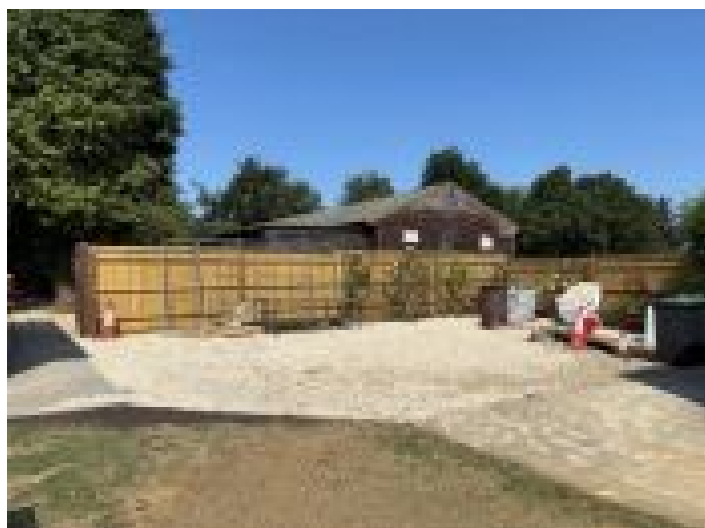
After what was quite a few tortuous weeks Thames Water finally connected the club to the correct water main, achieving in one week that which had taken fourteen weeks previously. Having waited fourteen weeks for the closure of Tanners Lane to be arranged and for Thames Water to get their gangs in place they were, once their error in connection had been admitted, able to make the road closure compliant and have gangs in place such that the work was done within five days!!!

We now have 2.5 bar pressure at the meter which enables a much more efficient irrigation of the green. With two watering tractors we are now able to cover the green in two days, compared to about a week for the same coverage on the old water feed.

Whilst the whole exercise of making this new water connection has been quite a challenge I have to say that we were fortunate in having a Thames Water team leader who, once Thames Water accepted their error, could not be faulted in that which he achieved on our behalf in such a short time.



Work around the club.

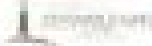


The tidying up around the club continues with the flint now joining the car park to the new entrance and the gravel outside the containers being levelled. The upstand water taps are enclosed in a boxing that will be Celotex cladded inside and they will provide storage for the hose stands, hoses and water tractors over the winter. Please be aware that there will be areas both of these sites that will be seeded so if you could avoid walking on these areas it would be appreciated.

Fund raising.

In order to make the best use of the much-improved irrigation supply, and to further improve the green, we require a mechanised aerator to punch holes into the grass to encourage new growth whilst improving the soil condition. The current hand operated spiked rollers can only penetrate about 1.5 inches when, for stronger root growth and overall turf condition, the penetration should ideally be around 4 inches. The time taken to aerate the green, using our current hand operated equipment is between 2.5 and 5.5 hours and not to a depth that is effective. The proposed equipment will achieve the required depth and in a time of two hours with a greatly reduced physical effort.

To which end we will be asking you to sell raffle tickets to raise money to fund the purchase of this equipment. Each member will be given ten books of five tickets to be sold at £1 each.

Name..... Phone..... Email.....	Burford Town Bowls Club Promoted by Jeff Bizzell, BFA, Treasurer since 2015 to 2020 Raising money for maintenance equipment Draw to be made 20th September 2021 At Burford Town Bowls Club Tickets £1 each Prize money £200, £150, £100 Plus numerous other prizes Printing cost kindly sponsored by  Forest Green, Burford, OX18 4PP, 01993 222608 Licensed with Burford Bowls & Tennis Council in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 - Small Society Lottery regulations (Small Society Lottery Registration Number: 152407716208)
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Cotswold Gate Care Home have very kindly sponsored the cost of printing these tickets and we have been very busy arranging with local establishments some very attractive prizes so please try to sell your allocation of tickets. One of the conditions of the gaming licence is that the tickets cannot be sold by accosting people on the street.

There will be a poster displaying the prizes but at present we have, as well as the cash prizes, Artwork from the Art Class tutor, Pen sketches of Burford by Henry Trafford, Framed watercolour of Burford High Street, Diddy Squat hamper, Annual Family pass for Blenheim Palace, Cotswold Wild Life Park pass, Afternoon tea for two at Huffkins, £20 gift card from Burford Garden Company, £25 voucher from A. K. Timms and several vouchers for meals at local restaurants and we are still working on additional prizes.

By fund raising the club is able to finance, in this case, equipment without drawing on the club's financial resources nor raising the money by increasing your membership fees. Burford Town Bowls Club enjoys one of the lowest annual membership fees within the Oxfordshire Bowls fraternity and we ask that you make every effort to sell your allocation of raffle tickets.

And finally.

Pat Walker will be going in for surgery on 14th August, hopefully playing again in the short mat season.

Tim Stacey's half-knee replacement went well and Tim is doing all of the exercises but already fed up sitting around so I expect we will see him up at the club soon.

Philip Slaymaker's wife, Fiona, underwent spinal surgery in early July and cannot be left for any long periods. As such, during the next twelve weeks or so, Philip will be absent from the club looking after Fiona. We all wish her well in her recovery and look forward to seeing Philip back at the club.