MONTHLY BULLETIN

AUGUST '25





*LADIES' CAPTAIN SEALS VICTORY-CROWNED DEVON SECTION 1 LADIES OVER 55 SINGLES CHAMPION *

> * PROMOTION FOR B-TEAM AS THEY TOP DIVISION 4! *

* A-TEAM MISS OUT NARROWLY ON PROMOTION STATUS *

* OUR CLUB MOURNS THE PASSING OF TWO OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN SPORT *

* LADIES TRIPLE LEAGUE TEAM
CONTINUE TO PICK UP POINTS
AS SEASON REACHES IT'S CLIMAX *

* OUR CAPTAIN TAKES TIME OUT OF HIS BUSY SCHEDULE TO FACE OUR NEW ITEM '20 QUESTIONS *

* OUR PHOTO BOARD HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE WITH AN ARRAY OF MEMBERS' CARICATURES -A VERY POSITIVE UPTAKE FROM MEMBERS KEEN TO ACQUIRE COPIES *



Hello and Welcome to the AUGUST EDITION of the Bulletin.

Only 1 month left of the outdoor season.

Make the most of it!

There is only one place to start this month and that is with the tremendous achievement of our Ladies Captain, Maria.

Maria is the new Devon Section 1, Ladies Over 55s Single Champion.

The whole Club is very proud of Maria.

Devon Section 1 contains all of the North Devon clubs.

This is a great achievement from someone from our village.



It was a pleasure to welcome **Witney Mills Bowling Club** on their tour of North Devon. A very enjoyable day was had by all. Thank you to all who helped on the day.

By the time you read this, the **Internal Competitions Semi-Finals** will have taken place.

We will know all of the finalists.

Congratulations to those that have reached the finals.

Thank you to all that entered this year's competitions.

I hope you enjoyed playing in them regardless of results.

A reminder that the Club Finals days are Sunday 7th and Saturday 13th September.

Dress code Whites.



There has been a very positive response to the Club doing a bowls tour next year! Plans are now taking place for a visit to **Weymouth in September 2026.**

Enjoy your bowls Paul



MEN'S TRIPLES VENEU



DIVISION 4 CHAMPIONS!



A HUGE THANK YOU to every single member of our B TEAM for their incredible efforts this Season. With a small but determined band of men, you have once again excelled yourselves, showing grit, skill, and unwavering team spirit.

Your dedication on and off the green has secured not only the Division 4 League Title, but also promotion yet again - a remarkable achievement!

WELL DONE - you've done the CLUB proud! 6 8



ONWARD & UPWARD!



MENTS TRIPLES LENGUE

What an exciting end to the season!

With one game to play there were only 2 points between 4 teams.

Despite winning our last match, we were unable to secure enough points to gain promotion. We finished **3rd in the League**.

Many congratulations to the **B-TEAM** who not only gained promotion but they became the **DIVISION 4 CHAMPIONS** .

Well done and good luck for next year.

Final LEAGUE TABLES can be viewed on our website when they become available.

Thank you to all the **A-TEAM** for their efforts during the season.

Those very close losses made the difference!



DEVON SECTION 1 LADIES OVER 55 SINGLES CHAMPION



Maria is the new **Devon Section 1, Ladies Over 55s Single Champion**. The whole Club is very proud of Maria.

Devon Section 1 contains all of the North Devon clubs. This is a great achievement from someone from our village.





In Loving Memory of Mike Corner

It is with deep sadness that the members of Combe Martin Bowling Club announce the passing of our dear friend and fellow bowler, Mike Corner, who left us recently after a short illness.

Mike was the kind of man every club is lucky to have – always ready with a smile, always willing to lend a hand, and always there when needed. Whether it was helping with work on the bowling green, stepping in when the team was short of players, or simply offering a friendly word of encouragement or advice, Mike gave of himself freely and wholeheartedly.

His affable nature and quiet generosity earned him the respect and affection of everyone who knew him.

Beyond the bowls green, Mike was a devoted husband to Kay and a proud father to his daughters, Jo and Mel and to his son Jason. Our thoughts and heartfelt sympathies are with them at this difficult time.

Mike will be remembered not only as a loyal clubman but also as a true gentleman, whose presence brightened every occasion. He will be deeply missed by all his fellow bowlers at CMBC, and his legacy of kindness and generosity of spirit will live long in our memories.

'Upon the green your footsteps fade, But in our hearts you've gently stayed. A friend,a smile, a helping hand, Forever missed by all who stand.'

MIKE CORNER



In Loving Memory of June Kirby

It is with deep sadness that Combe Martin Bowling Club announces the passing of our dear friend and past member, June, who sadly left us in July.

June was an exceptional sportswoman, proud to have achieved her County Badged status. She brought her skill, passion, and sportsmanship to every game she played. Over the years, she held the position of Ladies' Captain on six occasions and served as a Past President of the Club, leading with grace and dedication.

Her commitment to Combe Martin Bowling Club went far beyond her time on the green.

Whether it was supporting fellow bowlers with encouragement and guidance, or running the bar alongside her late husband, June gave freely of her time and energy, always with kindness and generosity at heart.

June's presence enriched the life of our Club and the many friendships she made here will never be forgotten. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and warmest thoughts to her family at this difficult time.

> 'And who can tell? Beyond our view There lies a green, forever new-Where every end is fair and long And every voice is joined in song '

JUNE KERBY



LADY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Although we have but a few weeks of the Season remaining (40 days from this point of writing!), we are already looking forward with excited anticipation to next year and the challenges that a new Season will bring.

Hopefully our new Lady members will be up to speed and full of zeal next year, and we look forward to them stepping up and bolstering our numbers in every capacity.

This will give us the opportunity to form 2 individual Ladies League teams as is with the men and permit us to be much more competitive right across the board.

* Ladies games are in the process of being organised *

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES

FRIDAY 24 CONTROL V VICTORIA PK - 3X3- AWAY - - 2PM

THURSDAY, 28TH AUGUST V ILFRACOMBE- 3X3- AWAY -- 2PM

WEDNESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER V VICTORIA PK-3X3- HOME -- 2PM

(ALL FRIENDLIES)

THE BERYL GILHAM CUP

FRIDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER V. ILFRACOMBE- HOME—2PM (4 x 3)

* ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO PUT THEIR NAME FORWARD IF AVAILABLE AND WISHING TO PLAY * (LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE DAY)





Our final game of the Season is on Friday,15th August where we play hosts to BRAUNTON BC who languish at the bottom of the League.

We have had some very close games recently where our Ladies have been in top form and proving quite competitive. Let's keep that competitive edge and momentum rolling!

We are hoping with the form we have been in that our game against BRAUNTON see us collect maximum points across the rinks and strengthen our standing in the League.

Thank You to all the Ladies who take part in and are vital cogs in our League play each week.

The time and commitment given by everyone involved has been very much appreciated throughout the Season.

'Roll on next year, ...Let's show that Combe Martin Ladies
League teams are a force to be reckoned with!













Congratulations to Chris Burbidge and Rob Rukin on winning the AUSTRALIAN PAIRS.

They were the only team to go unbeaten throughout the day.



A well deserved victory

The **NORMAN BIRD TROPHY** will be held on **Saturday, 30th August**.

Please put your name down if you can play. It is hoped that Nigel Bird will be here on the day to present the trophy.



The format is **MIXED TRIPLES- 2 WOODS**.

There will be **3 rounds of 10 ends** (depending upon the number of entries).



GREENIE BERES ROUNDUP

After discussion with several Committee members, it was decided to try a Welsh firm run by Wayne Duggan who do Winter work on Rock Park green and several others in the North Devon area to take on the onerous task of our Winter renovations thus relieving the burden on certain Club members and save any back problems.

Dave Collins and myself met Neil an agronamist from **PITCHCARE** nearly two weeks ago regarding seed and fertiliser requirements for end of season work, and we also enquired about the 'dollar spot' infestation on the green... This had be treated with a certain chemical which Dave called 'liquid gold' as it cost getting on for £700, for which hopefully should last for 2 years or more depending on results.

One application was applied last week along with the usual monthly spraying regime of three different chemicals! Hopefully we will see the dollar spot declining over the next few weeks.



-2026 COUNTY SCHEDULES RELEASED-

BOWLS DEVON SECTION ONE

Section One Men's & Mixed

These are the dates for 2026 competitions, Subject to change due to County dates (Changes Highlighted)

<u>Competitio</u> n	<u>First D</u> ay	<u>Second day</u>				
Pairs	Saturday 2nd May Bldeford & Victoria Park	Sunday 3rd May Byeways				
Triples	Saturday 9th May United Services & Barnstaple	Sunday 10th May Bideford				
Singles	Saturday 23rd May Rock Park & Barnstaple	Sunday 24th May Vic Park				
Over 55 Rinks	Sunday 31st May United Services					
Rinks	Pre-Lim??????if needed Sunday 7th June Bideford					
Two Wood Singles	Play before dates					
Over 60 Singles	Play before dates					
Grater Pairs	Play before dates					
Unbadged Pairs	Play before dates					
Smerdon Mixed Pairs	Play before dates					
Unbadged Triples	Play before dates					
Burma Star Mixed Triples	Play before dates					
Over 70 Pairs	Play before dates					
Section Finals	Saturday 25th July For overflow games. Sunday July 26th July	Barnstaple				
Coronation Cup						
Bennett Cup						



LADIES DATES & VENUES 2026

Subject to change due to County Dates

COMPETITIONS	DATE	VENUE					
Pairs							
rairs	Sunday 17th May	Byeways					
Rinks	Sunday 24th May	Bideford					
Triples	Saturday 30th May	United Services					
Over 55'S Rinks	Saturday 6th June	Victoria Park					
4 Wood Singles	Play Before Dates						
2 Wood Singles	Play Before Dates						
Majors Last Day of Section Play	Balance for remaining major comps						
Ben Triples	Monday 29th June	Bideford					
2 Wood Triples	Wednesday 24th June	Barnstaple					
Un/ Badged Singles	Play Before Dates						
Over 55 Singles	Play Before Dates						
Over 55 Pairs	Play before Dates						
Over 70 Pairs	Play Before Dates						
Un/Badged Pairs	Play Before Dates						
Interclub	f Round Wed 2 nd Round Wed 3 rd Round Wed 4 th Round Wed S/F & Final Sat						
Grace Matthews	Set Date 1/4 Final Semi Final & Final Sunday 1	Last day Section play Neutral green Maderia					
County Majors All Finals Days	Sept						
County Minor Finals	Sept						
Jubilee Trophy <mark>S /F & Final</mark>	August or before September	Neutral Green					
Section Finals	Saturday 25th July Over flow day Sunday 26th July	Barnstaple					
Under 25 Singles							
Under 25 Pairs		T .					
Under 17 Singles							
	<u> </u>						

All information of out of Section play dates will be shown on Bowls Devon Web Page updates highlighted



Meet Our Club Captain -

It's easy to see our Club Captain Paul Buttle out on the green, quietly encouraging his team, keeping a keen eye on the score, and somehow still finding time to send down a perfectly weighted bowl.

But there's more to the role – and the man – than what we see on match day. We sat down with him over a cuppa to find out about his journey into bowls, his love for the sport, and what makes him tick both on and off the green.

1.Q: Where did you grow up, and what first drew you to sport in general? A:

Salford, Greater Manchester. A few of the local parks had crown green bowls that I tried a few times in my teens. I can remember my mother trying to get my father to play after he retired. He did not give it a try. This must have stuck with me as I wanted to give it a go when I retired.

2.Q: When and how did you first discover lawn bowling? A:

I can remember watching the Commonwealth Games and finding it very interesting.

3.Q: Who were your early influences or mentors in the sport?

All at Morchard Bishop Bowling Club. Special mention to the club President, at that time, Marcia Mills first lending me a set of woods for my first year. Also my mentor, Brian Poole, who sadly passed this year. He gave me the belief I needed and was a great friend.

4.Q: Can you remember your very first game — and how it went? A:

I was very nervous for my first friendly match. I didn't want to let anybody down. I can't remember much about the game itself except people kept saying I had a good delivery. I was obviously in the right sport!

5.Q: Have you played other sports, or has it always been lawn bowls?
A:

When I was growing up, I was a keen swimmer. I spent many hours every day in the pool. I represented the city of Salford once, and Salford Schools many times.

6.Q: What made you decide to join this particular club?

A:

I moved to Combe Martin and wanted to join the local club.

7.Q: How long have you been playing competitively?
A:

I started playing in 2019 then Covid interrupted.

8.Q: What would you say is your proudest moment on the green so far?
A:

Winning the club Men's Triples. Winning the Men's Singles was a great achievement ror me, but being the skip of a winning team is my proudest moment.

9.Q: Have you ever represented your club at a higher level?
A:
Devon Section 1 matches is the highest so far.

10.Q: Which match or tournament stands out most in your memory — and why?
A:

I love playing in the Porlock Tournament. It is such a relaxing atmosphere, good tun, good drink and good company.

11.Q: How did you come to be captain of the club?

A natural progression after being Deputy the year before and doing/willing to do the work required.

12.Q: What do you enjoy most about leading the team? A:

It gives me great pleasure when I see our team and visiting teams enjoying themselves on and off the green. I am very proud that visiting teams love coming to Combe Martin Bowling Club.

13.Q: What's the most challenging part of being captain? A:

Without doubt getting enough names down for matches. I am constantly chasing to get enough names.

14.Q: If you had the power to make a much needed change within the game of bowls in general what would that be?

A:

Reduce the time needed to play games. Reduce County Trophy games to 18 ends. Reduce the number of woods for pairs from 4 to 3.

15.Q: Do you have a personal philosophy or motto you try to instil in your players? A:

You will always have days when things go wrong. Forget about it. Smile and get ready first your next game.

16.Q: What do you do when you're not playing or organising bowls?

My wife would say, "that just leaves time for sleep!" I play skittles in winter and have been known to throw some wicked darts.

17.Q: Do you follow any other sports or hobbies or are you involved in any outside of bowling? A:

I am a big fan of Manchester United. I am also a big fan of Belle Vue Speedway.

18.Q: Is there a player, past or present, you particularly admire or admired — in bowls or elsewhere?

A:

I enjoy watching all the top players. You can always learn from them. I particularly admire Amy Pharoah from Lincolnshire. She is always calm and can be on a level with the men. In mixed pairs she is always the skip.

19.Q: What changes within bowling have you seen that you feel are a positive step forward?
A:

I like the effort Bowls England are putting in to encourage younger people into the game. Tied to this are the safeguarding rules and more modern club colours.

Q: If you could give one piece of advice to someone new to lawn bowls, what would it be? A:

You are not alone. We are all nervous when we start. We all make mistakes. Use your mentor. Don't be afraid of asking them questions. Marie and myself are also here to help, if required.

' QUICK FIRE WITH THE CAPTAIN'

A.Favourite position on the rink?..... Lead. B.Most used phrase on the green?..... A yard.

C.Best win ever?..... Pairs match against United Services.

D.Pre-match ritual?.... Check I have the right number of bowls.

E.Go-to post-match drink?...... John Smiths.

F.If not bowls, I'd be doing?..... Eating with Kathy, my wife.

G.Funniest moment on the green?...... I have seen a wrong bias get shot on the next green.

From his early days discovering the sport to the pride he feels wearing the Captain's badge, it's clear our skipper's commitment goes far beyond the scoreboard.

His blend of experience, encouragement, and good humour keeps our team both competitive and close-knit – a true reflection of what our club is all about.

Here's to many more ends under his leadership... and maybe the odd victory celebration in the clubhouse!

KNOW YOUR MEMBERS COMPETIT



We have a WINNER for our JULY COMPETITION! Our Captain Paul Buttle guessed correctly that the Mystery Member was none other than DAVE MASON ...

A £5.00 voucher to spend in the Village Deli goes to Paul!WELL DONE PAUL ...ENJOY 👍



USE YOUR JUDGEMENT TO GUESS THE IDENTITY OF OUR MYSTERY MEMBER ...

1.WRITE YOUR ENTRY AND NAME ON THE WALL SHEET PROVIDED IN THE CLUB.

2. WHATSAPP ME YOUR ENTRY

3. E-MAIL ME YOUR ENTRY @ mvage2303@gmail.com

.....Oh, and GOOD LUCK 🤞



- CARICATURE CORNER-



** If you would like a print of any of the Caricatures please contact me personally, P'm me on WhatsApp or e-mail me @ ... mvage2303@gmail.com .

£2:00 for an A4 size printed on quality photographic paper Custom sizes are also available 100% PROCEEDS GO TO CHARITY!



£ 5:00 TO THE FIRST MEMBER TO COMPLETE THE QUIZ!

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is

- 2 Cricketer; you'll want to use hands
- Partisan leaning, is oddly twisted
- 6 Stir ink around ;icy no doubt
- Tic tock, position away from the ring
- 12 Triumvirate; never
- Strike, but never on a
- 16 Not gold; deal with it .
- Scamper, but you'll be in charge
- 20 It has it's bounds so don't go over it
- Slob with care will win the day
- Back and forth, but move in style
- A sailor he isn't, but still a lad on whacky baccy. 4.4
- Arc coders; but no welding involved. 5.4
- Re amuse yourself

 when taken from one's
- You may go down 31 there ; but no surprise inside bag
- Primary, that's a no, 32 nevertheless a custodian

- down
- Cage by donut; but don't eat this one. 6. 5.
- Strangers on these, are we essential?
- Guard funds with sure
- Prize gains held proudly
- Never a doily, but best to make a stand
- 10 Hopefully dispatched; it's on your doorstep
- 11 Girlfriend elbowed and your in it
- 14 Bias perhaps
- 15 Predominance
- Daring, wing it, but take care lest you give it away.
- Convocation; break 18 the rules and answer to them
- Meow if you wish, this cat won't need feeding
- No salad involved but it gets the ball rolling
- 26 Beachy, but no cliffs there.
- 27 Mid game ;a draw but somebody has to win
- Stop for this at the beginning of trouble

ANYONE BRIGHT ENOUGH TO COMPLETE THE CRYPTIC CROSSWORD? GIVE IT A GO! BOWLS RELATED ANSWERS

ANSWERS IN SEPTEMBER'S EDITION
OF OUR BULLETIN

JE CELEGIE



















SEASON 2025







'THE GEORGE GOOCH SHIELD'



PAUL BUTTLE PATRICIA JOHNSON RAY TOSSELL



ANDY CHALLACOMBE MARGARET COWARD ROB RUKIN



TEAM C DAVE COWARD DAVE COPESTICK TINK SHAW



TEAM

BILL PINK BRENT WORMALD JULIE SUMMERWILL



MARIA STRATTON NIGEL BOLTON CAROL CHAPPLE



TEAM F CHRISTINE BURBIDGE MARIE IRVING ROGER KEEN Bright sunshine and high temperatures seen Club Members contest the annual George Gooch Shield in a lively Round-Robin format, with 6 triples teams battling it out over 10 ends per game. The competition produced some fine bowling, spirited play and close encounters, but it was the super competitive trio of Brent Wormald, Bill Pink and Julie Summerwill who emerged as deserving champions. Their consistent play and sharp teamwork saw them win all 3 of their matches, securing the Shield unbeaten.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNING TRIO!





Great Torrington Bowling Club

WEBBERS MIXED TRIPLES OPEN' TOURNAMENT Saturday 16th August, 2025

Webbers Mixed Triples Open Tournament - A Day to Remember

Saturday 16th August 2025 saw GT Torrington Bowling Club bathed in summer sunshine as it proudly hosted the Webbers Mixed Triples Open Tournament, a highlight of the local bowling calendar. With teams gathering from across the region, the competition was played in a spirit of determination and skill, with every rink alive with tactical play and good-natured rivalry.



After a day of high-class bowling, it was the trio of **Brent Wormald**, **Nigel Bolton and Patricia Johnson** who emerged as worthy champions. Blending steady precision with bold shot-making, the team displayed consistency throughout, navigating their way through each stage with composure and flair.

Their teamwork proved decisive, each player contributing crucially to the overall success.

The final stages provided the watching crowd with all the drama a Summer's competition could offer – tight heads, and applause ringing out for fine deliveries. Yet when the last bowl settled, it was **Wormald**, **Bolton and Johnson** who lifted the honours, securing their place in the tournament's history.

.The Webbers Mixed Triples Open once again proved not only a test of bowling ability but also a celebration of the fellowship that makes the sport so enduring.

Congratulations to the Champions - Brent, Nigel and Patricia - on a superb triumph!

CONGRATULATIONS IN MAKING IT THROUGH TO FINALS DAY! 'GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE BOWLERS'



