

# NHBC NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2024

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**WELCOME** to the latest edition of the NHBC scandal sheet. It has been quite a month, with a successful visit to Bedale, a visit by ITV, and then our Open Day which was attended by none other than the Bowls England Chief Executive, Jon Cockcroft. While all of that is going on we have of course been playing in the various leagues, and in-house competitions. Read on for more information.

### CAPTAINS REPORT

Welcome to my Captains report for May 2024

First, I would like to thank everyone who has managed to get their knockout competition matches completed so far, well done to the many winners and hopefully any losers still have other competitions to go for.

It has been quite a busy time, not helped by the wet weather we have encountered so far and further extensions to deadlines may still be needed so keep an eye out for any messages on Whatsapp or in the blue competitions folder in the clubhouse.

When I joined the club back in 2019 with 12 active members I never thought for one day that I would see so many county and national competition matches being played on our green both for the men and the ladies, a massive well done to all of those members who have dipped their toe in and had a go the experience will do you good no matter what the result is. It is good to report that our teams generally have had a good start to the league season our current positions at the time of writing is as follows:

Earl Cup 7th position having won of 2 of our first 5 games.

Swan Cup 3rd position having a 100% win rate and have games in hand to go top.

Both vets' teams are in 3rd position again having a 100% win rate and have games in hand to go top.

Storey Bowl top of the league after 3 games Grindon league we are still searching for our first win of the season but still have a couple of points on the board.

I must say it is sad to hear that South Hylton have withdrawn from the Earl Cup due to a lack of numbers, many of you will know Wilf Childs and Malcolm Winter probably 2 of the nicest fellas I've met whilst playing bowls I'm sure you all like me hope they can increase their membership and get back into the league at some point in the future.

*Colin Watson*

### PLANNING AHEAD FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. A FEW WORDS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

In recent years we have seen our club rise from the brink of extinction to a very healthy membership with many players choosing to play competitively whilst others are happy just playing socially. Whilst our journey is something we can ALL feel truly proud of I believe it is extremely important for the club to have one eye on the future and have a development structure firmly in place. This will enable our existing members (and potential new members) to benefit from coaching whilst at the same time ensuring our wonderful club can be certain of a sustainable future going forward. Being from a coaching background this was of particular interest to me so I asked our Club Captain Colin if he would like to join me in undertaking the Bowls England Level One Coaching Licence and of course his answer was yes! With the backing of the committee and financial support of the City of Sunderland Community Chest funding (and a lot of hard work and investing a substantial amount of our own personal time) I am very proud to say that we are both now fully qualified coaches.

Whilst undertaking the qualification we have both personally learned so much and we can't wait to share this knowledge with you alongside our longstanding experienced players like Ned, Garry Jnr and Snr and Dave. This will help improve our member's all-round game, bowling technique and ability. We are really looking forward to rolling out regular coaching sessions in the coming weeks and months so if you are interested please come and have a chat for more detail.

*Chris Blake*

***What do you get if you cross a bowler and an invisible man? Bowling like no one has ever seen. I'm here all week.***

### BEDALE

Our Travelling members enjoyed a lovely day at Bedale Bowling Club. The weather was kind, and the hospitality was up to the usual high standard. NHBC retained the shield for the third consecutive year, winning overall by 107-58, 4 rinks to 1. ....Bring on 2025



**BEDALE BOWLING CLUB**



**Les Kell, Les Todd, Garry Wallace, Gary Hassan, & Brian Smith, share a joke.**



**Jan Todd, Chris and Alison Blake looking pleased with themselves.**



**The Board Inn is proud to sponsor the New Herrington Bowling Club newsletter  
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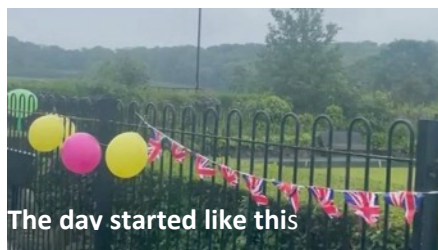
Secretary:	Barry Thomas	<b>YOUR COMMITTEE</b>	Safeguarding::	Les Todd
Treasurer:	Lorraine Galley	Chairman: Chris Blake	Maintenance:	Howard Smith
Captain:	Colin Watson		Facilities:	Linda Watson

### The Wick (Or Herrington Glide) We learn a bit about Colin Watson

My name is Colin Robert Watson and I was born in Leamington Spa in 1964 as both my parents were stationed in the army down in Kineton. My dad is from Glasgow and mam is from Sunderland. I have 2 sisters one was born in Warwick and the other back up in Sunderland where I moved to when I was 5. I went to Broadway Junior and senior school but only really went to school to do any form of PE. I tried my best to become a footballer and signed Associate schoolboy forms for Sunderland in 1978 but was released at 16 so then had a trial at Newcastle United where I scored 2 goals for them in my first game under the management of a certain Mr Colin Suggett who said he would come back for me, well 43 years later I'm still waiting for the call. I then spent 3 years at Hartlepool United playing at youth team level and making a couple of appearances for the reserve team before leaving and then going on to play in the Wearside and Northern league for the rest of my career. During this period, I met my best mate who I went to school with and still love her to bits some 43 years later. We married when we were 19 years old and bought our first cottage in Pallion, Linda went off to do nursing then I went off to join a local builder's merchant to supplement my football income. We moved up to East Herrington in 1988 where our first daughter (Laura) was born in 1989 then our second daughter (Melissa) came along in 1993. In 1988 I joined Sunderland City Council as a buyer working in the old PWD, based in Eden Vale, then transferred numerous times within the Council to eventually end up working for Gentoo as a Principal Procurement Officer eventually retiring just over 2 and a half years ago.

We now have 2 amazing grandsons (Jacob and Hugh) with another one due in September, not sure how this will affect our time playing bowls, but hopefully 1 day they can become the new generation of bowlers for NHBC. My bowling career started back in 2019 when a couple of my friends and I went for a roll up to the green for the first time, within a few weeks I was asked if I wanted to be the captain and pick the teams. I remember the first game in charge Ned said to me you always should pick your strongest team, well I said to Ned I had only 12 to pick from so everyone was in. It has now virtually taken over my life and has been a proud journey so far where I have met and become friends with so many amazing new people, the craic at our club is first class and it's unbelievable to see how far we have come in such a short space of time. I have recently passed and become a qualified Level 1 Bowls coach so I'm really looking forward to working with our members to share this knowledge and hopefully improve everyone.

I nominate **Paul Eden** for the next newsletter, which should be a very interesting read **should he complete it on time.**



The day started like this

### BOWLS ENGLAND BIG WEEKEND - OPEN FUN DAY

For the fourth consecutive year we took part in the Bowls England Big Weekend. The hope is of course that we will attract new members to the sport, but equally important is the social gathering of our members and their families. Our reputation as a progressive, competitive and friendly club is such that we were contacted by the BE media department and interviewed by the press. In addition to that, we were filmed by ITV and our input was featured in a video on

ITV news. Fair to say that NHBC are on the bowls map. And what a day it was. At 1.00pm

it was raining hard and we didn't think we would get any games played at all. But the weather did clear up, the sun broke through, if somewhat half hearted, and we cracked on with the games which were well organised by Colin. There was of course the popular "Hoops", that was followed by "Skittles" then we had "Round the Pots" and "Wedge" followed by "Nearest the jack, with a jack" and finally "Nearest the ditch". Then we all took part in the grand finale "Spider".



This is how you do it kids



Skittles! With bowls - why not?

We were delighted and privileged to welcome to the club, the Chief Executive of Bowls England **Mr Jon Cockcroft**, he was accompanied by the Durham County Administrator **Mr Foster Johnson**. Jon doesn't get the opportunity to play

the sport very often, but he took part in the Spider game and got down to the last four, clearly a natural bowler. The competition winners were: "**Hoops**": Paul Eden. "**Skittles**": Robert Gibson, "**Round the Pots**": Ollie Hassan. "**Nearest the jack with a jack**": Garry Wallace Snr. "**Spider**": Chris Blake. But a special mention must go to the winner of "**Nearest the Ditch**". A young man who is not yet a member of the club, the grandson of Colin & Linda, master Jacob Parkinson, just 5 years old, that's FIVE YEARS OLD! He rolled the jack to within inches of the ditch. Clearly he has the Watson genes and will be a force to reckon with in the future.



Great excitement at the hoops

### **BIRTHDAYS**

We send warmest good wishes to the following members who have birthdays in June

Mike Galley	6 <sup>th</sup>
Steve Holland	10 <sup>th</sup>
John Grant	27 <sup>th</sup>

**Would any business like to sponsor a rink? A banner/sign with your logo and message will cost just £200**

Visit our website [www.newherringtonbowls.co.uk](http://www.newherringtonbowls.co.uk) or go to our Facebook page. Or you can contact NHBC by writing to: Barry Thomas, Secretary, 15 Malvern Gardens, Sunderland SR6 9LB

# An extra page, because there is more good news!



## HAT-TRICK OF COUNTY CALL UPS

The Club is delighted to be informed that three of its members; Colin Watson, Garry Wallace Jnr and Chris Blake have all been named in the County squad announced earlier this month for the forthcoming Alsop Cup fixtures. This is great news and it hopefully helps to demonstrate the excellent progress our club is making. We are hoping that this is the first of many county honours to come and we are keeping our fingers especially crossed that some of our ladies will be selected for next season's fixtures, now that would really be the icing on the cake. All three players have been selected to play in the first match away to Northumberland on Saturday 8th June commencing at 2.00pm at Rothbury Bowling Club. The teams for the remaining matches against Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria will be announced on a match-by-match basis – well done bonnie lads and good luck!

## SUGGESTION BOX

We want to be sure that all our members are happy with the way things are run. So we have installed a suggestion box at the far end of the main room. If there is anything that perhaps you are not happy with, or think would improve what we do, please feel free to comment. Anonymous notes will be ignored, so be sure to add your name.

## NATIONAL SINGLES

As we go to press I have to inform you that Colin Watson was defeated 23-13 in the second round of the National Singles competition. He was well beaten by Colin Watson of New Herrington BC. Yes its true, the editor has not gone mad, our Colin Watson beat his namesake.

## SCOUTS VISIT

We are pleased to tell you that 2<sup>nd</sup> Herrington Scout Group are paying NHBC another visit. This will be their third visit so clearly they enjoy it. This year we are hoping that some of the parents might come along as well. Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July is the date and we will do our best to tie them in knots.

## HEALTHY BOWLERS ARE HAPPY BOWLERS

As you know we have a defibrillator kindly donated by Garry Wallace Snr. It is our intention to hold a training session so that more members know how to use it. We have also had two meetings with the local representative of Cancer Research, our chosen charity, for which we raise much needed money via the football cards. Our next project is to arrange a presentation on the dark subject of mental health. The topic has been catching the headlines lately, and some close to us have suffered in silence. So watch this space for more information.

## FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising effort serves two purposes, firstly to ensure the sustainability of the club and improve some elements. And secondly to raise money for Cancer Research. (We've raised £90 so far). Now we have access to the "Easy Fund Raising" app. If you shop on line you can generate a commission paid directly to the club without it costing you a penny. I know, just for example, that the likes of Amazon, ebay, John Lewis, Morrisons and many more retailers are signed up. So far the app has raised us £48.94 with more to come. Just go to [www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk) and download the app, its easy to use, even I can do it.

## SAFEGUARDING



Bowls England takes the subject of safeguarding its membership very seriously. When one hears the phrase "safeguarding" we automatically think of children, child abuse and so forth. But it is a much wider spectrum. It is important that ALL members and visitors feel safe and secure. There is no room in bowls, or indeed any sport, for abusive behaviour, racial abuse or exclusion. As if to reinforce this point, safeguarding formed part of the coaching course undertaken by Chris and Colin. All bowls clubs must have a Safeguarding Officer by 2025 or risk being excluded. We are very fortunate to have Les Todd, a retired solicitor, who has taken on the role for NHBC. If you have ANY issues or if you are unsure of your rights, do not hesitate in contacting Les.

## BOWLS BIG BASH

The club is now an accredited club to deliver a new initiative from BE called Bowls Bash. Chris has completed training and we will go live in the next 2 or 3 weeks 'Let's roll'. The initiative is aimed at new players and takes 1 hour to play with the rules similar to 3-2-1. Points awarded for the first 3 bowls nearest the jack, a toucher or 'kiss' = 2 points. 2 teams of 2 (stickers/scorecards provided), 3 bowls each / 5 ends per set / 2 sets played – highest total wins the match, 1 x 'powerplay' per team = double points that end. Benefits = free delivery pack, additional income stream, a few new members and club members can give it a try too!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> - AGM - Philadelphia Cricket Club  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Party - The Stackyard

