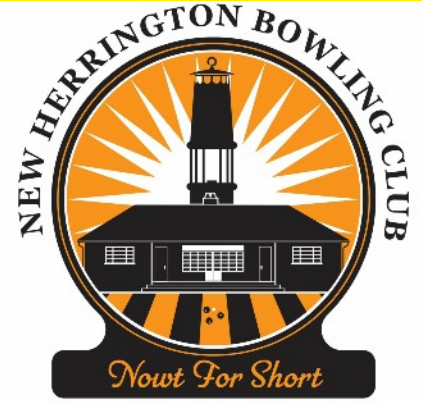


# NHBC NEWSLETTER - JULY/AUGUST 2024

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**WELCOME** to the latest edition of your favourite newsletter. At last summer has arrived and we are able to play bowls in warm sunshine, long may it continue.

After a recent match at Herrington I overheard one of our opponents members say to another "The atmosphere here is amazing". It occurred to me that if only we could bottle it and pass it on to other clubs the sport would be in a far healthier condition. All I can suggest is that we continue to show the bowls world how to support your fellow members, how to enjoy the game and how to laugh. Perhaps eventually our spirit will rub off onto others. There is no doubt that NHBC is having a major impact on the game, and many clubs are envious of our success, both on and off the green. Keep it up, the bowls world needs us.

### CAPTAINS REPORT

Welcome to my Captains report for July 2024

Well, it's certainly been another very busy month for the club and its members and again a thank you goes out to everyone who has played their knockout matches so far. We are getting down to the quarter/semi-final stages in most of the competitions with the others not too far behind.

So far this season across all the league teams we have played to date 57 matches and have won 36 of them, which is an excellent achievement so a big well done to everyone who has played their part in this success. Pleased to report that we had our first wins during my time as club captain against Silksworth Pumas, Barnes Park and Hetton WMC away YES AWAY, a great achievement well done to all who played in those games.

Below is a quick update on all the teams for the season to date:  
**Earl Cup (Monday night)** - currently in 7th place having won 4 of our 10 games.

**SWBA league (Ladies Tuesday afternoon)** – currently in 3rd place having won 2 of our 3 games.

**Swan Cup (Wednesday night)** – currently in 1st place having won 7 of our 8 games.

**Harold Howey Vets (Thursday afternoon)** – A team currently in 2nd place having won 9 of our 11 games. Our B team are currently in 7th place having won 4 of our games.

**Grindon league (Friday night)** – currently in 6th place having won 3 of our games.

**Storey Bowl (Saturday afternoon)** – currently in 3rd place having won 6 of our 11 games.

It is good to report that we have enjoyed some great results in the Durham County knock out competitions with myself and Paul King getting through to the second stage (last 16) in the Singles and Paul King, Chris Blake and Paul Eden also getting through to the second stage in the triples.

We intend to have our annual friendly fixture between the men and ladies so keep an eye out for the date which should be at the back end of August.

**Colin Watson**

**STOP PRESS** -Our captain Colin Watson was narrowly defeated by Alan Lawton from Jarrow in the **Bowls England Over 55s National Singles Final for Durham County**. The match was played on neutral ground at Barnes Park and there were over 30 supporters from NHBC to cheer Colin on.

And what a game it was. Colin got off to a good start, but then found himself 5-11 down, he recovered to within a couple of shots but then fell behind again to 14-20. Then a tremendous fight back brought him to 19-20. Then with 7 woods bowled he was standing 2 and on the very cusp of winning the match, and Alan bowled a superb shot to pinch the game 19-21.

A great game with some truly amazing bowls, an absolute pleasure to watch. Well done Colin.

### **Comment from our chairman.**

My thoughts are firmly focused on tonight's National Senior Singles Final at Barnes Park. Our Club Captain Colin is now just one match away from the Title and qualifying for a trip to the finals held at Leamington Spa! Regardless of the outcome it has been a fantastic effort by Colin to progress through to the final and he can be assured of brilliant support, as always, from our club members who will be turning out in force tonight to cheer on both finalists - but obviously hoping for NHBC victory!!

Slowly but surely the club has made great progress in recent years and the strength in numbers and standard of bowls being played is there for all to see. This season all our members were encouraged to enter the Sunderland, County and National competitions and there have been some exceptional performances by everyone who took up the challenge. A further 2 additional semi-final places have already been secured to date - Silver Jacks (Chris / Colin) and David Morgan Mixed Pairs (Linda / Colin) - so fingers crossed. **Chris Baker**



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BOARD  
INN

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 Paul Eden

I was born Paul Anthony Eden on the 12th March 1967 to Margaret and Joe and was the youngest of 5, two brothers Alan and Ken and two sisters Margaret and Christine.

So I think I'll start with the elephant in the room my lateness as it might be a bit of a recurring theme. As anyone knows me I have an extensive list of excuses. Mr King summed it up perfectly a few weeks ago when I was late and said I'd lost track of time, to which he replied, when 1985. Anyway I attended Farringdon Comprehensive and like most I loved playing sport and represented the school at Football, Basketball and Athletics. I did once go for a football trial at Lambton Street Boys when I was about 11 but I was late and missed the bus, never mind. My PE teacher also thought I had a future in boxing after a lesson and when I asked why he said you've got a chubby cheeks, you'll not cut easy, cue raucous laughter from the class.

I love Sunderland Football Club and at 13 started following them all round the country. Oh and I started noticing girls and to be fair they started noticing me as I was a stunner....lol

I loved school, especially, History, Chemistry, Physics, English and French. I left school with a few O levels and went to work in a Hoover factory, but on my first day, everyone went on strike, so I wasn't there long.

I then became a weaver for a year but when I was 18 I joined British Telecom where I signed the official secrets act and was involved with police investigations and even the MOD. I felt like a spy and I believe Ian Fleming based a character on me, no not Blofeld. Whilst there I moved into management also starred in some company videos and even went for an audition for the film dog soldiers, however I bottled it at the stage door, oh what could have been, People often said I looked like Brad Pitt, or was it Wearmouth pit.

I met my beautiful wife Wendy at 22 but after our first date it was a miracle we even had a second date as I just picked a film where there was no queue and it turned out to be The Accused with Jody Foster. It took a lot of explaining to persuade her I wasn't a perve, although I found out years later the pub we went to after was full of her Aunties and Uncles just in case. We were engaged after 6 weeks but took 11 years to get married, well I had to be sure. We have 2 children, Connor who is now 24 and a qualified Electrician. Basically we are like Spike and Butch off Tom and Jerry, Dats my Boy and Naomi, who is 20 and at Salford University studying Journalism, she gets that from me if anyone reads Roker Report. She has recently done some modelling for Vidal Sassoon as well, aye me again lol. I also have a beautiful Grandson named Connor Jr from my son and his partner Brionie.

In 2003, I retrained as a Gas Heating Engineer and in 2012 I joined Eon where I am now responsible for over 80 people, including 4 managers from Yorkshire to Scotland and including Cumbria. I know, how?

I have an allotment and a pooch called Lucy. I love all music from Pretty Vacant by the Sex Pistols to The Lark Ascending by Vaughan Williams.

There is so much I've missed out and so many more stories I could tell like when I met Princess Ann, Prince William and Prince Harry at a Gymkhana that I gate-crashed by mistake, or when in London I was took for a member of a notorious gang which meant me and my mate never paid for food and drink in the pubs in the area for months, or the time a landed a Boeing 747 single handedly when the pilot took ill, well that last one is a lie, it was a 737...lol.

I'd like to learn more about the legend Mr Blake, so I nominate Chris for the next edition.

#### Presentation Dinner / Xmas Party

#### Annual General Meeting

You should have the date of December 14<sup>th</sup> in your diary. This will be a presentation evening like no other. Taking place at the Stackyard in Middle Herrington. I can tell you that the music play-list covers every taste, there will be no excuse for not dancing or singing along. I did try to remove "Take That" but I was over-ruled.

The date of the AGM is Wednesday September 25 and it is at the Philadelphia Cricket Club at 7.30pm. All members are invited to attend. At last years meeting it was agreed that the committee would serve for two years. The committee therefore remains as it is for next year. If you have any issue that you would like to air, you should email it to [imbarrythomas@gmail.com](mailto:imbarrythomas@gmail.com) before 18<sup>th</sup> September.

**BIRTHDAYS**  
 We send warmest good wishes to the following members who have birthdays in July

Brian Smith	1 <sup>st</sup>
Garry Wallace(Jnr)	6 <sup>th</sup>
Jan Todd	9 <sup>th</sup>
Paul Gatenby	12 <sup>th</sup>
Peter Bracken	16 <sup>th</sup>
Gary Chambers	19 <sup>th</sup>
Les Kell	19 <sup>th</sup>
Lesley Durham	20 <sup>th</sup>
Paul King	22 <sup>nd</sup>

Strangely we have no birthdays in August.

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