



Gosforth Bowling Club.

West Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4ES.

Website – gosforthbowlingclub.org
Email – secretarygosforthbc@gmail.com

President: Mr Peter Duffy

Spring Newsletter - 2026

Dear Members,

I am sure that we are all looking forward to the Green opening after yet another long, dark, cold & extremely wet winter. Colin Moore, our Green Keeper, has done an excellent job during the close season, in what often has been very trying times, to have the Green ready for the 2026 season. Hopefully, it will play as well as it looks!

The President for 2026 is Peter Duffy who is well known to all our members as he is the Bar Manager!

He does, however, have an excellent pedigree as a bowler as well as being an extremely long serving member of the Management Committee (MC). Peter started bowling in 1979 & joined GBC in 1984. He was part of the GBC Fours who were County Champions in 1989 & 2005. In 2005, he was County Singles champion.

He was President of GBC in 2011. He served as Secretary between 1997 – 1999 & again between 2021 – 2024.

Peter is also the current Men's Competition Secretary for Bowls Northumberland (BN).

I know that you will all join me in wishing Peter an excellent year, both on & off the Green.

Peter will officially open the Green at 2.00pm on Saturday 11th April 2026 & hopes to see as many of the members there as possible.

Please Note - Due to expected heavy morning dew & to prevent unnecessary damage to the Green, no play is allowed before 1.00pm for the whole of April.

Peter will be assisted in his official duties by Andy James, this year's Vice President.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due.

Due to ever increasing costs, the MC have had no choice but to recommend that all Annual Membership Subscriptions be raised by £10.00. This was endorsed by members who attended the AGM in November 2025. This means that a Full Membership is now £145.00 & every category of membership has been increased by £10.00.

The preferred payment method is by bank transfer & our bank details are shown below:

Bank	-	Lloyds
Account Name	-	Gosforth Bowling Club
Sort Code	-	30-93-55
Account Number	-	37036568

If you are unable to pay by bank transfer, then you may pay by cash or cheque directly to Norma Povey, Brian Duell or myself.

Payment should be received by **1st April, 2026**

Please ensure that Membership Subscriptions are paid promptly as members will not be able to play for the Club in any of the Leagues, take part in any County or National competition unless their subscription has been paid.

Can I remind all potential new members, including those who are returning to GBC from other Clubs, that it is necessary for you to complete an 'Application for Membership, (which can be found on our website) & send it to me. I will inform you once your application has been approved & then your Membership Fee can be paid.

Please note that any member who last year paid the reduced rate for a 'First Time Player' last year must pay the full amount no matter what their standard is.

Please email me at secretarygosforthbc@gmail.com as well as the Treasurer, Norma Povey, at mpoveygolf@aol.com to confirm that your subscriptions have been paid. Please include your email address, home address as well as phone number. This information will help me a lot.

If you are aware of any member who has not received a copy of the Newsletter, I would be grateful if you could ask him or her to send me an email.

If there are any existing members who are not rejoining this year, please let me know as soon as possible so that the Club records can be amended accordingly

The Green

Once again, a lot of work has been carried out throughout the close season to ensure that our Green is in the best possible condition for the start of the new season. We do have an excellent Green Keeper, however, a lot of the physical work in respect of the maintenance of the Green, & the surrounding area, is carried out by a few of the MC who give up their

own time for the benefit of all Club Members. I am sure that all our members appreciate their efforts. If any of our members would like to spend a few hours a week or whenever they can in helping with this invaluable work, please contact Mike Povey or George Bennett..

Clubhouse

The same members of the MC who help to maintain the Green also look after the Clubhouse & ensure that all our facilities are kept up to standard & working properly. If any member wishes to help with any regular maintenance tasks, which are not at all arduous, again, please contact Mike or George.

To prevent accidents, please do not leave bowls, shoes or other items of clothing lying around in the Changing Room once you have finished your game. Use your locker or take them home.

If any new male member does not have a locker, please see me or simply find an empty one & add your name to the List in the Changing Room. For any new female members please see Marj James.

Members

There will be several new members again this year, some re-joining, some joining from other bowling clubs & some new to the game. They are all most welcome & I wish you all well in your first season with Gosforth Bowling Club.

Website

Paul Timney has joined the Management Committee & is now our Webmaster. There is no doubt that his predecessor, Kurt Obermairer, did an excellent job in setting up the Website in the first place as well as keeping it up to date for several years, but a change is necessary to keep it relevant. It needs to be attractive as well as informative for our members & anyone else who accesses the site. In that respect, this is your website so if there is something that, in your opinion, needs to be shown on the website please contact me.

Fixtures

This year, Bowls Northumberland have decided to change some of their Leagues. The Nines League will no longer exist & a new 4th Division has been added to the Knight Cup.

We have decided to continue with teams participating in Division 1 of the Clegg Cup (Wednesday evening), Division 1 of the Knight Cup (Tuesday evening), Division 1 of the Parliamentary League (Thursday afternoon) as well as Division 2 of the Collins & Shipley League (Wednesday afternoon),

Additionally, Gosforth B will join Division 4 of the Knight Cup (Tuesday evenings). It is important to note that the 2 teams that we are fielding in the Knight Cup must be kept totally separate. Once a member has played for either team, he is then tied to that team for the rest of the season.

Sheets will be placed in the Changing Room prior to the start of the season for members to indicate which for the 2 teams that they would prefer to play for.

Many members & Club teams have entered in competitions organised by Bowls Northumberland & Bowls England. I wish them all well.

Internal Club events take place on both Monday & Saturday afternoons starting at 2.00pm – (Spoons & Jumbles respectively). Members wishing to play **must** turn up promptly by 1.45pm for registration.

Several Friendly games, some of which are long standing fixtures, have already been arranged & there may be others arranged during the season. If you are a new member or unsure of where to sign up for these matches, please contact me or any other member of the MC.

A Fixture List Booklet will be available at the start of the season - please see Brian Duell to obtain one. The Fixture List will also be available on our website & regularly updated.

President's Day will be held on Saturday 1st August 2026 with play starting at 2.00pm.

Club Competitions

The entry lists for the club competitions are posted on the notice boards within the men's & ladies changing rooms. You may enter as many competitions as you wish, but please make sure you remember which ones you have entered & arrange the match to be played once the draw is made. There will be a 'cut off' date for when each round must be played, & this will be strictly enforced.

Simon Richardson, Peter Duffy, Marj James & I will try to ensure that all matches are played promptly, thereby culminating in a Finals Day on Sunday 6th September 2026.

Invitation Events

The **Invitation Pairs** will be held on **Sunday 27th April 2025**, the **Invitation Triples** on **Sunday 2nd August 2026** as well as an **Invitation Mixed Pairs** on **Sunday 30th August 2026**.

We have invited several Pairs, Triples & Mixed Pairs from other Clubs in the area & play will be of a good standard. However, should any of our members wish to be play, please contact Peter Dufffy

Dress

There have been no changes to the Dress Code this year for the various Leagues & Competitions – the details are on our website.

However, it is important to note that all members are expected to wear the Club shirt in all League Games & Friendly Matches,

Club Shirts as well as 'Hoodies' are available at a cost of £30.00 & £50.00, respectively – please contact Steve Pallas at stevepallas58@gmail.com

Club Equipment

Club Ties, Club Badges, Club Stickers & Club Keys are available to buy - please see myself or Brian Duell.

Social Events

Social events are held in the Clubhouse throughout the year but mostly during the close season. Please check the Club Noticeboard or the Club website for details. They are all good fun, excellent value for money & a effective way to meet new people & to cement friendships that have been made on the Green.

Most of these events are organised by Mile & Norma Povey and very ably assisted by George & Rosemary Bennett.

These events are vital as they always generate extra funds for the Club, & your support is appreciated. Please remember that they are not restricted to Club members, & any family or friends that you bring along will always be made very welcome.

Although we do have a full & varied social calendar, we are always open to suggestions to new types of events - please contact Mike Povey if you have any ideas.

Sponsors

We are extremely grateful to the various companies who support us & they are :-

Charlottes Butchery

Specsavers Audiology Home Visits

Gosforth Empire Social Club

Abbeyfield Residential Care Home

Mark Wait – An Independent Funeral Service

Howlett & Dickinson Podiatrists

The Manor House – Residential Care Home

W. Dennison Property Services Ltd.

Please try & reciprocate their support whenever possible.

Finally, can I remind all our members of 3 important matters.

1. No Smoking or vaping is allowed on the Green, or in any part of the Clubhouse, including the toilets. An outdoor space is allocated for smoking & vaping ;
2. Please also ensure that only the respective Changing Rooms are used for changing clothing and shoes, before & after bowling. The use of the Clubhouse as a changing area is strictly prohibited ; &
3. Security of the Clubhouse & the surrounding Grounds is of paramount importance. If you are last to leave the Clubhouse, **PLEASE** ensure that all doors are locked & lights switched off. At the same time, if there is no-one using the Tennis Courts, **PLEASE** ensure that the main gate is locked.

I sincerely hope that all our members have a great season.

John Wright

Honorary Secretary

secretarygosforthbc@gmail.com