

Horley Bowling Club Newsletter

End of Outdoor Season Update

Welcome

What a busy season it has been at Horley Bowling Club!

We've enjoyed success on the green, welcomed Surrey bowlers to the Club, secured significant funding for improvements and enjoyed a packed programme of bowling and social events.

A huge **thank you** to everyone who has played, volunteered, organised, supported or simply joined in. It all helps make Horley Bowling Club the friendly and active club it is.



On the Green – A Great Season for Horley

It has been another busy and successful season on the green, with members representing Horley in Club, League and County competitions.

League Round-Up

Congratulations to our Ladies on **winning the Nellie Mercer League once again**, while the Ladies' East Surrey League team finished **5th overall**.

Our Men's East Surrey League team finished **6th of 9**, the Triples team **8th of 11**, and Horley finished **second to Burgess Hill in the Border League**.

The NDL team finished **7th of 15**, continuing to provide competitive bowling opportunities for a wide range of members.

Looking ahead to next season, the **Jubilee League is being revamped**, with clearer rules on player eligibility and its own website. Horley intends to enter **two teams again**, with a particular emphasis on giving newer members the opportunity to experience league bowling.



County and Competition Success

Horley members have also enjoyed some excellent individual and team successes this season. Congratulations to **Mel Hoskins, Colin Squires and Mark Clark**, who achieved their **Surrey County Badges**.

Other notable achievements included:

- **Mel Hoskins** – runner-up in the Surrey Unbadged Singles and quarter-finalist in the Surrey Singles.
- **Mel Hoskins and Denise George** – reached the Area Final of the National Foundation Pairs.
- One of our **Senior Fours teams** reached the Surrey Quarter Finals.
- Our **Fours team** also reached the Surrey Quarter Finals.
- **Denise George and Tessa Loader** – runners-up in the Marathon Pairs at Redhill.
- **Elaine Hudson and Jo Streeter** – winners of the Marathon Pairs Plate.
- **Colin Rose and Brian Farley** – runners-up in the Marathon Pairs Plate.
- Members of our **Youth Section** also had the opportunity to represent Surrey.

Well done to everyone who represented Horley throughout the season.

Club Competitions

Thank you to everyone who entered our Club competitions and helped make Finals Weekend such a success.

You can find the full list of **2026 competition winners on our website**.

Our Prize Winners' event after the Closing Drive was a great way to round off the season.

A special shout-out to **Dave Perkins** – “Chuckles” – **our Champion of Champions**, with **Elaine Hudson** runner-up.

Congratulations to all our winners, finalists and everyone who took part.

Friendship League

Our Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning Friendship sessions have continued to grow.

Congratulations to **Terry Boardman**, winner of the Friendship League Shield, and **Rose Pursey**, runner-up.

The fun continues indoors! Short Mat Friendship sessions begin at **10.00 am on Tuesday 6 October**, with Tuesday and Thursday roll-ups open to all members, including beginners and newer bowlers.

There's no formality or commitment — **just turn up ready to play!**

Horley Welcomes Surrey

Horley was proud to host the **Men's and Women's Surrey Semi-Finals** and the **Surrey Past Presidents v Sussex Past Presidents** match this summer.

The Past Presidents event generated more than **£300 for the Club**, plus excellent bar takings, and we received some lovely feedback about Horley's hospitality.

A huge thank you to **Brian Wilson** and everyone who helped with the green, catering, bar, raffle, gate and all the other jobs that made these events such a success.

More Than £21,000 for Club Improvements

We're delighted to have secured two important grants:

- **£15,000 from Sport England**
- **£6,500 from the Surrey Community Fund**

That's **£21,500 of external funding** helping us improve our Club.

The projects will help make our facilities more accessible, welcoming and useful to members and the wider community, while providing a foundation for further improvements to the clubhouse.

Our appointed contractor is preparing for the next stage, subject to the necessary permissions. We'll keep everyone updated as work progresses.

Thank You to our Green Team

Despite some challenging weather, the green has looked fantastic and played extremely well throughout the summer.

End-of-season work begins on **Monday 28 September**, weather permitting, and volunteers will be very welcome.

Brian Wilson will be stepping down as Green Manager at the AGM.

A very big thank you to Brian for his tremendous contribution to the green and the Club. We will shortly be looking for someone to take on the Green Manager role.

Short Mat is Back!

The Short Mat season is nearly here, with **Alan Weller** kindly providing interim coordination to get us underway.

Short Mat remains extremely popular, with 16 playing places available at each session.

We're also looking at ways of making better use of the clubhouse during busy sessions so that members can still come along, meet friends and enjoy other activities even when all the Short Mat places are taken. You can book a mat online in the same way as you did outdoors.

A More Flexible Clubhouse

The men's locker room has recently been cleared and cleaned.

While we recognise that communication around the original changes could have been better, we now have an opportunity to see how this large room can work as a more flexible space.

It remains primarily a **men's changing and locker room**, particularly on match days, but at other times it could also accommodate refreshments after Short Mat, meetings, board and card games and other social activities.

We'll trial the arrangement during the Short Mat season and review how it works in practice.

Social News

Our **Senior Senior Challenge Cup afternoon** was a great success, with 26 members and guests enjoying bowling and afternoon tea.

Congratulations to **Irene Bennett**, our winner, and thank you to everyone who helped make it such an enjoyable afternoon. We hope to make it an annual event.

End of Season Party Movie Night – Saturday 3 October

Our End-of-Season Party has a **Movie Night** theme, with optional fancy dress, DJ Craig and a fish/sausage and chip supper.

Christmas Party

Save the date: **Saturday 5 December at Serendipity, Horley.**

Cheers to a Great Bar Season

Our bar has enjoyed another excellent year, with sales doing really well.

Thank you to everyone who has worked behind the bar and to all our members and visitors who have supported it.

Could You Help?

As we approach the AGM, and we need to fill vacant posts and we are looking for members interested in helping with:

- **Treasurer- Committee Post**
- **Short Mat Captain – Committee Post**
- **Short mat fixtures secretary - Committee Post**
- **Green management - Committee Post**
- **Safeguarding Lead – Co -opted**
- **Coaching Coordinator Co-opted**

You don't necessarily need previous experience and some roles can be shared

We are also delighted that **Jo Streeter** has volunteered to become our **Cleaning Coordinator**. Thank you, Jo!

We are also looking for more coaches and safe-guarding officers - we will pay for the courses and will help with completing the programmes

If you'd like to know more, please speak to **Sue Hudgell or any Committee member**.

Clubhouse Cleaning

The cleaning rota for the Short Mat season has now been sent to member's. If you are unable to do your allocated date, please arrange a swap with another member or contact Jo Streeter. A big thank you to everyone for helping. Keeping our clubhouse clean and welcoming is important, and it works best when we all muck in as a Club community.

Many hands make light work - thank you for doing your bit!

AGM

Our **Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 5 December at 10.00 am**.

Proposals for 2027/28 subscriptions and some updates to the Club Constitution will be included in the AGM papers, which will be circulated nearer the time.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event
28 September	End-of-season Green work begins
3 October - 10.00 am	Short Mat Captain's meeting 10 am in clubhouse
3 October	End-of-Season Movie Night Party
4 October	Clubhouse Cleaning- carpet to be cleaned in morning
6 October	Short Mat Friendship sessions begin
30 October - 10.00 am	Committee Meeting
5 December - 10.00 am	Annual General Meeting
5 December	Christmas Party at Serendipity

Looking Ahead

The outdoor season may be ending, but Horley isn't slowing down!

Short Mat is starting and our teams already taking part in the regional competitions. Our social programme continues, **£21,500 of funded improvements** are moving forward and we're looking ahead to another exciting year for the Club.

Whether you enjoy competitive bowls, a friendly roll-up, Lawn Bowls, Short Mat, volunteering, social events or simply catching up with friends, Horley Bowling Club is your Club.

Thank you.

Sue Hudgell
Chair
Horley Bowling Club