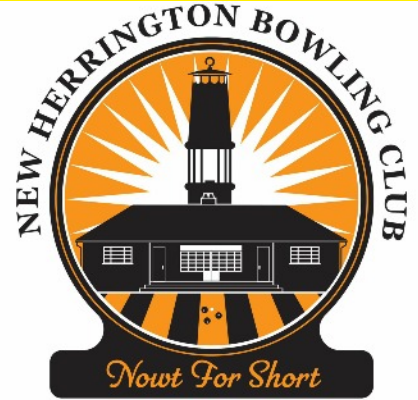


# NHBC NEWSLETTER - September 2024

We are delighted that Neil Hixon Property Services (NE) Ltd kindly sponsor our team kit.

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**WELCOME** to the last of the current outdoor season newsletters. The next time you hear from us we will probably be wrapped up and wearing wellies. (Bare in mind, your editor is a soft southerner). Many of us will now move indoors to Houghton and I'm pleased to say that NHBC is well represented. I happen to know that one group among us, calling themselves "HIT SQUAD" (Herrington Indoor Team), are committed to playing every night from Monday to Friday. Mind there are 14 in the squad.

## CAPTAINS REPORT

Welcome to this month's Captains Report  
As the season closes to its end (can't believe how quickly the season has gone) it has been another extremely proud year for me to be your club captain. What we as a club this year have achieved is quite remarkable as we continue to develop and grow as one.  
I am pleased to report the following outstanding achievements in all the leagues we entered.

Earl Cup – 7th position, retaining our place in division 1

SWBA ladies – Runners up in our first season

Swan Cup – 1st winning division 2 for the second time in 3 years

Harold Howey – Vets A team – runners up and promotion to division 1.

Harold Howey – Vets B team – 9th position, retaining our place in division 1

Grindon League – 7th position.

Storey Bowl – 3rd position.

At the time of writing, we still have 2 in house competitions to complete, and the winners so far have been: -

Men's Club Championship – Colin Watson

Ladies Club Championship – Linda Watson

Vets Club Championship - Colin Watson

2 Wood – Garry Wallace Snr

Handicap – John Sproston

Men's Pairs – Gary Loadman/Richard Johnston

Ladies Pairs – Lorraine Galley/Anne Dale

Mixed Pairs – Colin & Linda Watson

Success has also been achieved in the SDBA knockout competitions with Colin & Linda Watson winning the David Morgan Mixed Pairs and Chris Blake and Colin Watson unlucky not to win the Silver Jacks Pairs losing a very close final.

Entries for next year's Silver Jacks, David Morgan Mixed pairs and Birkett Shield have to be in by the 20th September this year so please be quick in forwarding me your teams for 2025.

I'm also pleased to report that Pam Bainbridge, Lorraine Galley and Linda Watson also won the Ashbrooke Triples open a few weeks ago which is a fantastic achievement.

This season has also brought us Men's Durham County recognition with Garry Wallace Jnr, Chris Blake and Colin Watson being picked to play for the B team.

Our coaching program is going to start in April 2025 so please keep an eye out for further details.

We will also be doing the ladies/gents friendly next April due to the number of ladies who were unavailable for the 7th September.

I personally thank each and every member for your contribution to our great club and hope to see you at our AGM in September and presentation night later in the year.

Many thanks also goes out to our hard working committee who spend hours of unseen work behind the scenes allowing the club to grow and run seamlessly throughout the year.

**Colin Watson**

## Annual General Meeting

All members should have received a letter by email or post informing them of the forthcoming AGM. It is an opportunity for members to perhaps learn what has been going on behind the scenes and what is planned for the future. But most important it is an opportunity for members to offer suggestions on how the club might improve what they do. If you need more information do not hesitate to contact a committee member. We hope to see you there.



Sprossy beat Mick Galley to win Handicap



Colin beat Chris Blake to win Vets



Lorraine & Anne beat Linda & Pam to win Ladies Pairs



Richard & Gary beat Sprossy & Mick to win the Mens Pairs



The Board Inn is proud to sponsor the New Herrington Bowling Club newsletter

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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 Chris Blake

The youngest of four children (myself, Pam, Dave and Steve) I was born at home during one of the coldest winters ever seen in March 1963. My Mam Margaret was one of five sisters born in South Shields and my Dad Arthur was born in Sunderland and was one of two brothers.

When I reached the age of 7 we moved to a beautiful country village called Burdon. I loved living there, 5 houses and 1 dairy farm and village green. Summers were spent playing football, cricket and exploring. Living in the countryside was just brilliant and during our time at Burdon our house was like 'Percy the Park keeper's' always taking in injured animals and birds, Barn Owl, Magpie, rabbits, hedgehogs, tadpoles and the list goes on.

Halloween 'trick or treating' at Burdon was short lived though with only 4 houses and a farm to knock on I was back home after 2 mins with the candle in my turnip fully in tact! Winters were class, we were often snowed in from school so it was endless sledging and milky coffee for me. TV shows when I was growing up included Robinson Crusoe, White Horses, Double-Deckers, Catch the Pigeon, Wacky Races, Camblewick Green, Rainbow, Vision On, Steptoe & Son, Morecambe & Wise, Likely Lads, Laurel & Hardy – quality! Christmas's were so different back then but felt so special, homemade decorations, lemonade was a real treat and turkey was literally something you only had at Christmas.

I lived for football and played for Roker Boys from the age of 6 to 16 before playing in various leagues for local teams until I was 38. I also loved playing table tennis having first played at Seaham Youth Club when I was 10. By pure chance 2 local table tennis coaches came to our school and I was picked for the school team, then the Sunderland league before being selected to play for the Town and County. I have represented the County ever since, 45 years now and have also managed the County Cadet, Junior, Senior and Veterans Teams and also continue to compete in the British League although it's getting harder now but it keeps me fit(-ish)! I have been the Sunderland TT League Chairman for 10 years now which has 280 players. I am Chairman and Lead Coach of Imagine Table Tennis Club and Vice President of Durham County Table Tennis Association.

I met Alison in 1983 when she saw me dancing to Wham on the dancefloor (obviously like an absolute legend lol) and we have now been married for 36 years – she's getting out soon on compassionate leave! We have two beautiful daughters - obviously take after their Mam, I can see your minds ticking! We have a lovely dog called Charlie and he is very much part of our family. We are both immensely proud of Amy and Grace and they are following in their Mam's NHS footsteps with Amy just going into her final year training in Paediatric Nursing whilst Grace is a Paramedic. Alison and I are both really excited about being grandparents for the first time with Grace expecting a little girl in December which is lovely news and we just can't wait.

After working for 37 years I took early retirement 8 years ago and have never looked back. Career wise I started work the week after leaving school – my first job was at Sunderland Careers Office in John Street as an Office Clerk and my last job was Business Excellence Manager for Gentoo. Being retired has enabled me to give something back to the sports I have played practically all my life. But then bowling also came along and I really enjoyed playing. This presented me with the chance to be involved in help support the running of the club as Chairman alongside our excellent dedicated Committee who all work tirelessly in the background steering the club in the right direction to provide an environment where all our members can feel safe and enjoy a very positive bowling experience and keep the club moving forward. It's an absolute privilege to be part of this great club and see it go from strength to strength. Our team spirit is so infectious and the genuine care we have for each other is simply fantastic. All hail the bonnie lads and lasses #bowling! #Nowtforshort! I nominate Rob Gibson for the next edition.

Chris

### COFFEE & CAKE

Like last year, the closed season will be "open" for coffee and cake every second Wednesday commencing at 2.00pm on Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>. Everyone welcome, but bring cake!



### **BIRTHDAYS**

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

Norma Ord	5 <sup>th</sup>
Anne Dale	6 <sup>th</sup>
Colin Watson	16 <sup>th</sup>
Rob Gibson	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Simon Calvert	27 <sup>th</sup>

*We wont mention the fact that it is a BIG birthday for the big fella.*



For me, this picture says more about NHBC than a thousand words

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