

# NHBC NEWSLETTER

## New Herrington Bowling Club - February 2024

We are delighted that Neil Hixon Property Services (NE) Ltd kindly sponsor our team kit. Call 0191 520 2224 for more info, or email: [neil.hixon@icloud.com](mailto:neil.hixon@icloud.com)

### WELCOME

It's getting nearer. Your committee is working hard to ensure we are up and ready for the challenges ahead, the clubhouse is looking smarter with new windows, the green is getting greener, the evenings are getting lighter and the weather is getting warmer. Haha, as I write, snow is forecast, but not for April. Some people are so excited they have already paid their membership fee, and we are very grateful as this is an expensive time of year for us. Did you know we are considering buying hoodies? Watch this space

### MEMBERSHIP

Just a gentle reminder of the fee structure for this year, you can pay on-line to our Lloyds bank account, details overleaf.

#### DAILY MEMBER

Joining fee **£20.00** for the year, commencing April 1<sup>st</sup>.

£3.00 green fee every time you play, whether it be a roll-up, an in-house competition or a league match.

£2.00 to enter any in house competition (£2.00 per competition)

#### FULL MEMBER

**£70.00** for the year, includes £20 joining fee. commencing April 1<sup>st</sup> (payable at time of joining) which covers all roll-ups, competitions and home matches. £3.00 if playing away in league match

£2.00 to enter any in house competition (£2.00 per competition).

*The season is approximately 20 weeks so if you play just once a week that equates to £60 for the season plus your membership fee of £20.00. Therefore "Full Membership" represents excellent value for money.*

**If for some reason you do not wish to rejoin or are unable to re-join the club, please let me know, by text or email.**



### NEWSLETTER SPONSOR - THE BOARD INN



One or two of you will have heard of The Board Inn, I believe the occasional pint of beer or three has been consumed there in the past. Well I'm delighted to inform you that the management have kindly offered to sponsor this newsletter for the next twelve months. We are very grateful to them for their generosity. The least

we can do in return is to consume a few more of their beers. The food is pretty good too. And the banter at the bar is all about bowls - what could be better?

### CHEQUE PRESENTATION

Members of New Herrington Bowling Club were delighted to handover a cheque this week to Cancer Research UK's Relationship Manager Nicky McKenna.

Chairman Chris Blake gave a warm welcome to Nicky and thanked him for coming along to receive the cheque donation.

Chris explained to Nicky and to those present that 'unfortunately some members of the club and family members had sadly been touched by cancer this year and that the club and its members just wanted to do something positive out of a negative situation as a way of showing strength and support to our close friends as they were going through the most difficult of times.'

Raising much needed money for the Club's two chosen charities Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer to fund research and raise awareness 'just seemed the natural thing to do as a way of saying a big thank you to all the wonderful NHS staff who take such

fantastic care of us'. Club Treasurer Lorraine Galley explained that the money had been raised in a variety of ways: - In-house competition between the men and ladies - Presentation Night raffle - contribution from club member John Sproston who kindly donated his £50 prize money for winning the club badge design competition - Christmas coffee afternoon with Santa - Club Secretary Barry Thomas and member Norma Ord, raised a further £130 dressed as Santa and his elf on Christmas eve and Christmas day - The club also made an additional donation of money

Nicky thanked the club and its members for the 'generous donation' and enlightened those present about the amazing work undertaken by the charity which included research, prevention and awareness and developing less intrusive and tailored care to those receiving medical treatment. Nicky said the Charity would be 'delighted to accept the clubs offer of returning in April to deliver a more detailed presentation about the important work undertaken by Cancer Research UK to all of the clubs members.'



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

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### The Wick (Or Herrington Glide) we learn a bit about Gary Hassan

I was born in the leafy suburbs of Farringdon council estate, Sunderland. Having six siblings, four sisters and two brothers, kept me busy and entertained throughout my formative years. The best fighter in our family was my sister Carol, not to be messed with especially if she wanted the bathroom before you. My father was employed as a maintenance plumber within Sunderland shipbuilders so we were better off than some. Mam was our full-time nanny, she never managed a day off bless her; she's still going at 84 years of age with her family now taking care of her when we can, sadly we lost Dad last year, God bless him. I loved my time as a kid playing in the parks and countryside which surrounded the Doxford Park estate where I lived and flourished after moving from Farringdon in 1970. No such thing as mobiles or social media back then; street cred was obtained by being recognised as either an expert tree climber, scrapper or good shot with a catapult. We whiled away our childhood playing games in the street, games now long forgotten by many such as kick the tin, tiddlyiego, kerby and Walley, no bowls I'm afraid. Top toy of the day if you were posh was a Raleigh Gripper or Chopper I had neither. We bathed once a week on a Sunday whether we required it or not, if fortunate you had access to a shower which was in fact a rubber hose connected to the tap with a shower head. Washing facilities for the remainder of the week consisted of being "topped and tailed" as required by an ever-attentive mother and a damp tea cloth; happy days indeed. Despite being a child we all tended to have jobs in those days, I was both a milk boy and paper boy, thinking nothing of getting up at 4 am every day to work for Cecil Norman for £12 a week. After finishing my milk round mam would have my tea and toast ready for 0630am before making my way to Silksworth to collect my morning papers all delivered by 0730. Back home another round of toast and off to school by 0815. At 4:30pm I would be back to collect my evening papers, all for £6 a week. Good money back then although I have to admit to leading a paper boy strike in 1977, demanding better pay. All the others promised to support me in my endeavours. In reality I was sacked, and the others crawled back. Arthur Scargill had nothing on me.



At the age of 11 I was fortunate enough to get into Bede secondary School which was regarded by many as a really good school which it was. I never missed a day, great teacher's great friends and so many fond memories. On leaving school in 1981 at the age of 16 I wrote to the council asking to be employed at a reasonable rate of pay to tidy up the grounds of our local church St Mathews, the place was a mess and even then, I was a keen gardener. To my surprise I received a letter back within the week offering me my first job on a YOS, Youth Opportunity Scheme on £24pw working as part of a small team producing a monthly newsletter called "New style" based at Houghton YOS centre. I was required with others to write articles and take photos of interesting aspects of our local area which was then edited published and handed out to the local community. A number of other jobs followed including working as a Veg cook with the NHS at Sunderland hospitals before I finally got a real job with the Ministry of Justice in June 1988, I was 23. I was keen to get started, I had met my wife to be Tracy (Daughter of Howard Smith) and we were keen to establish our roots and get married. After training I ended up in Chelmsford, Essex of all places, travelling home every other week to rejoin my family. Tracy and I were married in April 1991, despite Howards best efforts to put her off. Howard had visions of some well-heeled lawyer or Doctor walking her down the aisle rather than some kid from a council estate with nothing but dreams to offer. Tracy opted for dreams and the rest as they say is history. Many a winter evening when courting Tracy on returning from a night out in Finos night club I was required to sleep in Howard's old Volvo parked on the drive rather than being allowed on the couch, which was reserved for the dog. We had our first child Elliot in September 1990, with Oliver to follow in 1996 then finally Elizabeth in 2005. I managed to get posted home eventually in 1994 settling in Middle Herrington where we have remained ever since. My

first encounter of New Herrington Bowls club was back in 2019 when I was invited to join by Howard and Winker Watson (Howard after over 30 years of being married to his daughter finally agreeing to accept me as part of the family, although I still have to sleep in the car, fortunately he now drives a merc). In 2019 like many other clubs the membership was dwindling with me as their youngest member at 54. To cut a long story short the recruitment drive by Howard and Winker continued to establish what is now a thriving club which I am proud to be part of. The set up is now truly remarkable considering the challenges that have been faced since the pre and post Covid years. We have an outstanding and committed club committee supported by a

talented and enthusiastic membership. So, to close I'm now retired and keen to spend even more time on the grass with my other ever-growing family at NHBC. Roll on April 22nd our first outdoor fixture. Before I close did I mention that I was club champion in 2021 beating our club captain Colin Watson 21/17 in a thrilling final also runner up to Gary Wallace Junior in the 2022 final (I won't mention that score). I nominate Ned Dindsdale for our next bio, he really has a story to tell from his days as a miner.

#### BANK DETAILS

**BANK:** LLOYDS  
**SORT CODE:** 30 99 50  
**ACCOUNT:** 56801060  
**NAME:** New Herrington  
 Bowling Club

#### BIRTHDAYS

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

Anthony Heslop	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Jeanette Martin	4 <sup>th</sup>
Joyce Smith	4 <sup>th</sup>
Dave Irwin	6 <sup>th</sup>
Steve Norman	10 <sup>th</sup>
Richard Johnston	25 <sup>th</sup>
Ray Dietz	26 <sup>th</sup>

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY

##### SATURDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>.

*A change of plan. We are now having pie and peas and our Christmas party/presentation evening at The Stackyard, West Herrington. The committee felt it was better value for money and would be a great venue for a party. So put the date in your diary, attendance is compulsory, sick notes will be required from anyone who doesn't come. The wearing of draft hats is optional.*

Defibrillator training and a talk about prostate cancer are planned for early April, watch this space.

And our Linda Watson is looking for volunteers to help with cleaning the clubhouse and getting it ready for the coming season. So if you can help Linda on April 8<sup>th</sup> she would be very grateful - drop her a note to let her know.

You can contact NHBC at the following address: c/o Secretary, 15, Malvern Gardens, Sunderland, SR6 9LB  
 Email: [imbarrythomas@gmail.com](mailto:imbarrythomas@gmail.com). Telephone: 07715 252920