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We are very grateful to Neil Hixon Property Services (NE) Ltd for their continued sponsorship of the team kit  
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## WELCOME

The last newsletter before the green opens, YIPPEE. We are delighted that we already have 5 new members. We will no doubt lose a few as peoples circumstances change, so it is important that we maintain a healthy and competitive membership. The club is going from strength to strength with teams in the first division of the Earl Cup, and the Swan Cup. And two teams in the Howey Vets first division. Several clubs struggle to field one team. So, well done last year, and keep it up in 2025.

## MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already paid your membership fee, we would be very grateful if you would do so by April 1st.

**FULL MEMBER £70.00** fully inclusive, only pay £3 for away league matches.

**DAILY MEMBER £20.00** plus £3.00 every time you play.

**ALL MEMBERS** can play in league matches, if selected.

The in-house competitions are open to all members, the entry fee is £2.00 per competition.

**GUESTS £4.00**, first visit free.

**The season is about 20 weeks long, so if you play just once per week, the full membership is the best deal**

## BANK DETAIL

If you need to send us money, here are our bank details:

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

## NEW HERRINGTON BOWLING CLUB

# NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Edition 38

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT - COLIN WATSON

Welcome to this month's Captains Report. As you may already know our green is due to open on the 12 April so I'm sure we will have plenty of members having a roll up as soon as they can. Last season we tried our best to protect the green from wear and damage by playing on half rinks as well as full rinks and using the green protector sheets. We have purchased several more of these protector sheets and it is very important that they are used especially at the start of the season when the green is still very wet. The committee have decided that there will be 2 rinks that will have the protector mats down at all opening times initially, this will be reviewed as the season progresses. Last year there were a few rinks that were severely damaged and top dressing and seed had to be applied to reinstate the green to a playable state. Can I ask all members to be considerate and look after the green, if you feel you are damaging the green with the delivery of your woods then you need to make sure that a green protector sheet is put down if there is not one on your rink. Committee members who open the green will be monitoring the condition and the rinks being used to ensure that no damage is being done. I know we have a few members who struggle to deliver their woods to a full jack length when the green is wet, can I please ask that you are considerate to the other members who also play. The game is hard enough, having to pick the correct line to deliver your woods on but then to avoid divots on the rink makes it even harder or impossible at times. As soon as the green opens there will be opportunities for you to let me know which teams you would like to be considered for and what in-house club competitions you want to enter. There will be several sheets left in the clubhouse, so you write your names on them. This year's pairs competitions will be named pairs as we did last year with the mixed pairs. This decision has been made to hurry the competitions on as I know it can be hard trying to arrange games where in some cases people don't know who they are playing with or playing against.



"BEFORE WE START LET'S GET THINGS STRAIGHT — AS MY LEAD YOU KNOW NOTHING, AND YOU SAY NOTHING!"

**BOARD  
INN**

**THE BOARD INN** is proud to sponsor the New Herrington Bowling Club newsletter. Find us at: Durham Road, Middle Herrington, Sunderland SR3 3NS

**BOOK A TABLE ON 0191-522-5682**



## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Welcome to the latest edition of New Herrington BC's newsletter, many thanks to Barry for pulling it together and to those who have contributed - hope you find it interesting and informative.

Well, the indoor season is almost over and preparations are well underway for the new outdoor bowls season which is now just a matter of weeks away. In fact, preparations commenced in earnest many months ago when both myself and Club Captain Colin, began rolling out a coaching programme open to all New Herrington members and members of Houghton Indoor BC. The programme was designed to fine tune pre-shot routine, bowling technique and finding line and length consistently. The hope being that all those attending could implement / fine tune the techniques throughout the indoor season to enable players to hit the ground running when the new outdoor season gets underway in April. In total 36 people attended the programme (including 10 members from HIBC). Colin and I received really positive feedback with everyone saying that their game and levels of playing consistency have greatly improved as a direct result of the coaching provided - which bodes well for the new season ahead.

I am delighted to report that our clubs Community Chest funding bid of £1,362 to buy much needed new equipment was successful. On behalf of NHBC I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to Sunderland City Council and Cllr Mel Spedding for their continued support, it is really greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference.

So, as well as hitting the ground running with the coaching programme fresh in our minds we are also going to be looking very posh now too with some brand new bowling equipment! 8 new pushers, 12 new bowling mats, additional green protector sheets and new coaching bowls. The club have also purchased 10 new ultra strong and wind resistant umbrella's as we prepare for another glorious summer!

Huge thank you to everyone on the committee for your continued support, hard work and dedication and to all our members who help to make us the fabulous club we are!! Best wishes for the new season ahead, let's make it a great one - BOWLING!!' **Chris (Chairman NHBC)**

## WE ARE HOLDING AN "OPEN FUN DAY" ON SUNDAY APRIL 27TH

This is in support of the SDBA commitment to raise the image of our sport and endeavour to increase the membership across the region. 15 of the SDBA clubs are taking part. We have had thousands of fliers printed (as shown on



**Bowls Open "Fun Day"**  
Your local bowls club are holding a  
**FREE TASTER SESSION**  
Sunday 27th April 2025 from 1.30pm

*Forget the media image*  
**Bowls is a sport that you are never too young to start**  
*Once you try it we guarantee you will be hooked and will back for more!*

**Bowls is a sport for everyone, the whole family can enjoy, no matter your age or gender. It can be competitive or just good fun**  
**Come along and have a crack, the first two sessions are on us.**

**Just find your local club from the list**  
**No need to book**  
**Just a pair of flat soled shoes or trainers and the club will do the rest.**  
**If you have any questions don't hesitate to call the club contact or Barry Thomas on 07715 252920**

**BARNES PARK BC:** Brian Wardell 07967 637776  
Barnes Park, Eltrick Grove, Sunderland, SR4

**CHESTER LE STREET BC:** Les Carter 07776 167981  
Riverside Park, Chester le Street

**HOUGHTON DAIRY LANE BC:** John Inch 07399 421589  
Dairy Lane, Houghton le Spring DH4 5BH

**HOUGHTON TOWN BC:** Ken Taylor 07762 159082  
Sports Complex, Brinkburn Crescent, DH4 5HF

**NEW HERRINGTON BC:** Barry Thomas 07715 252920  
Herrington Recreational Park, Langley Street, DH4 4LJ

**NORTH BIDDICK BC:** Martin Williams 07860 463409  
Penshaw Park, Station Road, Penshaw, DH4 7PQ

**PEMBERTON BC:** Michael Noble 07889 635039  
Barnes Park Road, Sunderland SR4 7PY

**ROKER MARINE BC:** Ray Bell 07749 011340  
(next to lake) Roker Park Road, Sunderland SR6 9PL

**ROKER PARK BC:** Jim Huntingdon 07926 043194  
(next to mini railway), Roker Park Road, Sunderland SR6 9PL

**SEAHAM TOWN BC:** Mark Higgins 07377 911920  
Seaham Park, East View, SR7 0RH (Next to football ground)

**SUNDERLAND BC:** John Dixon 07762 107818  
West Lawn, Sunderland, SR2 7HH

**THOMPSON PARK BC:** Steve Glover 07309 555939  
Thompson Park, Newcastle Road, Sunderland SR5 2SH

**USWORTH COW BC:** Brian Poulter 07949 846166  
Usworth Park, Concord, Washington, NE37 3EU

**WASHINGTON GLEBE BC:** Philip Wilkinson 07962 226787  
Glebe Welfare Park, Glebe Village, Washington, NE38 7LP

**WHITBURN BC:** James Wilson 07889 626440  
Corthwaite Park, Whitburn

## BEDALE

Colin has had an excellent response to his call for players to travel to Bedale on April 26th, for our annual friendly match, so if you would like to go, please make contact with Colin straight away. We donated a shield to be presented to the winning team. So far, there is only one name on it and frankly I can't see that changing this year. Spectators are also welcome. It is an excellent day out, the Bedale club make us very welcome and always lay on a great tea.

You should plan to arrive by 1:30 and the match will start at 2:00. We will be fielding a 24 strong squad, with possibly a few folk playing just 9 ends, so that everyone gets a game. The green fee is £5 per player. The postcode is DL8 1ES

left) and these have been distributed to all the participating clubs. Of course NHBC do the "Fun Day" thing particularly well and hopefully this year will prove to be just as good. So put the date in your diary, and invite all your family and friends. BUT, (there is always a BUT) I am in need of a few **VOLUNTEERS**. First of all to help on the day with setting up the games, and looking after the visitors, and secondly I would like a few folk to help with delivering fliers around the area. **PLEASE** contact me direct, if you don't, you can rest assured, I will contact you! Thanks, *Barry*



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Secretary: Barry Thomas

**YOUR COMMITTEE**

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 Michael Galley**



Born June 1962, 20 Jennifer Avenue, Castletown, a mining community where everyone knew everyone. Earliest memories; walking to school past the shops and the farm, the only sounds of an occasional car, or hum from the electric milk-float; first day at infants, being introduced to lifelong friend Graham playing behind the piano. We still speak regularly and meet annually for walking holidays with other childhood mates; several school terms in a Market Rasen school due to family circumstances. As kids prior to the A19, Wessington way and its industrial units being developed we had all kinds of fun, surrounded by playgrounds; the castle and dene; the black woods; all

along the riverside; the pit yards. We would: climb the sandbank cliffs; the castle walls; trees for egg collections; play chicken with coal trucks, and edge out over the river along the beams under the newly constructed Hylton bridge daring each other on. There were casualties sadly, 1 drown, several toes lost to a coal truck, countless broken arms and legs from swings and falls, but most escape unscathed.

Graduate to Castle View Comprehensive in 1973. I was part of a student exchange programme with an American school in Pennsylvania, living with an American family and attending high school for a month. A fabulous experience the families continue to this day with three generations of both families continuing to visit. Many hours spent at Hylton Castle Boys club running the gauntlet of the castle dene and Bunny Hill, a different kind of arena where reputations could be made or lost against the unwashed Redhouse hordes.

Start 3year Apprenticeship with the PWD as a Painter and Decorator in 1978. 1980 Enjoy my first 8 parachute jumps at Usworth Airfield. 1981 go to London for a couple of years then return. I had pestered a young lady for a phone number in the Dun Cow before heading south and we had kept in touch after I eventually found out her name (Lorraine) so returning North proved the right decision. After a couple of not so good years moving between different local employers, losing my only surviving sibling and one of my closest friends, things started to improve. 1988 married Lorraine and we purchased our first house which needed lots of work I decide to go self-employed!! The next couple of years were interesting and successful enabling me to fund further education courses in Building

Surveying and also teach apprentices at Bede Annexe. In 1991 our daughter Jessica was born. Start work at Sunderland Housing Group Technical Section. In 1993 with 1 child and 1 on the way we decide we need a garden. We find our current home, Daniel our second child is born in May 1994 and 3 months later we move to Herrington. It took a little longer than we thought and every spare hour and penny was spent working to repair it and extend it over the next 10 years or so.

In 1999 secure the role of Diocesan Property Manager with the Diocese of Durham managing all repair and maintenance aspects of their domestic property portfolio including sales and purchases. In 2018 retirement becomes a viable and tempting option. Try a couple of years with flexible agency work for social housing associations. Both children now grown have their own careers and living in Australia, Melbourne and Brisbane affording us fabulous vacations. Discover bowls in 2021/22, throw in the work towel, Lorraine and I retire together in 2022 to extend our love of travelling, cruises, and campervanning with the highlight to date touring around Ireland. Our retirement dream was short lived with the arrival of Evan our gorgeous grandson, and renovating both Jessica and Daniels homes which became our priority, with still a bit to do!

I retain a love for thrills and have enjoyed motorbikes, roller coasters, a couple of high-speed circuits at Croft, learning to Scuba and Ski, completed a couple of skydives, the latter 15000 feet over Brisbane, Australia and the largest Bungee in the UK all without a broken bone to date. I nominate Barry Thomas for next edition.

**BIRTHDAYS**

We send warmest good wishes to the following members who have birthdays in March & April

Chris Blake	March 3rd
Paul Eden	12th
Joe Martin	14th
Alison Blake	18th
Bryan Crew	22nd
Susan Chambers	April 4th
Howard Smith	5th
Dave McKinley	7th
Derrick Merrington	17th
Marie Graham	18th
Keith Maddison	19th
Phil Herdson	23rd

Visit our website [www.newherringtonbowls.co.uk](http://www.newherringtonbowls.co.uk) or go to our Facebook page and keep up to date.

Or you can write to Secretary, 15 Malvern Gardens, Sunderland, SR6 9LB