



Oyster Indoor Bowls Club

Newsletter – Christmas 2025

Sincere Christmas Greetings to you all.

Goodness how the months have gone by. The festive season is well and truly upon us with only days to go. It is truly hoped that you are all fit and well. As Christmas approaches, we must send heartfelt best wishes to those who are absent from the club or are who are going through difficult times. We are thinking of you.

➤ **Christmas at Oyster**

On the 12th December the Christmas Party was held with the Useless Pluckers taking centre stage. There were nearly 80 guests - a great atmosphere with many taking to boards to “boogie” through the second half. The Pluckers don’t charge a fee for their time so we were able to give them a generous donation to the Strode Park Foundation in Herne Bay. Many thanks to the Pluckers.

On the 14th December the Christmas Drive was held. A great display of Christmas jumpers/outfits were on display. Christmas music was played making for a great atmosphere. Thanks to Dave Bartlett and Adrian Judd for their endeavours with improving our sound system. Jan Judd came out for the ladies with a great elf outfit. Keith Dellard won it for the men with a great Father Christmas shirt and hat with a little bit of mistletoe at the tip of his hat. Les Hoare was given a special mention.

The winners of the Drive were Rob Davies, Alison Keen and Fran Hollingsbee. They were presented with the John Cheesman trophy. John is often remembered by members for his ability to acquire winning shots with outrageous “wicks” off other woods in to the head.

Well done to all of them and well done to all who made the afternoon such a joy.

There has to be a special mention to the ladies who put up our Christmas decorations – Joyce Cheyney, Ann Holder and Carol Brown. Players were served with mulled wine and an arrangement of goodies by Emma – mince pies, of course, as well as stollen (with rum) Panettoni and Chocolate log. Yum Yum. **Many thanks** to her and those who helped on the day.

2. Kent Leagues

The Kent Indoor League is well under way now with mixed fortunes. The Ladies and Men's Captains have been fielding teams for the matches but it has been a continuing struggle as members aren't, regrettably, putting their names down on the sheets by rink 4. It is incredibly hard work for them and pretty demoralising as well. Both Captains **really** need your support – so **please** support them and in doing so support the Club itself. It will be greatly appreciated.

It must be noted that there are 289 men and 171 women who are full members. How is possible that the captains struggle to get teams of only 18 players (6 rinks of triples) ladies/men. There is great talent in the Club – let's use it to be best.

This is a regular slot in the newsletters – constantly asking members to put their names down over many, many seasons. If there are any concerns that are preventing players from signing up for a match please speak to Rita Henson (Ladies Capt) or Brian Watson (men). Dave Turner is another great source of information.

3. Bar and Catering

It has been a busy season thus far – matches have been, in the main, tea and biscuits but meals are being provided. Having said that, there is still a huge and “URGENT” need for volunteers to assist Emma with the bar and - **especially** the kitchen. Emma cannot work in the kitchen on her own. For those that do help – many on a regular basis – a huge heartfelt message of appreciation and gratitude go to you all – please understand just how important you are to the running of the Club's bar and catering facilities. If anyone feels they could support Emma please speak to her – this appeal is so, so important – as urgent now as it has been over many, many previous newsletters not to mention years.

- 4. **200 Club** – this is still wide open to members who want to join the “club.” To date there are about 80 shares not sold. The return on a £5 fee could be as much as £100 the next draw is due to be drawn on the 11th January – the date of the next Presidents Match. Please, see Emma and get a share or two (if you can) and look out for potential winnings. You have to be in it to win it!!

5. **Parking Cameras** – as many of you know, the postman has been delivering unwanted correspondence! It has been a straightforward resolution to these fines being cancelled when Dave Turner or Emma are informed – please bear with it, the expected teething problems have happened but are decreasing. Please remember to notify the staff if you change your vehicle.

6. **New Years Day** – IMPORTANT hopefully you will have seen the email from Dave Turner informing everyone that the opening of the club – as previously notified – on 1st January 26 has now been changed to CLOSED. There are leagues on that day and a plea goes out to all Team Leaders to ensure that their games are rearranged

as soon as possible. Apologises to those members who had booked rinks on that day.

7. Leagues – a reminder please to those Team Leaders/players who have games outstanding. **Please, please** do not leave it until the last minute when catch ups become a serious problem. The League Secretary will be contact those affected in the New Year. Thank you.

Potters 2026 – 2nd to 6th March - a reminder to all that may have leagues affected by the annual pilgrimage to Potters. A whole week is affected so, again, please do not leave it until the last minute to get those matches played

- It will be a sad day for games to be conceded – potentially giving teams unfair advantages with points being awarded without delivering a single wood. It doesn't matter when they are played – early is fine but late becomes an issue. There are four months to go – please, kindly said, no excuses. Thank you.

9. **Social Committee** – Five members continue to work hard to set social events up – in addition and separately club matches being arranged as well. It is urgently requested that more attend the Social Committee to pool ideas and resources going forward to provide great social events for members.

- **The next Social Committee meeting is on 30 December**

- **Dates for diary** – are on the website for up-and-coming events. However, will list them here for all to see. If any member knows of someone who does not have access to the internet/emails please pass on this information so that nearly 500 members will get to know about them.

- 1. **Saturday 10th January @ 7.30pm**. Games Night Scrabble, dominoes, whist – whatever – open to all. Bar will be open –why not dust off the winter blues (to be repeated on the 1st Saturday of each month)
- 2. **Sunday 1st February –7 for 7.30pm start** QUIZ night – tables of 6 - tables are filling well. Get your team registered – see notice board for details.
- 3. **Sunday 1st March – 7.30pm start** – Barty's Music Quiz tables of 6.

BOTH 2 & 3 events - £3 for members £5 for non-members

See notice boards for more info - pay on the night

- 4. **Saturday 7th March 7.30pm** HOY Bingo – Fish (or sausage) & Chip supper

CASH prizes Tickets £15.00. NB the advertised Race Night on the 31st January has been postponed

One more date for diary

11th January - Presidents Match. Look out for the sheet by rink 4 and put your name down for a good afternoon of bowls. Support President Roger in his penultimate match against your Vice President Caroline Jordan.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Playing Management Committee – wherever you are, we send our warmest wishes for a joyful and peaceful Christmas. For those who are going through difficult times, particularly at Christmas, may you find comfort in knowing, as part of the Oyster Bowls Club family, we send Oyster love and support to you all.