



NEWSLETTER 2025



**Club Secretary -
Angela Easton**

Welcome to the 2025 Newsletter. The interior of the Clubhouse is being re-decorated starting w/b 24th March, the blinds are also being replaced. Thank you to Alan Parr and all the members undertaking this task.

Outside we are trying to get the ground to the right of the clubhouse levelled to provide more seating and the empty flower beds re-planted. The footpath lighting has now been installed and working well, making it safer when attending evening social activities during the winter months. On the green, yellow markers are in place to assist with mat placing when playing.

This year is the Club's 90th Anniversary and we are planning 2 special Drives to celebrate.

We would like to invite you to our Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th April 2025. Our Open Day is on Saturday 12th April 2025, members are welcome if they are prepared to assist the coaches and chat to prospective new members. Outdoor bowling starts on Monday 14th April 2025.

Have a great season of bowling.



**President 2025 -
Mick Arrow**

Welcome to all of our existing and new bowlers for our 2025 season. The coming season is our 90th year and we are looking forward to some exciting extra items of activities

during the year.

I hope everyone will join in and commit themselves to the 2025 season. It is very hard when the committee work so hard in preparing the activities and then have to struggle to get members to take part, especially in away matches.

All the best for the new season and good luck for great bowling.



**Treasurer -
Brian Binning**

This is my first newsletter report as Treasurer, having taken over the hot seat from Richard Bosworth. Richard served in the post for 8 years and deserves a huge thank you from the Club for his work during that time. Amazingly, the total cash flow for the Club during Richard's time as treasurer amounted to some £850,000! I have inherited the Club's finances in an orderly and healthy position, and I hope that I will be able to follow in Richard's footsteps during my time as Treasurer.

At the time of writing, we have available funds of around £29,000 in the bank, although some £10,000 of this is set aside as a contingency against possible unforeseen events; this sum is being steadily increased each year for the time being. We will aim to continue to maintain a healthy balance in our day-to-day funds, something that will require keen control over expenditure as well as the traditional methods to generate income such as membership fees. The 200 Club (which, incidentally, Richard is continuing to administer) and of course socials, the bar and raffles etc. If you have not yet joined the 200 Club, why not do so for the chance to win around £188 and at the same time assist with increasing the Club's funds? We will look forward to your continued support in all these areas.



Men's Captain - Duncan Richards



2025, my 30th year at the club. I have witnessed many physical changes to the fabric of the clubhouse in that time. What has remained constant have been the efforts of members in ensuring that the club remains a viable and happy place.

The world of bowls has a long history...stone-age men rolling stones at other fur clad peoples...Vlad the Impaler rolling heads of enemies towards stakes...Francis Drake etc. The game has since evolved into a more civilised activity with rules and regulations that embrace all peoples of all ages and levels of competency. My hope is that all members will be kind to each other and find good fellowship and enjoyment in the coming season. I won't get everything right and selection of players for various games may be controversial at times, but with the help of the selection committee I will try to ensure that everyone will be fairly treated.

I do not subscribe to the philosophy that winning a bowls game is everything, as a Liverpool F.C. Manager once proclaimed. Some other things might be slightly more important and over the years I have learnt to lose gracefully.

However, I freely admit to feeling very self satisfied when any of The Crouch teams win.
Happy Bowling

Competition Secretary - Derek Budd

The 2025 season is just around the corner. We now have the chance to enter all the knock-out competitions and get that wonderful feeling of eager anticipation as we play our first rounds. Who will be left at the end to battle it out in the Finals in September? There are bound to be a few surprises. Although there could be as many as eight past champions in the Men's Singles, there is no guarantee that any of them will win it as there are so many other good bowlers with their sights on the title. I hope we will see a record number of entries in



Ladies Captain - Marina Floodgate



As I sit writing this, the skies are very grey and stormy, but hopefully it won't be too long before they turn blue and warm, ready for our outside bowling, so a very warm welcome to you all, for this special 2025 season.

Our Ladies pre-season meeting is on Wednesday 9th April at 14.30hrs with tea and cake. I look forward to seeing you all there. Our Ladies Tuesday morning practice roll-up sessions will start on 15th April at 10.00am and will run for 7 weeks.

This year, there will be Club Drives, Mixed Leagues, Matches with our local friendly clubs, Touring Team Matches, giving you an opportunity to play in many different games no matter your level of bowling.

Our Club Competitions are a wonderful experience for everyone, so I hope many of you enter, wishing you the best of luck!! Finally, my Vice Captain, Daphne Hemmings, and I wish you all a happy, healthy and successful summer season of bowling.
See you all on the green.

this year's competitions.

We have, once again, entered two teams in each of the Men's National Top Club and Double Fours Competitions. The Selection Committee will be working on a squad of about 30 bowlers, so many of you will have the chance to experience playing against excellent players from other clubs. Our Ladies have also entered the County Top Club and Double Fours Competitions and I know that many of you will be playing in individual County and National Competitions. Best wishes to all of our competitors and let's hope that it is a bumper year to help celebrate our 90th anniversary.



Bar Manager - Mike Nolan

Welcome to another season at the Crouch. Thank you for all the support you gave the bar in 2024/25. The bar made a profit of £4823.25.

This year will be my last as Bar Manager. I have enjoyed running the bar but now feel the time has come for me to hand over the reins. I would like to thank my wife Vi for all the help she has given me in the purchasing of stock from the various supermarkets. I would also like to thank my bar staff for the support they gave me in the past.

Please support the bar in any way you can, even if it's just a soft drink after a match. Your bar staff need the work.

Your Bar Team will consist of Mike Nolan, Vi Nolan, Ann Blackman, Ashley Tyler, Marina Floodgate, Derek Budd, Brenda Monks, Rosie Waters, Ann Merritt, Ann Mitchell and Gwen Coward.

If anyone is interested in working behind the bar, please let me know.

The Bar Team await your orders!



Green Secretary - Fred Hammond

February with its changeable weather, grey days and low temperatures, but when the sun shows its face you can feel the warmth. And as the days lengthen that warmth from the sun is required to raise the soil temperature in order to get the grass sward growing strongly and thicken up the sward.

The green looks sorry for itself, but as conditions improve and the contractor applies liquid iron which not only strengthens the grass sward but also hits the moss, this will be followed up with an application of lawn sand which will again give another hit on the moss. The green can then be scarified, removing the dead moss, followed by a fertiliser application to get the grass moving and thickening the sward.

Also deep spiking of the green to be carried out in order to alleviate the layering within the soil profile and help towards eradicating the high organic content of the soil. As identified from the report from GMA last year.

We have also requested that a light top dressing of the green be carried out before the season starts if weather conditions are satisfactory, as this is felt to have helped improve the surface last year. This will take time to work into the sward of the green. As more regular work is carried out as conditions improve, working towards the start of the playing season will improve the green.

May I take this opportunity to remind members that no play is allowed on the green before 10am, even if the green seems to be clear of any work.

This rule must be adhered to as the contractor has authority over the green until that time. Otherwise the danger is that starting a game a few minutes early becomes the norm and then a few minutes earlier and so on. And this would eventually affect the maintenance regime of the green.

May I wish everyone an enjoyable and successful playing season.



Match Secretary - Marilyn Binning

This coming season will be my first as Match Secretary for The Crouch, and I would like to thank Brian for all his hard work organising previous years fixture lists, and making it easy for me to take over.

Most of the 60+ fixtures have now been confirmed, to include two Touring Teams. We have 18 Meridian League matches, and the popular weekly Mixed Evening League and Friday Men's League scheduled. At the time of writing, we are waiting to hear with regards to any fixtures for the Brighton Men's League and the Ladies League.

The highlight of our internal programme this season will be two Drives to celebrate our Club's 90th Anniversary. The first a Fun Drive and later an Invitation Day Drive, both of which we hope you will support. We also have a further 10 Club Drives scheduled, split 50/50 between weekends and weekdays, primarily to allow those still working an opportunity to play. The fixture card should be available to distribute to members at the coffee morning on Saturday 5th April, while our Open Day is Saturday 12th April and Casual bowling starts on Monday 14th April. Lets hope we have a lovely summer to enjoy our bowling!

Social Secretary - Yvonne Newbold

As you are probably aware we have been without a Social Secretary for a couple of years. I am trying to put together a social events calendar. Dave Tolhurst has decided to retire, and we thank him for his services over the last few years. I will have to search out some new entertainers, this of course means we will have to make a charge for musical events. The more support we get for these events the smaller the charge will be.

I would appreciate any ideas, and your views on what sort of entertainment you would like.

To date we have booked a Jazz Nite in October and a Christmas Dance.

We will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary this year with A Fun Day and afternoon tea. And of course our BBQ.

I will keep you informed of any events for the coming season.

Enjoy your bowling,



Winter Committee

The winter committee consists of David Grimley, Mike and Vi Nolan. Together we organise the winter indoor short mat bowling and skittles.

The 2024/2025 season has been a great success. We have short mat bowling 5 days a week including Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm when the bar is open. We also have games against other clubs home and away. At the time of this going to print we have played 3 short mat matches against other clubs



and won all 3. We have 3 away matches booked before the season ends, fingers crossed we will do well. However, at all these matches we have a brilliant time, win or lose. On Friday evenings every fortnight between 7pm and 9pm we play skittles and this has become a very popular social event.

Throughout the season some of our members who belong to other organisations have held skittles games at the club. We also have had skittles matches against teams from Hollingbury and Lewes Bowls Clubs, again we were the victors but these were brilliant fun afternoons.

On the last Tuesday of each month we have a social evening from 7pm – 9pm when we have quizzes and bingo plus the bar is open.

Why not come along and join in the fun next winter.

