

HENLEY-ON-THAMES BOWLING CLUB

The Pavilion, Mill Meadows, Meadow Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1BE

01491 579271

Founded 1928

Patron – The Mayor of Henley on Thames

Report for 2014

In 2014 our green was ready mid April for outdoor practice in readiness for our arranged fixtures for the season ahead. The green is well cared for all year round by our voluntary green keeper and his helpers, and looked in a good state and ready to be used – and so it proved. Many of the visiting teams we entertained for matches told us we have one of the best greens they play on and we believe we have a reputation for friendliness and being good hosts.

Many of the playing members, who with social members, total about 80 anticipated a busy season to come. The fixture list showed the home and away ladies' and men's friendly matches together with the mixed matches which are either friendly or league. Most weeks reports of those matches were submitted to the Henley Standard, and each month the league tables of the Manchester Unity League, to be known as Oddfellows (MU) Triples League for the 2015 season, and The Plomer Cup in which we participated; finishing mid-table in the former and third in the latter. Friendships were made or renewed over tea or supper following the matches.

With the advantage of all year round use of the Pavilion social events over the winter period such as bridge afternoons, whist evenings, painting groups, monthly bingo sessions and other happenings enabled members to keep in touch out of the playing season. Our special occasions during the season included The Gala Day when 16 clubs played in mini leagues to produce semi finalists with those winners playing to become the days winning team, hosting county matches, entertaining Rotary Clubs and the Unicorn Club. Unfortunately it was not possible to arrange a challenge match against the Town Councillors, which in the past has been eagerly anticipated by both sides!

We appreciated the spectators who supported the players on match days. For the home matches there are plenty of garden benches on the surrounds of the green giving a good view of the bowling as well as to appreciate the flower and shrub beds and planted tubs tended with dedication by some of our members. We are pleased that they are part of the town's annual inspection by the judges for the Henley in Bloom Competition.

The Monday coaching evenings proved very popular again, led by qualified coaches, and not just for those wishing to learn but for those wanting to improve their play.

If you would like to know, or learn, more about the game of bowls we would be delighted to see you. The coaching sessions begin on May 11 2015 at 6.30 pm. You will find a warm welcome, so do look us up.

Richard J Kingston

Chairman

