

2025 Season Summary

2025 was the first year that the re-constituted Management Committee came into operation. The Committee now comprises the five primary Officers (Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Club Captain and Ladies Captain). and three other auxiliary members without portfolio. The new arrangement appeared to work well with the latter members having played a significant role in taking initiatives and completing various tasks to the benefit of the Club. Club Officers not on the Committee were invited to attend meetings and some have taken up this option usually when an issue pertaining to their area of responsibility has been on the agenda.

Several Club Officers notified their intention to stand down from their roles next season, specifically Ray Kelly (Competition Secretary), Brian Pearson (Welfare & Safeguarding Officer), Mary Sutton (SBA representative) and Gary Rowley (Sports Ground Trustee). In addition, President Ann completed her three-year tenure of office, where she has made a huge contribution to the furtherment of the Club. New incumbents for these positions have now been appointed by the Management Committee.

The Monday morning working party continued to operate well throughout the year and their numbers were buoyed by several of our newer members becoming actively involved. As a result of their efforts, the Green and the surroundings were in pristine condition at the start of the season. Like all bowls Clubs, the long dry summer posed challenges to green maintenance and the green had to be regularly watered for long periods. As a result, our water bill increased by £1000 compared to the prior year. By the end of the season, the Green still bowled well and was still in much better visual appearance than most other Clubs in the area.

This year only four of last year's members failed to renew their membership. From the outset, significant effort was made to attract public interest in the Club via promotion through local publications, social media, the Club's website and posters. In the event we were able to recruit 15 new members bringing our membership up to 60 by the end of the season (12 more than in 2024). Largely as a result of our new members, roll-up sessions were well attended, and we attracted a good number of visitors who trialled the sport without committing.

On the Match front, the Club finished mid-table in the Wessex mixed friendly league with the matches generally being well supported. The Club was less successful in the Ladies South-West Somerset League, finishing in the lower reaches of the table, despite some credit worthy performances. In the Men's Saturday County League, the Club narrowly avoided relegation from South-West Div,1, finishing just above the drop zone. The Captain did however struggle to get teams out for these matches and as a result often fielded a weaker team. It proved difficult to get many of our newer members to participate in matches probably due to lack of confidence in their own abilities.

Club competitions were again relatively well supported this year. Unfortunately, only half of the Club Finals could be completed due to adverse weather conditions. It is planned to complete these, early next season. Details of the winners and runner ups will be posted on the Club website in due course. Nonetheless members enjoyed the limited Presentation evening/ President's Dinner, held at Long Sutton Golf Club in early November.

Unfortunately, two high profile Club Members passed away this year namely Mo Burt and Cyril Willcox, the latter's funeral being well attended by Club Members.

At the AGM, outgoing President Ann was afforded a large vote of thanks for the contribution she has made to the Club in her three years in office. Her role in promoting fund raising for the Club was particularly appreciated. In a short ceremony, she handed over the Chain of Office to Ian Badman who was appointed as our new President. Finally, at the AGM a motion was passed to change the Club dress for matches and competitions to navy blue below the waist (trousers and skirts), this will be put into practice in the 2027season.