



Welcome to the new year, 2026, and the new season at your Braid Bowling Club.

## Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for the year to are due by 31 March 2026. Details are to be found on the subscription payment sheet accompanying this letter.

As advised at the AGM, there has been no increase in subscription levels this year.

## Pre-Season Coffee Morning

There will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00 am to 11.45 am when it is hoped many members will attend. New members will be particularly welcome when they will have an opportunity to meet the Club Officers and members. The pétanque court will also be open for play.

Please note: As the Pavilion will be busy during the Art Exhibition, members are requested **not** to bring bowling coats, clothing or bags at this stage.

## Art Exhibition

An Art exhibition is being arranged at the beginning of the season, open to all, from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. This is a significant fund raiser for the club and will be in a similar format to the Art Exhibition held last year.

## Opening Arrangements

A joint opening day play will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April at 2pm.

## Hat Nights

Men's Hat Nights will start on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April and will be held every Monday evening until 21<sup>st</sup> September, with signing in by 6.40 pm (by 6.25 pm from beginning of August and by 6.10 pm in September). Players of all standards will be made welcome. Each evening a charge of £2.00 per player will be made and cash prizes will be awarded at the end of the season.

Mixed Hat Nights, organised on a similar basis to Mixed Play Days and open to all members, are held on Friday evenings, beginning on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, and running until 21<sup>st</sup> September. Signing-in time for Mixed Hat Nights is 6.45pm. (6.25pm. from beginning of August). A rink fee of £4 per person will be made each evening to defray costs and there will be small cash prizes for the "highest-up rink". Those attending Mixed Hat Nights are encouraged to invite guests to join them on Friday evenings to introduce them to Bowls and to some of the members. There will be wine and nibbles in the Pavilion after the game.

## Ladies Points Days

This Competition, played on Wednesday afternoons, starts on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and continues throughout the season. Ladies wishing to play must sign in by 1.45 pm. The Ladies' Match Committee looks for good support for this Competition.

## Mixed Bounce Games

Mixed Bounce games, open to all players, will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week from the 21<sup>st</sup> April (with a few exceptions, check the published Calendar). Those turning up will distribute themselves as they wish into rinks. Play is normally ~ 1 hour followed by a tea/ coffee break following by play for the remainder of the time available.

## Mixed Play Days

Throughout the year there are three mixed play days, these are identified in the calendar, it is hoped that these events will be well supported by members.

## Sunday Afternoons Informal Mixed Play

The Sunday afternoon mixed play sessions from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm have proved highly successful in attracting new members and will resume on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Members are encouraged to bring along friends and family. Those attending Try Bowls sessions shall be entitled to play on Sunday afternoons free of charge. Play will start at 2 o'clock with Tea/ Coffee will be available after play.

## Men's Competitions, League Matches and Friendlies

Men are requested to complete the enclosed sheet showing the Club Competitions they wish to enter and also give an indication of any external Competitions, League Matches and Friendlies in which they are willing to play. This form should be returned to the Treasurer along with the subscription sheet.



Advance notice is given of the Donaldson Trophy on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Evening League Matches, starting at 6.45 pm, begin in May and members should consult the Notice Board regularly to see whether they are selected for these games, and, if so, should tick their name to confirm their availability. If any member finds he is selected for a game in which he cannot play, it will be appreciated if he informs the Match Secretary as early as possible. It would also be of great help if members willing to play in matches enter dates in the grid when they will not be available. Dates for all League Matches, Seniors' League Matches and Friendlies, etc., where known, will be printed in the Fixtures booklet, but all members should consult the Notice Board regularly for further information.

## Ladies' Competitions, League Matches and Friendlies

Ladies are requested to complete the enclosed sheet to give an indication of their interest in participating in external Competitions, Tuesday League and Friendly Games.

Please contact the Match Secretary if you need more information about these events. Members should check the Ladies' Noticeboard regularly to see whether they are selected and if so, should tick their name to confirm their availability. Dates for the external Competitions, League and Friendlies, where known, will be printed in the Fixtures booklet and otherwise will be announced on the Ladies' Noticeboard throughout the season.

## Pétanque/ Boules

Members are reminded that the pétanque/ boules area is available for use by members, who may bring guests for £2. A key to the Old Bowls House, where the equipment is held, can be found at the back of the Bowls House.

This year, the club will again be running a Pétanque championship playoff, members will be invited to register their interest. This year the format will best out of three rounds. A draw will create a playoff and a trophy will be awarded to the winner.

## Fund Raising: 550 Club and Summer Fair

As income from subscriptions meets only the Club's ordinary running costs, all improvements to the facilities and any extraordinary expenditure have to be financed from the proceeds of the 550 Club, the Summer Fair, winter whist drives, raffles, etc.

The 550 Club will have three draws, in May, June and August, with 50% of the income being passed back to members as prizes. Draw entries costing £5.00 each are on sale from now until September but those bought prior to the May Draw will participate in all three Draws.

This year's Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June from 10:00 to 12:00 and members are invited to support this event by donating to the various stalls, by selling tickets to their friends, and by helping and/ or attending on the day. The Club Committee urges every member to support these and other fund-raising activities.

## Payment for guests

Members are reminded of the requirement to pay for any guests they may invite to play on the Green at the rate of £2 per guest per game. Payments should be put in the box below the telephone and all guests signed in in the Visitors Book.

## Security, Grounds access and Pavilion Entrance Door

The gate lock code is unchanged and the code for the Pavilion door is unchanged.

Members are reminded that under Club Rule 9.2.2, members leaving the grounds when the bowling green is not in use shall ensure that the doors of the pavilion are closed and latched and that the entrance gate is closed. Care is also required when members are upstairs or when only a few members are playing. It is essential that members continue to make sure they close the gate behind them.

## The Green Booking Arrangements

Use of the Bowlr system for booking of rinks continues. Full details are on the Club website. Those wishing to play but unable to access Bowlr may turn up to play on the understanding that those who have booked will have priority in the choice of rinks.

## Coaching

Joan Ball and Ivor Yule are available for coaching for both new and existing members and should be contacted by any member wishing to have the benefit of their expertise and knowledge.



Members are reminded that the club has a voucher from Bowls Scotland covering the cost of coach training for anyone wishing to become a coach. If interested, please contact Ivor.

Open coaching session will restart from Thursday the 2nd of May from 14:00, all are welcome.

### Opening up in the morning and setting out rinks

Kathleen Patrick is compiling the rota of members willing to open the clubhouse each morning and set out the rinks. If you are willing to undertake these duties for one or two weeks at a time, please contact her on [kathleenp@braidbc.co.uk](mailto:kathleenp@braidbc.co.uk) or by phone on 0131 445 1516. Training will be given to new volunteers.

### Hit Squad

The Hit Squad meets on Monday mornings from 10 - 12. Help would be gratefully received in preparing the Green 'furniture' for opening day, and for keeping areas weed free and tidy during the season. Please feel free to come along at 10am on any Monday, or contact Ron Fenton, Margaret Kilner or Kathleen Patrick.

### Security Rota

Each evening throughout the season the pavilion is locked up by volunteers, each of whom is normally responsible for one week's duties, starting on a Monday. However, there are currently a number of vacancies on the rota. Members willing to participate in the locking up of the pavilion are asked to contact the Secretary.

### Protection Officer

Braid Bowling Club is and should remain a safe and inclusive environment for all members and visitors, adult or children. In line with Bowls Scotland and Sport Scotland requirements, we now have members who have completed the required training and are nominated Protection Officers acting for the club. If any member has an issue where they consider unsafe or excluding behaviour is present, they can draw this to the attention of a nominated Protection Officer who will then consider what action, if any, is required.

The nominated Protection Officers are, Marion Gillett and Robert Martin. You may contact any of these members directly or use the common email address [protection@braidbc.co.uk](mailto:protection@braidbc.co.uk).

Please note that any issues raised will be treated in confidence.

### Annual Dinner

The Club's Annual Dinner will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at **TBA**. The Club Committee hopes that you will again turn out in large numbers.

### Annual General Meeting of the Club – 2026

Your early attention is drawn to the date and time of this year's Annual General Meeting of the Club which is Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 2.30pm.

Please consult the Notice Boards and the Club's website ([www.braidbc.co.uk](http://www.braidbc.co.uk)) regularly to ensure that you are fully aware of what is going on and of any special events planned.

Ivor Yule  
Club Secretary  
[secretary@braidbc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@braidbc.co.uk)

### Sponsors

The Braid Bowling Club is being supported this year by the following sponsors ...



Please, in turn, support our sponsors.