

2025 Season highlights:

Saturday 12th April

Well, wonder of wonders, after 2 years of deferred openings, we started the season on time and in (hazy) sunshine!

Today saw the traditional "season opener" of the Captain v Vice-captain match, and a great afternoon of bowling was enjoyed by all. There were a few wrong biases to swell the Captain's charity as well.

The eventual winners were Captain Bob Swift's team with the runners-up being Vice-captain, Tony Benford's team.

The final score (according to Captain Bob) was "about 120-odd to 80-odd".

Sunday 13th April

Today was the Association Drive, where all four Clubs of the Association mix together and draw random Rinks and Positions out of a bag for each round. Players get to play in a variety of positions they may not be used to, so it's a really fun afternoon.

The weather stayed dry, but it was a bit chilly to say the least!

There was a good turnout and a good mix of all four Clubs.

Three rounds of 5 ends were played and the overall winner, with 30 points, was Brian Venn of Portishead RBL, so well done to him, to everyone that took part, and to the unsung heroes that organise and run these events.

Sunday 27th April

Today was our first Open Day and what a day it was!

Glorious sunny weather and fabulous people trying out bowls for the first time, in our beautiful setting!

It was a great turnout, so thanks to all those that organised the event and those who came along to help. Great Club effort all round.

For anyone that missed today, our next Open Day is Sunday 25th May

Monday 12th May

Today we held our first Charity event of the season and colourful Hawaiian shirts and clothing was strenuously encouraged!

The weather was very kind and well done to all our members and friends who participated in a smashing morning of bowls.

Our lucky dip games and lunch raised over £400 to go to both the Men's & Ladies

nominated charity this year - Children's Hospice South West.

Many thanks to Captains Julie & Bob for organising the morning, all the helpers and especially Val, Wendy and Joy for the lunchtime mahoosive hot-dogs and fabulous cakes!

Dennis won the spider, Tony managed best overall score, Alan was most behind everyone else, and Niall and Helen were the best dressed.

Sunday 25th May

Today was our Big Bowls Weekend Open Day and the weather was perfect, barring a few isolated spots of rain early on.

Sadly, the fact we were competing against the Food Festival on the Marina meant that numbers were not as good as we hoped.

However, it was brilliant to see everyone that came along take to the greens very confidently with excellent skills and we hope to see some of them at our Club mornings.

Sunday 1st June

The Association of Portishead Bowling Clubs held their 46th Annual Open Pairs Tournament on our greens today and we had a great day for bowling.

This is an Australian Pairs competition and attracts teams from all over to compete in 4 timed matches throughout the day, punctuated by lots of cake, drinks & lunch!

Six teams won all their games amassing 20 points therefore yet again it was a very close affair, and at the end of play, the winners were decided by shot difference.

The winning pair were Eric Seavill & Will Matthews. Huge congratulations go to them for winning all 4 of their games and gaining a shot difference of +34.

A special vote of thanks needs to go to everyone involved in running this event. So, well done and thank you to the Open Pairs Committee, the bar staff, the tea/coffee/cake providers, the baguette makers, the raffle ticket sellers, the car park managers and everyone else who pitched in.

Brilliantly organised at all levels!

Sunday 8th June

Today was our PLBC/PBC Mixed Pairs Day and, after a wet Saturday, we were blessed with pleasantly warm sunshine for most of the day.

As always, there was some fine bowling on offer and several teams were 'in the running' at the lunch break.

Once the scores were all in, the Runners-up, winning 2 games and drawing 1 (5 points), were Maggie Wilks & John Herring, but the Winners, winning all 3 games (6 points, and an impressive shot difference of +29!!), were Lin Cobb & Mike Way.

Well done to them, and to everyone that played, did the scoring, put out the equipment, served the teas & coffees, manned the bar etc. etc.

A brilliant joint effort between two great Clubs.

Sunday 29th June

Today saw our main Charity event of the year with a very hot afternoon for our Cream Tea Day.

We started with the ever popular Spider which was won by Julie Sheppard.

Australian Pairs followed, the victors being Bob Swift & Tony Benford, who won all their games and had a ridiculously high shot difference. Well done Bob & Tony! (you don't get a real trophy!)

Myra Ringrose & Pam Taylor managed the wooden spoon with smiles all round.

The afternoon continued with our raffle, in aid of Children's Hospice South West, and a fabulous Cream Tea.

Many thanks to all those who donated prizes and to Val, Kim, Helen & Susan who did the catering and everyone who helped and whose hard work contributed to a successful afternoon.

Wednesday 30th July

2025 sees Portishead Men celebrating their 60th Anniversary!

The celebrations were held in conjunction with the annual Captain & President's Day, but with a slightly amended itinerary.

The afternoon was the same, with a 'spider and a few rounds of bowls which produced a winner in Stewart Calderwood, so well done to him.

Everyone then went home to freshen up and meet up again at Nailsea Masonic Hall for an excellent meal, with wine, toasts, and speeches.

A brilliant evening of nostalgia, fun and laughter celebrating 60 years of Portishead Bowling Club!

Well done to Captain Bob and everyone else involved in planning the event.

Wednesday 6th August

Portishead Men held their annual Triples Day today in glorious sunshine!

Three rounds of 8 ends (3 bowls) or 75 minutes!

The winners, with 5 points (winning 2 and drawing 1), were Alan Clarke, Dave Taylor & Dennis Poulston, and the runners-up (winning 2 with shot difference of + 11) were Trevor Smith, Bob Hinton & Stewart Calderwood.

Well done to them and everyone that took part, and big thanks to Geoff Lawrence for organising it all.

Friday 22nd August

**Portishead Ladies had a lovely fun afternoon playing the JB Cup against our friends
Portishead RBL Ladies (The Poppies).**

**Scores on the doors Portishead 53 – The Poppies 63 so, The Poppies won by 10 shots
and retain the cup (the smallest cup going!)**

We'll have to try again next year!

**Thanks to the Poppies for a lovely afternoon, well done on your win and thank you to the
Ladies that organised the yummy scones & tea after.**

Bowls, sunshine & scones, what more could you ask for?

Thursday 28th August

Today was Portishead Ladies Captain & President's Day.

**Despite a couple of downpours, we enjoyed a fabulous afternoon of fun bowls followed by
a delicious meal with some very entertaining speeches!**

**Many thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes and bought tickets - we made an amazing
£183 to go towards this seasons Charity, Children's Hospice South West.**

**As for the bowls, the Spider winner was Marilyn Withey, the games winner was Mike Berryman
and the 'Spoon' winner was Carol Parker.**

Well done everyone.

Friday 29th August

The Hardwick Cup (Aussie Pairs with teams of one player each from PBC & RBL) was played today.

**Two groups of 8 teams play 4 rounds of 8 ends and the winners of each group play in a
Final over a further 8 ends. It's a long and tiring day!**

**A great day of bonding between the two Clubs with a lot of quality bowls on offer, a few heavy showers and some
very good humour too!**

**The Winners were Rod Hawkins (PBC) & Dan Thackray (RBL)
and the Runners-up were Dennis Poulston (PBC) & Dave "Jaffa" Smart (RBL).**

**Very well done to everyone that took part, and to Geoff Lawrence, Barry Excell and Ken Lane
for the organising and running of the event.**

It was a brilliant day!

Saturday 30th August

Portishead Ladies enjoyed a brilliant morning playing the Friendship Cup competition with Portishead RBL Ladies (The Poppies), and managed to finish just before the rain came in!

Some great bowling, fun and friendly games before lunch and a raffle.

Congratulations to winners Gaynor (PLBC) and Karen (PRBL) and runners up Joy (PLBC) and Kate PRBL).

Thanks to all involved in organising and helping to make it such a successful event.

Here's to next year!

Saturday 20th September

What a magnificent Macmillan coffee morning!!

We managed to raise in excess of £430.00, so thank you so much to all those who came along to support this wonderful charity.

Special thanks to everyone who baked a yummy cake (we had a wonderful selection) and those who made drinks, served us and washed up.

Thanks also to those who contributed to the amazing raffle and to all the helpers and organisers.

Thursday 11th September

Well, despite a wonderful Summer, the weather had the last say!

It was decided at the Association meeting this evening that, due to the continuing poor weather and the deteriorating state of the playing surface, the greens would be closed with immediate effect and, just like that, the season was over.

It was, however, quite a successful one with Portishead Ladies winning the Weston & District Ladies League and Portishead Men finishing around mid-table or above in both the Weston & District Over 55s League and the Clevedon & District Over 55s League.

Well done to all.

Friday 15th November

This evening, we held our Annual Dinner at Nailsea Masonic Hall.

It was a fabulous night with everyone enjoying a tasty dinner and a great laugh (table 7!), followed by the presentation of the Trophies and Awards.

Well done to all those who took part and supported our competitions during the season and congratulations to all our winners!

Many thanks to everyone involved in organising the event and to the venue for the excellent food and service during the evening.

There is also an award to the person from each Club, voted for by the members, for their outstanding contribution during the season.

This season the Men's "Members Vote for Contribution to the Club" was Bob Swift and the Ladies "Club Member of the Year" was Julie Swift

In addition, the Men's Captain chooses who he feels is the most improved player and this year the recipient was Adam Plummer.

Here are the 2025 Winners & Runners-Up:

Men

Championship (Presidents Cup):

Winner: Niall Morrissey / Runner-Up: Tim Mather

Sid Woods Trophy:

Winner: Dave King / Runner-Up: Tim Downey

Fixed Jack:

Winner: Tim Downey / Runner-Up: Rod Hawkins

Gordano Cup (Pairs):

**Winners: Bob Swift & Adam Plummer
Runners-Up: Rod Hawkins & Geoff Tute**

Thirtle Salver (Veterans Triples):

Winner: Mike Berryman / Runner-Up: Rod Hawkins

Silver Jubilee Trophy (2 Wood Singles):

Winner: Rod Hawkins / Runner-Up: John Cottrell

Hayes Cup (Points):

Winner: Niall Morrissey/ Runner-Up: Andy Wilson

Triples:

**Winners: Dave Taylor, Dennis Poulston & Alan
Clarke**

**Runners-Up: Stewart Calderwood, Bob Hinton &
Trevor Smith**

Australian Pairs:

Winners: Rod Hawkins & Alan Longdon

Hardwick Cup (PBC/PRBLBC Pairs):

**Winners: Rod Hawkins (PBC) & Dan Thackray
PRBLBC)**

**Runners-Up: Dennis Poulston (PBC) & Dave Smart
(PRBLBC)**

Ladies

Championship (Pennine Cup):

Winner: Janet Linaker / Runner-Up: Maggie Wilks

Joan Neville Salver:

Winner: Sarah Howcroft

Fixed Jack:

**Winner: Helen Luffman / Runner-Up: Gaynor
Hastings**

2 Wood Pairs:

**Winners: Julie Sheppard & Helen Luffman
Runners-Up: Maggie Wilks & Susan Gratton**

2 Wood Singles:

Winner: Maggie Wilks

R Mansell Salver (Points):

Winner: Helen Luffman / Runner-Up: Maggie Wilks

Triples:

**Winners: Joy Murray, Maggie Wilks & Janet Linaker
Runners-Up: Cay Norris, Susie Sealy & Wendy
Tinos**

Mixed Pairs:

**Winners: Lin Cobb & Mike Way
Runners-Up: Maggie Wilks & John Herring**

Friendship Cup (PLBC/PRBLBC Pairs):

**Winners: Gaynor Hastings (PLBC) & Karen Excell
(PRBLBC)**

**Runners-Up: Joy Murray (PLBC) & Kate
Strong (PRBLBC)**