



NEW MILTON BOWLING CLUB

Whitefield Road
New Milton
Hampshire
BH25 6DE

2024 - 100 Year Celebrations

2024 will be a year of celebrations not only for the New Milton Bowling Club but potentially for New Milton as a whole. The 100-year history of the Club is being compiled by Nick Saunders and goes right back to those bygone days when there was no Whitefield Road, the recreation ground was a farmer's field, and New Milton, or Milton, was much smaller. The growth of the bowling club, and the launch of the recreation ground, all mimicked the many changes taking place over the years as Milton grew from Milton to New Milton, and the structure of the town expanded and developed. The above logos show the badge on the left as 1924 and the one on the right the current badge. The history of all this is being written by Nick Saunders and it shows, for example, that during the war the minutes of the club meetings clearly indicated that life went on much as before...the classic British stiff upper lip despite the bombings only yards away from the bowling club. In fact, looking through all the many committee minutes books, the only reference we could find to the war was one entry "the game must finish by 6pm as that is the last bus before the blackout".

Much has changed since then, and the growth of the New Milton community and the many activities reflects the imagination and hard work of the council. Today as a result of their work we have one of the finest bowling clubs in the county. Much of this is due to the imagination and efforts of the founding members and the excellent support we have had from the council. For many years the council attended judiciously to the maintenance of the greens and surrounding gardens and of course rented us the club house. This has been

extremely well received. In 2023, as a result of all the issues that Covid brought to us, and grounds maintenance was somewhat not a priority, for obvious reasons, the club and the council agreed that qualified club members could take over the maintenance of the grounds; but the council were still happy to support us and help where necessary.

Our celebrations this year will be manifest in several key activities:

- 1 2 Open Days where we will invite members of the public to join us at the club and explore the fun of bowling for all ages, men and women. The day will have a fun atmosphere with food and drink available and will result in the continuing growth of our membership.
2. Bowls England will join us on July 3rd by sending a team of players from all over the UK to celebrate our 100 years. This day will include a bowling match, and several key people and guests will be invited. We anticipate about 50 coming to visit us and play. That day will also have dignitaries present to celebrate with drinks and dinner. These will be the Mayor, the Town Clerk, Head of Amenities, our local MP, the press and many others.
- 2 We will be holding 2 Gala days -

On the 24th July we will invite a team from each of the New Forest Clubs to join us for a day of bowling, entertainment and dinner.

On the 14th August we will invite a team from each of the Bournemouth and District league to join us for a day of bowling, entertainment and dinner.
- 3 A special members day will also be held specifically to involve current and previous members and their families to join us for a day of bowling, entertainment and snacks.

We will also be producing a Celebration book for the occasion, with the history of the club over the years (composed by Nick Saunders) and greetings from several local companies wishing New Milton Bowling Club the very best of health for the next 100 years.

Further information on the 2024 programme is available on the Club web site www.newmiltonbowlingclub.com

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