

## **Tunstall Bowls Club – Report for Parish Annual Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Tunstall Bowls Club played in the First Division of the Woodbridge League in 2025, for the first time, having been promoted from the second division at the end of the 2024 season. Playing against tougher opposition, we didn't realise the standard of play was so much better than we expected and we were then relegated back to the second division at the end of the 2025 season.

We also played in the Fynn League in 2025, finishing runners up for the second successive year.

However, we lost a number of players at the end of the 2025 season and unfortunately had to make the decision to withdraw from the Woodbridge League as we had insufficient players to fulfil fixtures in both leagues in 2026.

We are again playing in the Fynn League, and are using the current season to recruit and consolidate our membership as a transitional season.

During the close season we have carried out extensive work on the bowls green, with the help of a grant from Suffolk County Council. The green had suffered badly due to the effects of last years long hot and dry summer. Such work had not been carried out for many years and is still ongoing.

We continue to struggle with the costs of maintaining the Clubs facilities to a reasonable standard with a reduced membership and whilst we still hold our open tournaments, as a revenue stream, we are in need of support from the Parish Council and others in order to survive. It was noted with some disappointment that our grant application to Tunstall Parish Council this time was not approved and whilst the amount often granted is relatively small, it really does help.

Currently the Club membership has just over 50% of members residing in Tunstall. A number of others live in nearby villages that don't have a bowls club.

Over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April the Club held an "open Weekend" primarily to try and recruit new members. We delivered nearly 1000 leaflets/flyers to local villages, placed notices in the last two Tunstall Bulletins, displayed notices in a number of local shops etc., had a "shout-out" on Radio Suffolk and together with particularly good weather, managed to recruit at least six new members.

Overall, we are confident that we shall be better placed as the season progresses and expect to return to the Woodbridge League for the 2027 season.

During the close season we make use of the Community Hall to play short mat bowls. This was started four years ago with the particular intention of maintaining contact with members, some of whom are elderly, alone or perhaps not in the best of health, as there is a six month break before the start of the next season.

Tunstall as a destination has three main public facilities, The Green Man Inn, the Community Hall with the various play facilities and the Bowls Club and there needs to be more public and social interaction between all three. The Bowls Club are actively promoting inclusivity and awareness of where we are and what we do.

The Club also intends to try to raise its profile, as we have updated our website ([www.tunstallbowlsclub.com](http://www.tunstallbowlsclub.com)) and now have a Facebook presence as Tunstall and District Bowls Club, both providing constant updates on Club activities.

Updated details of the club have also recently been added to the Tunstall Parish website.