

Something for ALL the Family

Imagine for a moment that you are surrounded by complete silence except for the sound of the wind and the call of birds. All around you are hedges and trees which mask the few



houses in the area and in the distance a church spire is visible. The silence is occasionally broken by the chimes of the church bells. This all sounds too good to be true. But there is such a place hidden in Shipton -under -Wychwood adjacent to the Shaven Crown but very few know it exists - it is the Bowls Club.

Whatever you do, please do not stop reading because I mentioned the Bowls Club!

The Beauty of Bowls

I had lived in the village for a number of years before I found the Bowls Club and joined soon after. Although I thought I knew the local area well, I was surprised when I played in away matches, at the number of villages in the area that I had never previously visited. What is more, their clubs are also located in idyllic settings.

The beauty of bowls is that it can be played by all members of the family as age is not a factor and often grandparents will not only beat their off-spring but even their teenage grandchildren. You do not have to be athletic; all that is required is that you are reasonably fit. That said, some bowlers are confined to wheelchairs yet still play a mean game. I remember the first time I encountered such a player and got thrashed even though I played to the best of my ability - such as it is!

During the season, spring through to autumn, we play competitive matches once or twice a week. We were only just one point short of winning our league last season.

We also play competitive matches between club members.

Give it a Try!

However, some of our members simply enjoy playing each other just for the pleasure and not in competitions. Such members are more than welcome. There is nothing more pleasant than playing with friends on a barmy summer evening, possibly aided with a drop of liquid refreshment. Even when the season is over some members continue bowling but indoors; the nearest indoors bowls club is at Chipping Norton.

All you will need is a pair of trainers or something similar that will not damage the green - we will provide everything else including bowls.

A year's membership is *only* £30, the cost of an evening meal and drink. We ask that members wear a white shirt or blouse and grey trousers or skirt for competitive matches. The only other cost is a set of bowls - we call them woods, and a second hand set will cost upwards of £20 and a new set upwards of £100. They will last a lifetime.

Give it a try! Call Mike Taylor on: 01993 830065 and he will make all the necessary arrangements. However I had better warn you, bowling can become addictive!

Michael Taylor