



## **Report for the Annual Parish Council Meeting 2025**

The **Fressingfield Bowls Club**, established over 100 years ago, continues to provide opportunities for local bowls players of all levels to enjoy the sport – an activity that allows players to remain healthy and mobile, and promotes strong social connections within and across communities. We are affiliated with the English Bowling Federation through our membership in the Suffolk County Bowls Association.

We welcome local players to participate in our weekly 'roll-up' sessions, an opportunity for players to take part in relaxed matches every Tuesday (1.30pm for 2pm start), from mid-April to September. New players receive informal coaching.

Additionally, those who are interested in more competitive matches at a higher level may be invited to play in league matches. The club participates in Saxmundham & District League, Bob Wright League and Mid-Suffolk League matches on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, as well as and the newly formed Border League on Wednesday afternoons. We are offering a series of club competitions for members during the 2025 season and are hosting our Annual Club Tournament for teams from around the county on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Our primary funding – £40 annual membership fees, £2 per match player fees, as well as takings from our annual tournament and occasional grants – have helped keep our finances in good order.

We have a stable membership of around 30+ players. We continue to add new members as, inevitably, former players step back from regular play with age, illness or move from the area. In 2025, we are holding our free Open Day on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May (10am – 1pm) to attract new members. We continue to advertise in *Six Sense*, *Fress Express* and on the village website as a way of reaching out to prospective players.

The club also promotes an active social life for our membership, including regular social meals and drinks during the playing season from April – September. We host monthly drinks at the Sports & Social Club (SSC) during the 'winter season' from October to March, and actively support other events at the SSC from time-to-time.

The club committee meets at least quarterly, with an Annual General Meeting for all members in October each year, at which committee positions and plans for the following year are agreed.

– Submitted on behalf of the Fressingfield Bowls Committee: Warren Albers, Norman Ansell, Ray Dorling, Elizabeth and Ray Estall, Kay Hardy, Trevor Orchard and Roger Shipp.