

Club Competitions

The club has several competitions which are run throughout the season culminating in an exciting and well supported finals weekend. At the inaugural AGM of the club in October 1953 (after the first season it was open) the club introduced the first four competitions viz; the Championship, Singles Handicap, Two Woods Handicap and the (Drawn) Pairs Handicap.

Most of the competitions are open to all members and the exceptions are mentioned below.

Championship

Introduced at the first AGM of the club and is still played today. Winner is first to reach 21 shots.

Singles Handicap

Introduced at the first AGM of the club and is still played today. Winner is the first to reach 21 shots plus the handicap difference for the higher ranking player.

Two Woods

This competition was also introduced in 1953 but at that time it was a handicap competition. Today it is still played but it is 21 ends with an extra end played if a draw. Playing with two woods is very challenging but the original game of bowls was only played with two woods.

Drawn Pairs Handicap

Another competition played since the club started comprises playing 18 ends and the winner has the most shots having adjusted for the handicap difference. The original competition was for men only as there was a separate Ladies Club at that time running their own competitions. Now it is for any club member who enters.

One Hundred Up - (Alan Cushnir Trophy)

This was introduced in 1976 when Finals Day was still held on August Bank Holiday Mondays and was intended to bridge the gap between Finals Day and the end of the season. Now that our finals are held sometime in late September the final of this competition is included in the Finals Day programme.

The competition is open to all members and there are ten points to be scored each end by the nearest four bowls on a 4,3,2,1 basis. The winner, as the name suggests, is the first to reach 100 points.

Harrison Sets Classic

The Harrison Sets Classic was introduced in 1957 when Bill Harrison donated a trophy to be played for annually as a two leg, home and away event between two Clubs; Woodcock Park and Kenton, both with which he was associated.

In the early years of the event the Woodcock Park team was always selected by invitation and it was regarded as something of an accolade to be chosen to play. In those days no other play was permitted on the unoccupied rinks whilst the Harrison game was in progress.

This competition is no longer in existence, not least because Kenton BC closed down.

We do, however, still maintain a Harrison Sets Classic competition within the club. It is a best of three sets of seven ends each one point for a win and half a point for a draw. Nine ends are played in the final.

Timpson

This was introduced to create an opportunity for new or lower handicap players to get involved in a competition and to take part in a final. It is only open to members with a handicap of seven or lower. The winner is the first to reach 21 shots.

Seniors

Introduced in 1982 as the Hunt Cup (now known as the Seniors Cup) was originally open to all members aged 60 and over and was a 21 shot, handicap competition to be played in the mornings only. Today the Seniors competition is open to all members aged 75 and over on 1st May of each season and is the first to reach 21 shots.

McLennan

Introduced as a competition for all entrants to the Championship who subsequently get knocked out in the first or preliminary rounds. Winner is the first to reach 21 shots.

Mixed Pairs - Jacobs Rose Bowl

This competition was introduced in 1973 following the donation of the Rose Bowl by two of our members; David and Brenda Jacobs. Originally, when the Ladies Club was a separate organisation, this competition, which is open to all members, was governed by a mixed sub-committee comprising three Ladies and three Men and tended to start around the mid-season point in order to provide an ongoing interest beyond Finals Day which in those days was held on August Bank Holiday Monday. This used to be a handicap competition played under the aegis of the Men's and Ladies Competition Secretaries. Today it is played over 18 ends and of course we are a mixed club and no longer have a separate Ladies club.

Ladies 75 up

This competition follows the same scoring system as the 100 Up described above but is for ladies only and the winner is first to reach 75 shots.

Newcomers

As the name suggests this is a competition for all new members of the club who have been coached at the club. They are entered automatically for a maximum of three years or until they win any club competition if earlier not including the Ladies 75 Up. The winner is the first to reach 21 shots.

Caro-Nat Trophy (formerly Willie Osborne Cup)

This is essentially an aggregate competition which used to be open to Veterans only but today is open to all members. It is played in Line-up format on Monday mornings throughout the season. In its present form it was introduced around 1968 when the Cup was donated by Willie Osborne. Currently the competition is scored each week on a points basis (maximum of plus or minus 7) from a member's fourteen best scores during the season. Melvyn Lesser and Melvyn Phillips donated the trophy which is in memory of their daughters Caroline and Natalie.

Drawn Triples

This is a one day competition and is normally played on the first Sunday in September. It is a triples competition selected by a draw allowing low, medium and high handicap players to be allocated across all the teams to make the teams as even as possible. Each team play all other teams in a knockout to end up with the two top scoring teams playing in a final.

Australian Pairs

This is another one-day knockout competition only introduced in 2016. It is now played twice in the season.

Sporran Flask

A more recent addition to our inventory of Cups and Trophies, it was presented in 1987 by Jimmy Mason to be awarded annually to the member with the best aggregate performance in Club matches. The award was computed on a points and if necessary a shots difference basis covering a member's best twelve match results during the season.

While this was an aggregate rather than a knock out competition it was introduced

as an additional incentive for all members to play in Club matches. It is no longer a competition and the flask is awarded each year to a member who has gone above and beyond the responsibilities of membership to help the club and its members.

Woodcock Park Challenge Shield

Apart from some of the Vets' mid-week fixtures, all the main Club games until about 1987 were played entirely on a friendly basis. Over the years various Clubs within the District have shown periodic interest in the formation of a weekend league but without any positive action being taken. In the late 1980's Eddie Halling proposed that Woodcock Park B.C. should introduce and organise such a league with Clubs with whom we already have weekend friendly fixtures. Eddie donated a shield for this purpose and after canvassing many of the Clubs in question, was able to introduce what is now known as the Woodcock Park Challenge Shield. In the 1990's there were eight participating Clubs and currently there are only six clubs. The league operates on the basis of points scored for winning rinks and overall Club wins. Woodcock Park last won its own Shield in 1991 but was runner up in 2016!

The last year this competition was played was in 2020.

Finals Day

With so many competitions in our calendar, it goes without saying that another Club tradition is Finals Day. Throughout the season our Competition Secretary maintains a very careful watch on end of round dates to ensure that all are played off and all is ready in time for the set Finals Day date which for many years was always August Bank Holiday Monday. Although only the Men's finals were played on this date (the Ladies Club held their own Finals Day separately) it was always an occasion that was well supported by all members.

At the AGM in 1980 a proposal to change the date of Finals Day to the second Saturday in September was passed. In 1989 as an experiment, a mixed Finals Weekend was held on the second weekend in September and proved to be quite successful. This was repeated in 1990 with similar success and continued on the second or third weekend in September until 2025. From 2026 the finals are played over two days midweek.