

COWES OPEN BOWLS TOURNAMENT

3rd April 2026

19 Highfield Road,
COWES, Isle of Wight,
PO31 7UF

The Members of Cowes Town Council,
Northwood House, Ward Avenue,
COWES, Isle of Wight, PO31 8AZ.

Dear Members,

Reference : Grant Application

During Cowes Week this year, the Cowes Open Bowls Tournament will be celebrating its 71st consecutive running, punctuated only by the covid restrictions in 2020. Many of those tournaments were actively supported by Cowes Town Council, help that has always been greatly appreciated and has enabled the event to continue throughout all those years. It is normally officially opened by the Mayor each year.

The advent of new events and conditions in 2021 and again in 2022 have brought about significant improvement in competitor numbers, and aided by the Town Council's continued financial support has allowed the event to return to operating at a surplus.

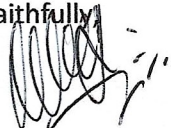
Despite the improved situation, there are several issues, mainly involving trophies, that remain to be resolved. In recent years you have kindly increased the amount of our grant to £600, allowing us to acquire some new trophies, and make inroads into updating the engraving of trophies. In the latter connection, I am pleased to say that, using our recently acquired second hand engraving machine, we are making good progress on bringing that aspect up to date.

However, and unfortunately, many of the cups and shields from the various competitions have become very fragile, and many are in need of replacement. Our intention is to replace the trophies most in need, possibly one competition (winners and runners-up) at a time until completed. Likely cost is believed to be up to £400 each time, and we wonder if the Council would consider helping toward this cost by retaining the grant at last year's level of £600. We would cover the extra cost from the surpluses made over the last few years, and hopefully again this year, and which we believe should be repeated year on year in the future.

As said before, we are always appreciative of the Council's help and sponsorship, and we would be very grateful if the Council can see fit to continuing their annual support again this year. In hopes and anticipation, I have enclosed an Application Form for Grant Assistance, using the on-line form, together with a copy of our audited accounts covering recent years.

I hope everything is in order, and look forward to hearing the outcome in the near future. Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,



M. A. Cox. Hon. Treasurer

encl.

ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

1. What is your organisation's name, address and contact details?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Organisation Name: | COWES OPEN BOWLS TOURNAMENT. |
| Organisation Address | c/o HON. TREASURER - MIKE COX. |
| | 19. HIGHFIELD ROAD, COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT. |
| | Post Code PO31 7UF. |
| Name of Principal Officers and Posts: | BRIAN BLENKINSOP (CHAIR.) |
| | MIKE COX. (HON. TREASURER / SECRETARY.) |
| Name of Lead Contact and Post: | MIKE COX. - HON. TREASURER. |
| Contact Number and email: | 01983 638252 / 07811 500330 |
| | Mikecox07@talktalk.net |

2. What is the type and purpose of your organisation?

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|--|
| THE ORGANISATION RUNS AN ANNUAL 6 DAY LONG BOWLS TOURNAMENT - DURING COWES WEEK EACH YEAR - 2026 WILL BE THE 71 ST YEAR IT HAS TAKEN PLACE. |
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3. Provide a summary from your most recent accounts. Are these figures below?

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|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

Information from the latest accounts approved by your organisation

A projection because your organisation has been running less than 15 months Budget

Costs for a non-recurring one-off event

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Account Year Ending: dd/mm/yyyy) - or date of event: | COWES WEEK 2025 |
| Total income for Year / Event | £1,383 |
| Total Expenditure for the Year / Event | £1,167 |
| Balance at the Year End / Event (Total Income - Total Expenditure) | £216 |
| Total Savings or Reserves at the Year End / after Event | £2,096 |

4. Has your organisation applied to Cowes Town Council for a grant before? Yes ~~Yes~~

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|---|
| If yes, give the dates and the amounts awarded: |
| 2022 - 2025 £600 // PREVIOUS YEARS £400. |

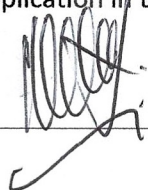
5. About the Project / Event/ Activity

| | |
|--|---|
| What project, activity, item(s) or event do you want us to fund? | THE EVENT IS AN ANNUAL BOWLS TOURNAMENT, OPEN TO LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FROM ANY BOWLS CLUB AFFILIATED TO BOWLS ENGLAND, THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY. IT IS HELD, PRIMARILY, AT THE HOME OF COWES MEDINA BOWLING CLUB IN NORTHWOOD PARK, SUPPORTED BY THE PLESSEY BOWLS CLUB, BASED AT THE ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY CLUB. IN ADDITION TO SUPPORT IN FUNDING THE EVENT, HELP TOWARDS THE REPLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TROPHIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. |
| When will your project / event / activity take place? | COWES WEEK 2026. |
| How will this grant will benefit the people and community of Cowes? | EACH YEAR THE EVENT ATTRACTS UP TO 100 BOWLERS FROM ISLAND CLUBS, AND IS OPEN TO SPECTATORS VISITING NORTHWOOD PARK. |
| How much will it cost? | £1,200 - £1,400 |
| How much are you asking for in Grant? | £600 |
| If the cost is more than the amount requested, where do you expect the rest of the funding to come from? | COMPETITION ENTRY FEES - USUALLY £500-£600 + RAFFLE INCOME - NORMALLY £200+ (MANY PRIZES USUALLY DONATED) |

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☒ Have you answered all the questions in the application form?
- ☒ Enclosed the financial information/ accounts/ statements requested?
- ☒ You understand that if you make any seriously misleading statements (whether deliberate or accidental) at any stage during the application process, or knowingly withhold any information, this could make your application invalid and you could be liable to repay any funds to us.

Please sign and date your application in the box below.

 3RD. APRIL 2026.

For Office Use:

Date of decision:

Accepted / Declined

£2071.18 of the carried forward balance is deposited within COBT's Account with Lloyds Bank, as per 01.12.25 Statement, with £25 held as cash.

COWES OPEN BOWLS TOURNAMENT

TREASURER'S REPORT COVERING 2025

OVERALL PERFORMANCE :

Following recent trends, this year's event was again successful, financially, showing a surplus of £216. Entry levels, overall, compared favourably with the previous year, with increased numbers in most events.

THANKS :

As always, we are grateful for the financial grant from Cowes Town Council, and also for the co-operation and assistance of the Northwood House Charitable Trust. Without the help of both, it would be very difficult to continue running our annual event.

My thanks, also, to all my fellow committee members for their efforts in organising and then running things during the tournament, and also to the players and casual helpers, whose assistance help make the event the success that it is.

INCOME NOTES :

In total, entry income rose by almost 12%, equating to £60. However, raffle income sadly dropped a little, compared with 2024's level.

Good entry levels are the backbone of being able to offer decent prize monies, in order to attract higher levels of entrants. As such, this year's trend is welcome news.

EXPENDITURE NOTES :

Most expenditure categories had similar levels to previous years. The exceptions to this were Competition Prizes, which we were able to increase in line with the higher entry levels, and the newly introduced Bank Charges, which Lloyds Bank have seen fit to impose. These will probably cost us £75 per year, minimum, unless we can find any alternatives.

No new trophies were bought this year, but several will be necessary next year.

Miscellaneous Expenses covers Finals Day refreshments and printing of parking vouchers.

FINANCIAL SITUATION :

Current funds are showing at £2,071-18 at the bank, as at the end of November 2025. A further £25 is held as a cash float.

THE FUTURE :

One major concern is that we often have no official parking agreement with Northwood House, space often only being allowed at the last minute, and with short notice. This is a major concern, as players will not enter our events if they have to pay parking charges in order to play.

Repeated comment from previous years :-

The improved financial performance in recent years gives rise to hopes for future years. However, looming in the background is the need to upgrade or replace many of the existing trophies, that are old and in a state of disrepair. Not a cheap exercise, but one that we are addressing with the aid of the extra funding being received from Cowes Town Council.

One on-going concern. We used to have a committee of 9 people - we now have 5. If we can't find volunteer members to help keep things running, the future will look bleak indeed - we cannot hope to continue indefinitely without some new blood to take over the mantle.

Mike Cox - Hon. Treasurer.