

## Report for the Annual Mistley Assembly 20th April

2026

The bowls club is nestled between the 19th century St Mary & St Michael church and Mistley cricket club, with stunning views over the River Stour, it is a vital community hub.

We have almost 100 members , demographically from the following areas:-

Mistley 25

Lawford 28

Manningtree 12

Surrounding Villages 30 including, Brantham, Bradfield, Wix, Stones Green, Great Bromley and Ardleigh

We are celebrating our centenary this year with a number of events planned:-

On 23rd May will be going on a trip to Windsor to play against the Royal Household. This is an extremely prodigious event for our club and was two years in the making. We will travel by coach to Windsor with approximately 35 of our members and guests to take part in a mixed game and then celebrate with a meal at the Royal Household. We are very honoured and excited to have been invited, we will report back to you on our experience.

On 30th May we will be going to Wivenhoe to play in a mixed competition along with West End Bowls Club.

And afterwards have a celebratory meal as it is also both club's centenary, we will exchange pennants.

On 20th June we will host our Presidents Invitation Day where members from surrounding clubs will take part in a mixed competition where they will compete for elegant cut glass prizes. We hope to raise funds for our club and the presidents nominated charity by holding a raffle and having entry fees.

On 27th June it is our charity/fun day. Four club members will be taking on the challenge of playing 100 ends of bowling starting at 8.00am and finishing around 12 hrs later. They will be sponsored by several local businesses and member donations. We will be donating part of the money raised to the air cadets in Manningtree, the Presidents nominated charity for the year. We would like to extend an invitation to the Mistley councillor's to come along and enjoy the day with us.

On 19th July we will host the Essex County Bowling Association where we will play a mixed competition followed by an evening meal.

We have a very exciting year ahead and all of this wouldn't have been possible without the help of Mistley Parish council we are very grateful for your continued support. **THANKYOU VERY MUCH.**

In the past couple of years, the club has invested its own funds in significant upgrades, including a refurbished clubhouse, new central heating boiler, replacement double glazed doors, updated ladies and gents facilities/ changing rooms and toilets, a new mower at a total cost of circa £20,000.

We play in a number of leagues:-  
Men and Women's Tendring Hundred  
Mens Colchester Borough  
Sudbury Mixed Triples

We also have internal matches mainly at weekends. Our first competition yesterday was the opening day mixed triples. We have purchased a new cup for this competition which is in recognition of the three local councils for their contributions and support to the club. The Cup will be named the Three Parishes Cup.

We had a very successful bowling year last year. Our ladies won the Tendring District ladies triples competition at Frinton this was a great achievement by 3 relatively new members.

The men were runners up in the Colchester Borough team tournament. They were up against very experienced opposition however, Mistley and Manningtree have certainly put their names on the map as a team to be reckoned with.

Our pairs couple played in the final of the Sudbury league it was a very tight game, losing on the last end to Boxford

Our mixed Triples league qualified for the semi final losing to the team that went on to win the cup.

The men played in the final of the men's Tendring Hundred fours. They certainly gave the Thorpe-le-Soken team a good run for their money but, sadly losing to them on the last end by one shot.

In the county unbadged pairs our two ladies qualified for the final and subsequently represented the county.

This season we have entered a number of extra teams into various leagues, this is due to our growing membership in 2021 there were only 20 members.

And not to forget, the most important part, the bowls green. Our green keeping team have done a magnificent job on maintaining the green.

We have had many compliments on the condition and is amongst one of the top greens in the area. We hosted the final of the Sudbury league Millennium Cup in September. We received a very complimentary letter from the Chairman of the Sudbury league.

The club holds numerous social events through the winter months to help raise essential funds for the club including quiz nights, coffee mornings, bingo and race nights these are proving to be very popular.

This year we will be looking to our future goals

\* Accessibility/Inclusivity Project:

\* Due to an ageing membership & increasing membership interest from people with age related conditions and disabilities, the club will be looking to make adaptations to improve access to the clubhouse and playing area, upgrade seating, and therefore removing physical and social barriers.

\* We would also like to attract younger members to the club. Last summer we invited the local air cadets for a try bowling session which was very successful and hope to do this again this year. We also hope to include local schools in an endeavour to attract youth into the club.

\* Our club is a very happy and social club and hope to attract more new members through our try bowling days this month and make the club grow from strength to strength into the next century.

\* .Thankyou for listening