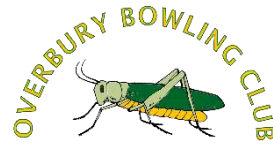


OVERBURY BOWLING CLUB

Affiliated to WBA and Bowls England

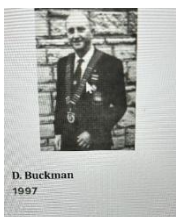


SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER COUNTY FRIENDLY WORCESTERSHIRE V GLOUCESTERSHIRE 20TH MAY 2026



Overbury's Grand Day In by Howard Bentham

A new page of Overbury history was written in May as our beautiful club stepped up and stood out on the local bowling map once again. It wasn't just a day of pride – the occasion brought in over a thousand pounds, just under half of which was profit.



D. Buckman
1997

It has been almost thirty years since Overbury Bowling Club last hosted a Worcestershire men's county fixture. It was in the era of Doug Buckman, Overbury player and County President in 1997.

With a view from the current Worcestershire Bowling Association that friendly county fixtures should be more fairly spread around the shire, and with a little gentle persuasion and lobbying on my part that we would be fabulous and generous hosts, towards the end of last season our club was finally invited to entertain our near neighbours Gloucestershire.

With the date arranged for Wednesday 20th May 2026, the genuine hard graft of staging the match began in earnest. Chairman, Tim Southwell and Bob Bishop worked closely planning everything that was needed to successfully stage the game, as well as to feed 50+ players and guests and make sure they always had a drink in their hand and were made to feel as welcome as possible.

What makes Overbury so special is not just the stunning location and green but most importantly the people; their spirit and can-do attitude as well as the ability to go the extra mile to make things happen.



On the big day itself, Adrian Neeves and Doug Nicholls cut and manicured the green. The catering and 'welcoming committee' of Kath Southwell, Ken & Julia Dunlop, Wendy Upton, Yvonne Cole, Ian & Margaret Duncan with Sandy Mace running the very busy bar and Geoff & Maggie, two friends of Tim & Kath, along with Bob Bishop all worked tirelessly to make the Overbury magic happen.



The players and VIPs were greeted with bacon butties on arrival. The smell of the bacon must have doubled the takings. Marketing genius...! The superb meal after the match of ham and turkey salad with a selection of gateaux to follow was delicious and all pre-prepared and plated. Military precision is not a new concept to Tim Southwell. His attention to detail was fantastic.



The clubhouse was full with well over 50 people sitting down to eat, which is no mean feat in a building with absolutely no cooking facilities and one that is not blessed with a huge floor area. Our thanks to our friends at Bredon BC who kindly lent us crockery and cutlery. Their President George Glaze being extremely helpful.

The raffle was huge and made over £130 on its own. Thanks to everyone who gave prizes with Wendy's and the ladies' sales techniques clearly going down well...!

Ian Duncan was our photographer, on hand to capture the memories of the day for posterity. There is now a montage up on our website in the gallery section. Thanks to Neil Williams for his efforts with this.

The compliments about our hospitality were wonderful to hear. Tim, on behalf of the catering crew and the club, received thanks from both the Presidents of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. One of our visitors even enquired if they could get a club friendly arranged with us next season.



As for the bowls, it was great to see the six rinks full with players in their county shirts and Overbury's green giving everyone a fair game. Gloucestershire won by 9 shots but that was inconsequential. This was very much Overbury's day.

Here's to our club becoming a regular venue on the county fixture card where we can show the bowling world what can be achieved through hard work, self-belief, impeccable organisation and being part of a special club of which we are all so very proud.