



Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the PCASC newsletter!

January may have tested our umbrellas and sadly some communities have been affected by flooding; our thoughts are with those impacted, but there is something cheering in noticing that the evenings are now staying light just a little longer, offering the first hint that spring is on its way.

February also brings Valentine's Day, a celebration of love in all its forms. Rooted in ancient Rome and the story of St Valentine, a figure associated with acts of kindness and compassion, it has evolved into something different for everyone. If grand gestures, overpriced red roses and packed restaurants aren't your style, perhaps it's the quieter pleasures of companionship and everyday kindness that matter more.

For many, however, February's real highlight is **Shrove Tuesday**, also referred to as Pancake Day, which falls on Tuesday 17th February this year. The tradition began as a practical way to use up eggs, milk and flour before Lent, but it has also given rise to one of England's quirkiest customs: pancake racing.

The most famous race takes place in Olney, Buckinghamshire, and dates back to 1445. Local legend tells of a woman so startled by the church bells calling people to confession that she ran to church still clutching her frying pan, flipping her pancake as she went. Whether you favour simple lemon and sugar, enjoy currants mixed through, or prefer something a little more indulgent, Pancake Day gives everyone a perfect excuse for a treat. Today, pancake races continue to be held in various towns and villages, combining a sense of fun with a nod to centuries of history.

February is shaping up to be a great month for sport. The **Six Nations rugby** gets underway, bringing familiar rivalries and plenty of talking points, France were crowned Six Nations champions in 2025 after a dominant campaign. Alongside the established names, there are a few emerging players worth watching this year. Greg Fisilau could feature more prominently for England, Jamie Dobie continues to impress for Scotland, while Sam Prendergast is one to watch as he develops with Ireland.

Meanwhile, the **Winter Olympics** are just around the corner, with British hopes likely to feature strongly in events such as curling and the sliding sports, where Team GB has enjoyed recent success.

Getting back to club business, we would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who donated empty plastic sweet tubs. We collected over 50 tubs, all of which will now go to Macmillan, who receive funding from the recycling company. We are no longer collecting tubs, but your support has been very much appreciated.

We are also delighted to welcome **Fran**, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of **Secretary**, and we look forward to working with her.

Check out <https://pucklechurchsocialclub.co.uk>, where you will find information on skittles, minutes from meetings, newsletters, forthcoming events and our contact details.

Finally, our new **85-inch television** is now in situ, with plans already in place to re-site the existing TV to further enhance viewing within the club. There's no better way to enjoy the action than watching it in good company, and the club is the perfect place to do just that.

## Keeping the Social Club on a Firm Footing

You may have seen recent news stories highlighting the challenges facing pubs and social clubs across the country, with rising costs forcing many to make difficult decisions and, in some cases, close their doors altogether. Like many community venues, our Social Club is not immune to these pressures, and we feel it is important to keep members informed about how we are responding.

For many years, the Social Club has worked hard to keep prices as low as possible. We have made only small increases over time and have absorbed many supplier price rises in an effort to continue offering good value and keep the club welcoming and accessible to all. However, as discussed at the AGM last September and referenced in recent newsletters, the club's financial position remains fragile.

Following a detailed review of our costs and pricing, it has become clear that our current prices no longer fully cover our expenses. Once overheads such as staffing, rent, insurance, heating and lighting are taken into account, we are making a loss on a number of the drinks we sell. This is simply not sustainable in the long term.

As a result, bar prices will increase from **1st March 2026**. A full price list will be displayed behind the bar for information. Even with these changes, prices will remain competitive with other pubs in the village.

The aim of this adjustment is not to generate large profits, but to place the Social Club on a more secure financial footing. We hope to be able to build a modest reserve to help protect the club against fluctuations in income, such as falling team numbers or the cancellation of matches due to bad weather.

These changes form part of a wider strategy to safeguard the future of the Social Club so that it can continue to serve the community for many years to come. Simply using the club — dropping in for a drink, coming along to an event, or supporting our teams — is one of the most effective ways members can help, and we thank you for your continued support.

## Upcoming Events for Your Diary

Back by popular demand Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 7:30pm  
Boozy Bingo and Roll-a-£1 Coin



Doors open at **7.30pm** for an **8.00pm start**.

Entry is by ticket, which go on sale from **1st February**. Tickets cost **£8 for members** (four games included) and **£10 for non-members**. Please look out for the posters for full details, and remember to bring your ticket on the night to collect your bingo cards.

You can expect a lively evening with plenty of laughs, a relaxed and friendly crowd, and a few unexpected prizes thrown in for good measure. If you'd like to know more, **Richard** will be happy to help.



### And there's more...

The much-loved **Roll-a-£1 Coin** returns alongside the bingo. Simply roll your pound down the skittle alley and see how close you can get to the target – nearest wins the prize. Enter once or keep rolling throughout the evening if you're feeling competitive.

Do remember to bring a handful of £1 coins with you, although the bar will be well stocked should you need to top up your supply.

## PCASC Quiz Night Returns 21st February



Our first quiz of the year got off to a great start, with a closely fought contest at the top of the leaderboard. **Bad Company** and **Confuse Dot Com** finished level, but after a tie-breaker it was **Bad Company** who claimed first place, with **Confuse Dot Com** taking a well-earned second. The coveted packets of crisps were won by **Team Crisps**, proving that name choice really does matter.

The next quiz takes place on **21st February**, so do look out for the posters around the club. There's no specialist knowledge required and no trick questions designed to catch anyone out – just a varied mix of questions, plenty of laughs and friendly competition. Whether you come with a seasoned quiz team or simply fancy giving it a try, new teams are always very welcome.

## December Draw - update

The Christmas Draw was held on 20th December, with all the winners' names proudly displayed on the board alongside their prizes.

However, we still have two prizes patiently waiting to be claimed by **Dave Kington** and **John Cutler**. If anyone knows them, please do pass on the *Glad Tidings* (excuse the pun) and encourage them to pop in and collect their winnings before Father Christmas finally gives up waiting!



## Skittles League Update - For this month (Olympics theme)

(Read in the style of a commentator – measured, authoritative and slightly dramatic as though every skittle matters and medals are always just one ball away.....)

As February unfolds, the skittle alley takes on the atmosphere of a Winter Olympics arena, with every match feeling like a medal event and every pin carrying the weight of national pride.

At the top of the table, **Badminton** are skating smoothly in gold-medal position, setting the pace and showing the calm assurance of a team peaking at just the right moment.

Close behind, **Mind the Gap** continue their impressive surge,

powering into silver-medal contention with a confident, controlled performance that suggests they are very much here for the long run. **O' so Close** remain true to form, holding bronze position with consistency and precision, never far from the leaders and always ready to capitalise on the smallest opening.

Just outside the medals, the **Footballers** have mounted a strong comeback, climbing into fourth place with renewed determination after earlier setbacks. The **Diamonds** have slipped slightly down the rankings but remain very much in the competition, steady and composed as they look to regain momentum. The **Cricketers** continue to occupy the middle of the field, reliable and disciplined, keeping pace as the pressure builds. Further down, the **Wandering Stars** find themselves sliding after earlier success, while **Double Tops** ease back but remain safely in contention. **Mafia** appear momentarily becalmed, conserving energy for what could yet be a late charge, and the **Misfits** are watching developments closely, poised to respond as the competition intensifies.

As with any Olympic contest, form can change in an instant, margins are fine, and nothing is decided until the final pin falls. With plenty of events still to come, the race for skittles glory remains wide open.

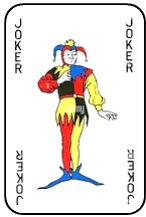
## Bonus Ball New Year, New Game



Fancy a bit of fun for just **£1 a week**? Here's how it works: pick **five numbers** from the National Lottery bonus ball range. If all five of your numbers are called as bonus balls, you win the pot — with 10% donated to the PCASC to help support our club.

The Bonus Ball started again on **3<sup>rd</sup> January**. One sheet is already full, and the prize has climbed to a staggering £220.

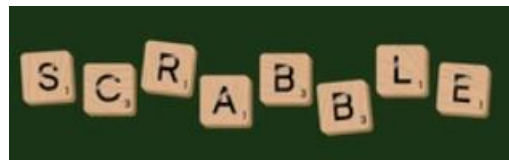
## Find the Joker – The Game with a Winner Every Week!



The Joker Pot has climbed to a staggering £453.00. With just 24 envelopes remaining and only three picture cards still in play – along with the main man himself, the Joker – the tension is building.

Tickets cost just £1 and can be bought at any time before the draw on Friday at 10.00pm. The question is... just how much longer can the Joker stay hidden?

## Help Us Keep the Club Alive - Bring Your Game Nights Here



Your Social Club works best when it's being used — and like many community venues, quieter evenings can be a real challenge. If a skittles or cribbage match is cancelled, we can sometimes find ourselves with just a handful of people in the club, which simply isn't sustainable in the long term.

So, we'd love to open the doors wider and encourage new evening activities — not just from Pucklechurch, but from across the wider South Gloucestershire community too.

If you are a member and already run (or would like to start) a group for dominoes, bridge or whist, canasta, scrabble, mahjong, backgammon, chess or any other suitable social game, why not make your Social Club your home? We're very happy to offer members our space free of charge, with a friendly bar, comfortable surroundings, and a welcoming atmosphere. And members also benefit from cheaper bar prices too!

Whether it's a regular club night, a casual get-together, or something entirely new, we're keen to help make it happen. If you're interested, please speak to the bar staff or get in touch via email - and let's see how we can work together to keep the club lively, well used, and thriving.

## Cribbage at Pucklechurch Social Club – Players Wanted !



Our **Cribbage team** is always happy to welcome new players. If you're at a loose end on a Monday evening and fancy some good company — with the bonus of food like sandwiches or sausage and chips — this could be just the thing.

It doesn't matter whether you've played for years or have never picked up a crib board before; it's friendly, informal and easy to join in. Just have a word with the bar staff if you're interested.

And if league play isn't your thing, cribbage boards and cards are always available behind the bar for a relaxed game with friends at any time.

## Activities currently available in your Club



### Bored or Board?

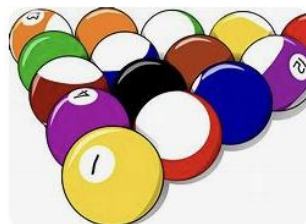
Why not dive into our growing collection of board games and rediscover the simple pleasure of playing together?



### Hit the Mark with Darts!

Looking for a laid-back way to liven up your evening? Challenge your friends or neighbours to a friendly game of darts.

It's interactive, social, and right here at the club. Just ask at the bar— we've got the darts ready and waiting!



### Free Pool – Rack 'em Up!

*Yes, you read that right* - our club offers a pool table completely free to use! It's the perfect excuse for a little friendly competition or a relaxed game with fellow members. Just ask at the bar for cues and balls, and enjoy a match on the house.

## Winter Opening Hours – from 1st February

<b>Monday to Friday:</b>	7:00pm – 11:00pm
<b>Saturday:</b>	1:00pm – 11:00pm
<b>Sunday:</b>	12:00 noon – 4:00pm – usual opening hours
<b>Sunday:</b>	12.00 noon – 7.00pm <i>(when Pucklechurch Ladies have home fixtures, closing time is flexible, depending on attendance)</i>
<b>Sunday:</b>	7:00pm -11:00pm if there are events such as quizzes, bingo or parties

Please speak to our staff if you have an event and require extended opening hours.

If you know you have an event such as a birthday party and expect a crowd, please let our staff know in advance so that we can ensure there are enough staff working to make your special event go smoothly

On most evenings, last orders will be called at **11:00pm**, and we'd appreciate everyone heading out by **11:30pm**.

These times may vary for special events such as quizzes or parties. On quieter evenings, the bar may close a little earlier at the discretion of the bar staff.

Thank you for your understanding - and for helping to keep our evenings relaxed and enjoyable for everyone.

## Pucklechurch AFC Fixtures

Looking closer to home, these are the upcoming match fixtures for our local lads and lasses:

Note: Correct at time of going to press, please check dates and times

Men's First – Upcoming Fixtures Uhsport Bristol Premier Combination League			
07/02/26	14:00	Hambrook & Brimsham Utd	HAMBROOK SPORTS CLUB
14/02/26	14:00	Bedminster Down	Pucklechurch Rec
21/02/26	14:00	Hanham Athletic Reserves	Pucklechurch Rec
28/02/26	14:00	Cribbs A	THE LAWNS (CRIBBS)
Men's Bristol & District D2 Reserves – Upcoming Fixtures			
07/02/26	14:00	Made For Ever Reserves	DRG Frenchay AFC Sports
14/02/26	14:00	Greyfriars Athletic Reserves	MILE STRAIGHT SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
Over 35s Division 2 – Upcoming Fixtures			
15/02/26		Yate Town Vets	
Shield Services Group South-West Regional – Upcoming Fixtures			
15/02/26	14:00	Forest Green Rovers Women	Forest Green Rovers Women First
22/02/26	14:00	Sherborne Town Ladies	SHERBORNE TOWN F.C



Check out the fixtures nearer the time to check for any changes on the following websites:

Men's First Team

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/displayTeam.html?divisionseason=202889869&teamID=239046326>

Men's Reserves

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/displayTeam.html?divisionseason=318991785&teamID=783634027>

Pucklechurch Ladies

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/displayTeam.html?id=884511731>

Pucklechurch Veterans

<https://bristolcorinthiansleague.co.uk/over-35s-division-1/>

SSF – Sky Sports Football      SS F1 - Sky Sports F1      SSME - Sky Sports Main Event  
SSPL – Sky Sport Premier League    SSM – Sky Sport Mix    SS+ Sky Sports Plus

Date	Time	Channel	Teams / Fixture
Sun 1st Feb	14:00	SSPL SS Ultra	Aston Villa v Brentford
Sun 1st Feb	14:00	SS Ultra SS+	Nottingham Forest v Crystal Palace
Sun 1st Feb	16:30	SS Ultra SS+	Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City
Sun 1st Feb	14:00	SSME SS Ultra	Manchester United v Fulham
Mon 2nd Feb	20:00	SS Ultra SS+	Sunderland v Burnley
Fri 6th Feb	20:00	SS Ultra SS+	Leeds United v Nottingham Forest
Sat 7th Feb	17:30	SSPL SSME SS Ultra	Newcastle United v Brentford
Sun 8th Feb	14:00	SSPL SSME SS Ultra	Brighton v Crystal Palace
Sun 8th Feb	16:30	SSPL SSME SS Ultra	Liverpool v Manchester City
Sat 21st Feb	17:30	SSPL	West Ham United v Bournemouth AFC
Sun 22nd Feb	14:00	SSPL	Sunderland v Fulham
Sun 22nd Feb	16:30	SSPL SSME SS Ultra	Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal
Mon 23rd Feb	20:00	SSPL SSME SS Ultra	Everton v Manchester United
Fri 27th Feb	20:00	SSPL SSME SS Ultra	Wolves v Aston Villa
Sat 28th Feb	17:30	SSPL	Leeds United v Manchester City

## Six Nations Rugby - Mens

### Round 1

- Thu 5 Feb: France vs Ireland – Stade de France, Paris, 20:10 – ITV
- Sat 7 Feb: Italy vs Scotland – Stadio Olimpico, Rome, 14:10 – BBC
- Sat 7 Feb: England vs Wales – Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, 16:40 – ITV

### Round 2

- Sat 14 Feb: Ireland vs Italy – Aviva Stadium, Dublin, 14:10 – ITV
- Sat 14 Feb: Scotland vs England – Murrayfield, Edinburgh, 16:40 – ITV
- Sun 15 Feb: Wales vs France – Principality Stadium, Cardiff, 15:10 – BBC

### Round 3

- Sat 21 Feb: England vs Ireland – Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, 14:10 – ITV
- Sat 21 Feb: Wales vs Scotland – Principality Stadium, Cardiff, 16:40 – BBC
- Sun 22 Feb: France vs Italy – Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille, 15:10 – ITV



## Holding an Event in our Club?

We're here to help! If you're a club member and would like your event advertised in the newsletter, please speak to a committee member or bar staff.

## Book Your Event with Us!

Why not host your next event right here at our club? Members enjoy *free access* to our facilities—perfect for all kinds of gatherings, such as:

- Fundraising events;
- Birthday parties;
- Anniversary celebrations (whether it's ruby, silver, gold, or platinum);
- Wakes and more.

**Email us** at [info@pucklechurchsocialclub.co.uk](mailto:info@pucklechurchsocialclub.co.uk) with your ideas, or

**Chat with our friendly bar staff** for an informal conversation when you're next at the club.

*If you think your event might require extra bar staff for your event, please let us know in advance so we can plan accordingly. Your input helps us make the club even better - thank you!*

## Your Feedback Matters

As we strive to enhance our club, we want to keep you informed about our plans and how you can contribute.

We appreciate all members who have shared their insights and suggestions. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us create a more enjoyable and welcoming environment for everyone.

## Social Club Committee

Your committee members are as follows:

Derek Watts, Chair

Denise Young, Treasurer

Margaret Fortune

Dave Britton, Vice Chair

Andrea Ryland

Marylynn Bolwell

Fran Nowell, Secretary

Carol Dolling

Richard Hanks

Ann-Marie Johnson,

Membership Secretary

We value the input of all club members! If there's anything you'd like to share or bring to our attention, please feel free to speak to any of us or email us at [info@pucklechurchsocialclub.co.uk](mailto:info@pucklechurchsocialclub.co.uk)

If you have an interest in joining any of the activities highlighted in our newsletter, please speak to the bar staff who can then direct you to the relevant person, or if you prefer, contact our committee by email.