LEGS 2026 Season: Handicap and Results Report

Summary

Participation declined in the 2026 season: members started 127 rounds, 10% fewer than in 2025, and average attendance decreased slightly to 14 players per event. Results remained competitive across the membership, with the handicap system producing eight different winners and eight different runners-up.

Pete Schofield once again won Golfer of the Year, he was also the most consistent player, Brian Bamber led the accuracy awards, and Hanif Patel recorded the largest percentage reduction in handicap.

The report also highlights fluctuating attendance as a continuing challenge for event budgeting in 2027.

The 2026 season again benefited from much better weather as ordered and arrange by our esteemed Captain and again produced a healthy spread of results across the 9 games. Results at every monthly outing were often tight and in many instances countback on the back 9 and even last 6 or 3 holes had to be used to separate the winners and placings.

As agreed by all members at the 2025 AGM, no changes were made to the handicap system. At the beginning of the year, we confirmed members' WGU Handicap Indexes. Each player's initial playing handicap was then calculated by applying their Handicap Index to a common base: the Yellow Tees at our adopted home course, Bedford and County. Members without a Handicap Index carried forward their end position from the prior year.

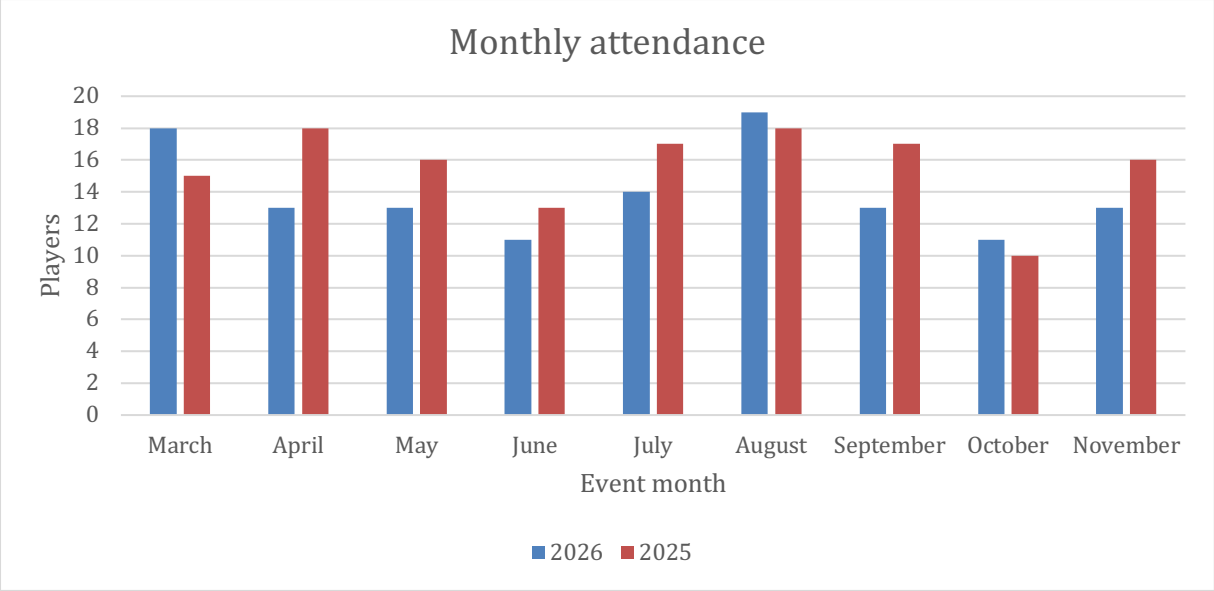
The higher maximum handicap and the rollover of handicaps from the previous season for members who are not affiliated with a golf club helped newer players enjoy the game and compete more evenly with experienced members.

The ongoing removal of gimmies continued and did not seem to slow down the pace of play and allowed members to submit cards towards their handicaps.

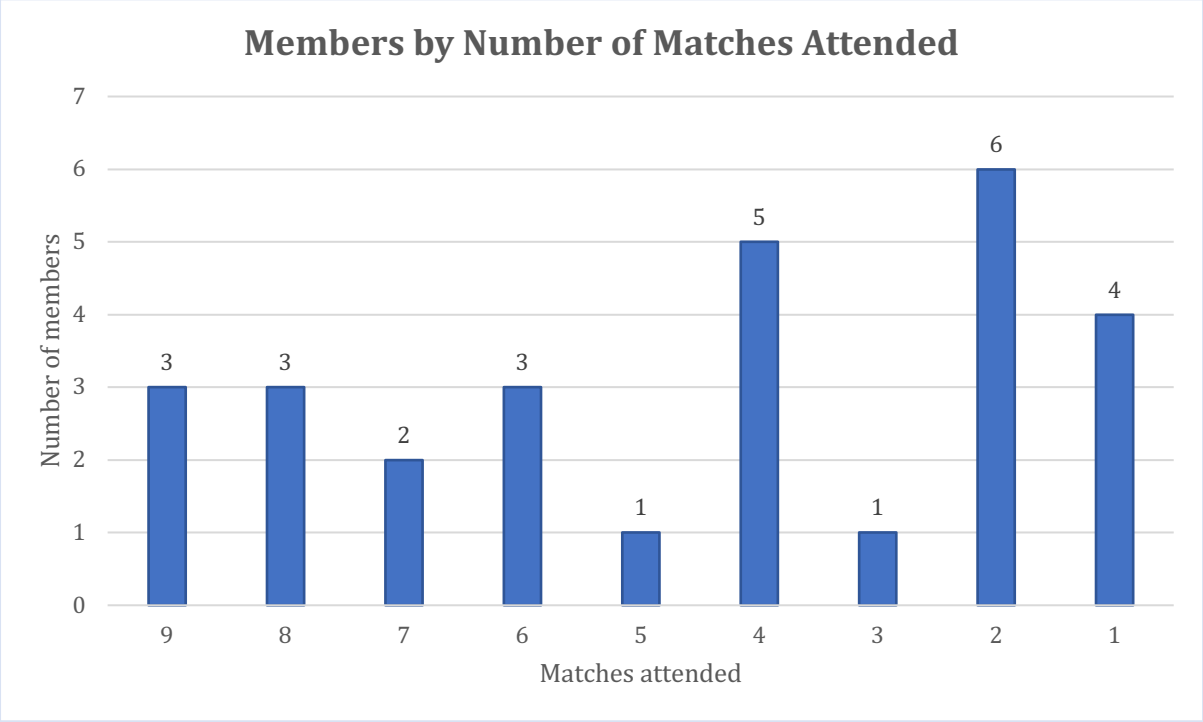
Standard LEGS handicap changes have been applied throughout the year based on members playing performances, much to the chagrin of some members

Using this formula seemed to work well and again produced a diverse group of winners at both ends of the spectrum of points.

The average attendance decrease does give ongoing cause for concern as it makes budgeting difficult because lower numbers often prevent us from securing the best deals. As a result, an event may generate less profit—or a larger loss—than forecast when the budget assumes an average attendance of 16.



We understand that health issues and holiday commitments can make attendance difficult, but we encourage every member to attend as many matches as possible. Three members attended all nine games in 2026, although seven members attended eight.



It has been nice to welcome 4 guests along to the matches, some old friends and some new. It is particularly nice to see guests enjoy themselves so much that they request to become full members. We have had 1new member join this year, Hanif Patel, who has gone on to become a worthy winner of many prizes and a definite contender for Golfer of the Year in the near future.

Please do see if you have any friends or not so bad enemies that you could invite along to a game during the 2026 season.

We have continued to display on the website the individual results for everyone playing along with any associated handicap changes following each game. I'd like to thank Andy Pohler our webmaster for facilitating this.

Summary Results

The overall results are as follows.

LEGS 2026 Summary Results									
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
	South Beds	**Wellingborough**	**St Neots**	**Pavenham**	**Mid Herts**	**Knebworth**	**Bedfordshire**	**Kettering**	**Bedford & County**
Winner 1	Paul Jones	Jeff Wood	Brian Bamber	Tom Inskip	Richard Sharpe	Hanif Patel	Hanif Patel	Bernard Henry	Andrew Randall
Runner Up	Pete Schofield	Richard Sharpe	Trevor Horwood	Andrew Stevenson	Pete Schofield	Brian Bamber	Stephen Long	Graham Shennan	Paul Jones
Third	Martin Lavansch	David Steel	Andrew Stevenson	Mike Webb	Brian Bamber	Paul Jones	Pete Schofield	Tom Inskip	Tom Inskip
Nearest Pin in 1	Clive Haywood	Paul Jones	Andy Pohler	Paul Jones	Brian Bamber	John Paterson	Hanif Patel	Colin Oates	Trevor Horwood
Nearest Pin in 2	David Steel	David Steel	Jeff Wood	No one	Andrew Stevenson	Andy Pohler	Stephen Long	Graham Shennan	Tom Inskip
Nearest Pin in 3	Colin Oates	Hanif Patel	No one	No one	Andrew Randall	Brian Bamber	Richard Sharpe	No one	Brian Bamber
Wooden Spoon	Jeff Wood	Graham Shennan	Andy Pohler	Pete Schofield	Peter Sayers	Jos Daalhuizen	Mike Webb	Jos Daalhuizen	Richard Shortland
Boddington Cup	Andrew Randall / Hanif Patel								

As you will see, we have had 8 different winners and 8 different runner ups. Only one member, our newest, Hanif Patel has managed to be a repeat winner winning twice. Pete Schofield has been runner-up twice.

Including the various nearest the pin competitions, 19 members have managed to secure a bottle of wine for their efforts. Brian leads the results winning 6 bottles, Paul Jones has won five bottles with Tom Inskip and Hanif Patel both winning four times across all the prize categories.

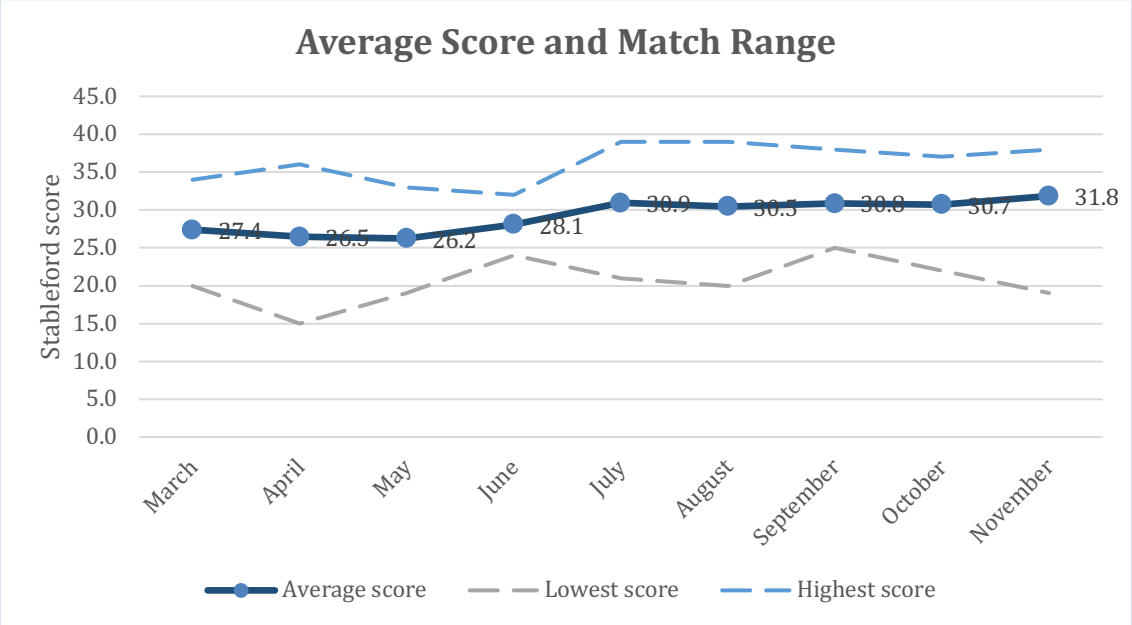
There have been four occasions when the accuracy prize has not been won, and the bottle has been auctioned off to one of our very generous members who has perhaps wanted to show their partner that they have won something.

The season opened with winning scores of 34 and 36 before dipping to 33 and 32 in May and June. Scoring peaked in midsummer, with 39 winning both July and August, followed by 38 in September and 37 in October. Andrew Randall won the Bedford & County finale with 38. Hanif Patel was the only two-time event winner

MONTHLY WINNERS			
Month	**Venue**	**Winner**	**Winning score**
March	South Beds	Paul Jones	34
April	Wellingborough	Jeff Wood	36
May	St Neots	Brian Bamber	33
June	Pavenham	Tom Inskip	32
July	Mid Herts	Richard Sharpe	39
August	Knebworth	Hanif Patel	39
September	Bedfordshire	Hanif Patel	38
October	Kettering	Bernard Henry	37
November	Bedford & County	Andrew Randall	38

High scores have once again dropped. Last year we had 1 game which was won with a score of more than 40 points, whereas this year the highest score has been 39. At the other end of the scoring, our June outing was won with a score of 32 points and May was won with 33 points.

Here is a breakdown of averages and the spread of high and low scores per game



At the other end of the spectrum there were 8 people that have battled valiantly for the prized last place Wooden Spoon award. This has been won by players with a variety of handicaps with some winning for the first time in a long while.

WOODEN SPOON RESULTS BY EVENT				
Month	Venue	Recipient	Score	Handicap
March	South Beds	Jeff Wood	20	28
April	Wellingborough	Graham Shennan	15	19
May	St Neots	Andy Pohler	19	10
June	Pavenham	Pete Schofield	24	14
July	Mid Herts	Peter Sayers	21	40
August	Knebworth	Jos Daalhuizen	20	39
September	Bedfordshire	Mike Webb	25	20
October	Kettering	Jos Daalhuizen	25	41
November	Bedford & County	Richard Shortland	19	23

Jos Daalhuizen was the only player to receive the wooden spoon twice, at Knebworth and Kettering. The season low wooden spoon score was Graham Shennan's 15 at Wellingborough; Richard Shortland is the proud holder of the award for the next 3 months having received the final wooden spoon with 19 at Bedford & County.

I think this shows that the handicap system we have in place is working well allowing everyone a chance to win any of the available prizes.

Golfer of the Year

Once again 2026 came down to the final game to decide the Golfer of the year with several members in the running going into the game but then failing to deliver when coming off the course. Our resident expert in winning this coveted trophy, Pete Schofield who has won it for three out of the last five years, tried his hardest again this year and beat Brian Bamber into second and Paul Jones into third. This time he managed it without winning a single game showing that consistency and handicap protection is more important that outright wins

							Top 5 /	
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total	Rank
Brian	Bamber	1	2	3	4	8	18	2
Ray	Beckman	13	18					
Bob	Broomhall	6	9					
Jos	Daalhuizen	10	11	12	19			
Clive	Haywood	11						
Bernard	Henry	1	4	5	7	10	27	9
Alan	Horn	9	10					
Trevor	Horwood	2	4	8	11			
Tom	Inskip	1	3	3	5	9	21	6
Paul	Jones	1	2	3	6	7	19	3
Martin	Lavansch	3	8	10	12			
Stephen	Long	2	8	9	10			
Colin	Oates	5	5	6	6	7	29	10
Hanif	Patel	1	1	5	11			
John	Paterson	7	11					
Andy	Pohler	13	13					
Andrew	Randall	1	4	4	5	6	20	4
Henry	Richardson	5	7					
Peter	Sayers	14						
Peter	Schofield	2	2	3	4	4	15	1
Richard	Sharpe	1	2	5	6	6	20	4
Graham	Shennan	2	8	9	10	12	41	12
Richard	Shortland	15						
John	Simpson	9						
David	Steel	3	6	16				
Andrew	Stevenson	2	3	4	7	7	23	7
Mike	Webb	3	6	7	10	11	37	11
Jeff	Wood	1	4	5	7	9	26	8

I have to say that we all need to be worried if Hanif plays more next year given his excellent performance this year in the matches that he has attended.

Most Consistent Player

Looking at those players who have played in more than 75% of the matches, i.e. 7 out of the 9 games, four players have managed to turn in scores that average more than 30 points. This is a decrease over past years. The spread of scores per game has decreased making most games very tight throughout the field. Pete Schofield shows how he has won the Golfer of the Year accolade by being a clear winner this year for most consistent golfer with an average score over 7 rounds of 31.29 points.

Full results are in the following table

	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November		Total	Matches	Points	Average	Avg Pts
	South Beds	Wellingborough	St Neots	Pavenham	Mid Herts	Knebworth	Bedfordshire	Kettering	Bedford & County	Max Pts	Points	Attended	Rank	Points	Rank
Brian Bamber	dnp	dnp	33	dnp	36	37	30	34	31	37	201	6	8	33.50	2
Ray Beckman	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	22	21	dnp	dnp	dnp	22	43	2	24	21.50	26
Bob Broomhall	dnp	dnp	dnp	25	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	34	34	59	2	21	29.50	13
Jos Daalhuizen	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	20	25	25	29	29	99	4	17	24.75	24
Clive Haywood	27	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	27	27	1	26	27.00	19
Bernard Henry	25	28	29	dnp	33	28	26	37	26	37	232	8	4	29.00	15
Alan Horn	dnp	dnp	dnp	24	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	30	30	54	2	22	27.00	19
Trevor Horwood	30	26	32	dnp	dnp	30	dnp	dnp	DNF	32	118	4	15	29.50	13
Tom Inskip	30	dnp	dnp	32	dnp	32	30	35	36	36	195	6	10	32.50	4
Paul Jones	34	27	dnp	28	dnp	37	dnp	dnp	38	38	164	5	12	32.80	3
Martin Lavansch	31	23	23	dnp	30	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	31	107	4	16	26.75	21
Stephen Long	29	dnp	24	dnp	dnp	31	35	dnp	dnp	35	119	4	14	29.75	12
Colin Oates	26	26	24	29	35	32	33	32	33	35	270	9	2	30.00	10
Hanif Patel	dnp	dnp	23	dnp	dnp	39	38	dnp	35	39	135	4	13	33.75	1
John Paterson	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	34	26	dnp	dnp	34	60	2	20	30.00	10
Andy Pohler	dnp	dnp	19	dnp	dnp	28	dnp	dnp	dnp	28	47	2	23	23.50	25
Andrew Randall	29	25	29	dnp	24	36	33	29	38	38	243	8	3	30.38	8
Henry Richardson	29	dnp	dnp	dnp	35	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	35	64	2	19	32.00	5
Peter Sayers	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	21	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	21	21	1	27	21.00	27
Pete Schofield	34	28	dnp	24	39	24	35	dnp	35	39	219	7	6	31.29	6
Richard Sharpe	25	29	dnp	29	39	dnp	33	31	dnp	39	186	6	11	31.00	7
Graham Shennan	25	15	21	28	28	26	dnp	35	30	35	208	8	7	26.00	22
Richard Shortland	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	19	19	19	1	28	19.00	28
John Simpson	28	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	dnp	28	28	1	25	28.00	18
David Steel	23	29	dnp	dnp	dnp	34	dnp	dnp	NA	34	86	3	18	28.67	16
Andrew Stevenson	27	25	31	31	35	30	32	31	29	35	271	9	1	30.11	9
Mike Webb	21	27	27	30	28	26	25	22	20	30	226	9	5	25.11	23
Jeff Wood	20	36	26	29	28	34	dnp	27	dnp	36	200	7	9	28.57	17

Most Accurate Player

We continued with the three nearest the pin prizes in one, two and three shots at each game.
Brian Bamber is our most accurate player with his three wins. Several others have managed two wins each. These results do not reflect instances where players have been the closest to the pin at multiple holes during the same game where our 'can't win more than one prize rule 'is applied.

Full results are shown in the table below

LEGS 2026 Summary Results

	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
	South Beds	**Wellingborough**	**St Neots**	**Pavenham**	**Mid Herts**	**Knebworth**	**Bedfordshire**	**Kettering**	**Bedford & County**
Nearest Pin in 1	Clive Haywood	Paul Jones	Andy Pohler	Paul Jones	Brian Bamber	John Paterson	Hanif Patel	Colin Oates	Trevor Horwood
Nearest Pin in 2	David Steel	David Steel	Jeff Wood	No one	Andrew Stevenson	Andy Pohler	Stephen Long	Graham Shennan	Tom Inskip
Nearest Pin in 3	Colin Oates	Hanif Patel	No one	No one	Andrew Randall	Brian Bamber	Richard Sharpe	No one	Brian Bamber

Most Improved Player

Applying the changes to handicap that would have resulted from the final game of the year gives the following results.

	2025 End Handicap	2026 Starting Handicap	2026 Max Handicap	2026 End Handicap	Number of Matches Attended	Overall Handicap Change	Improvement Rank	Overall Handicap Improvement %
Brian Bamber	**16**	**19**	19	**15**	6	-4	2	21.1%
Ray Beckman	**30**	**30**	30	**30**	2	0	16	0.0%
Bob Broomhall	**23**	**24**	24	**24**	2	0	16	0.0%
Jos Daalhuizen	**39**	**39**	43	**43**	4	4	30	-10.3%
Clive Haywood	**17**	**17**	17	**17**	1	0	16	0.0%
Bernard Henry	**17**	**18**	18	**16**	8	-2	8	11.1%
Alan Horn	**24**	**24**	24	**24**	2	0	16	0.0%
Trevor Horwood	**15**	**21**	21	**19**	4	-2	8	9.5%
Tom Inskip	**17**	**17**	17	**13**	6	-4	2	23.5%
Paul Jones	**15**	**17**	17	**13**	5	-4	2	23.5%
Martin Lavansch	**27**	**27**	27	**26**	4	-1	12	3.7%
Stephen Long	**19**	**22**	22	**20**	4	-2	8	9.1%
Colin Oates	**15**	**15**	15	**15**	9	0	16	0.0%
Hanif Patel		**15**	15	**11**	4	-4	2	26.7%
John Paterson	**19**	**20**	20	**20**	2	0	16	0.0%
Andy Pohler	**10**	**10**	11	**11**	2	1	26	-10.0%
Andrew Randall	**22**	**26**	26	**23**	8	-3	6	11.5%
Henry Richardson	**28**	**29**	29	**29**	2	0	16	0.0%
Peter Sayers	**38**	**38**	40	**40**	1	2	28	-5.3%
Pete Schofield	**10**	**15**	15	**13**	7	-2	8	13.3%
Richard Sharpe	**22**	**26**	26	**21**	6	-5	1	19.2%
Graham Shennan	**20**	**19**	20	**18**	8	-1	12	5.3%
Richard Shortland	**20**	**23**	23	**25**	1	2	28	-8.7%
John Simpson	**12**	**10**	10	**10**	1	0	16	0.0%
David Steel	**14**	**17**	17	**16**	3	-1	12	5.9%
Andrew Stevenson	**22**	**28**	28	**25**	9	-3	6	10.7%
Mike Webb	**24**	**21**	22	**22**	9	1	26	-4.8%
Jeff Wood	**25**	**28**	30	**27**	7	-1	12	3.6%

Using the measure of handicap improvement percentage, it can be seen that the most improved player was Hanif Patel who by means of his wins and placings, managed to reduce their handicap from 15 to 11 (26.7%) by the end of the year. This betters his similar achievement last year when he only managed a 25% improvement!
Several others also managed to equal the 4 shot reduction, Bamber, Inskip and Jones.
Richard Sharpe with a 5 shot reduction by the end of the year puts him at the top of the improvement ranking when measured by actual handicap improvement rather than percentage.

Overall Handicap Position

The overall handicap position is shown below.

	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Number
	South Beds	Wellingborough	St Neots	Pavenham	Mid Herts	Knebworth	Bedfordshire	Kettering	Bedford & County	of Matches
	Handicap	Handicap	Handicap	Handicap	Handicap	Handicap	Handicap	Handicap	Handicap	Attended
Brian Bamber	19	19	19	17	17	16	15	15	15	6
Ray Beckman	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	2
Bob Broomhall	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	2
Jos Daalhuizen	39	39	39	39	39	39	41	41	43	4
Clive Haywood	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	1
Bernard Henry	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	16	8
Alan Horn	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	2
Trevor Horwood	21	21	21	19	19	19	19	19	19	4
Tom Inskip	17	17	17	17	15	15	15	15	14	6
Paul Jones	17	15	15	15	15	15	14	14	14	5
Martin Lavansch	27	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	4
Stephen Long	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	20	20	4
Colin Oates	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	9
Hanif Patel	15	15	15	15	15	15	13	11	11	4
John Paterson	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	2
Andy Pohler	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	2
Andrew Randall	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	8
Henry Richardson	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	2
Peter Sayers	38	38	38	38	40	40	40	40	40	1
Pete Schofield	15	14	14	14	15	14	14	13	13	7
Richard Sharpe	26	26	24	24	24	21	21	21	21	6
Graham Shennan	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	18	8
Richard Shortland	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	1
John Simpson	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	1
David Steel	17	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	3
Andrew Stevenson	28	28	28	27	25	25	25	25	25	9
Mike Webb	21	21	21	21	20	20	20	22	22	9
Jeff Wood	28	30	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	7

Key	
	First
	Second
	Third
	Last

This picture includes the changes that would have been made because of the final match at Bedford and County.

As a reminder, our current adjustments are as follows.

Members handicap adjustments							
		Winner		Runner-up	3rd place		Wooden Spoon
0-9		-1		-1	0		0
10-19		-2		-1	-1		1
20+		-3		-2	-1		2

Based upon the agreement at the 2025 AGM, this level of adjustment will continue in 2027,

Andrew Stevenson
November 2026