



SECRETARIES NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

Ashford Railway Club – Quarterly Newsletter

Spring Edition

By Stuart Fraser, Club Secretary



Spring Newsletter – Ashford Railway Club

As we move into spring, the committee would like to thank all members for their continued support over the winter months. Thanks to strong membership renewals and a very welcome number of new members joining, the club has been able to make several improvements and investments that benefit everyone.

Your support really does make a difference, and everything outlined below has only been possible because members continue to use and support the club.

Club Improvements Over the Winter

Dance Hall, Pool, Snooker & Darts

The club has seen several physical improvements over the winter period. **Charlotte Sykes** spent a huge amount of time in January tidying and refreshing the dance hall, giving it a fresh coat of paint. Combined with the polished floor, the hall is now looking better than ever.

One of the pool tables has benefited from **new overhead lighting**, which has been very well received by members. Due to the positive feedback, we are now looking to install similar lighting above the second pool table. The **snooker table light** is also due to be replaced.

Darts facilities have also been improved. Thanks to securing a great deal with **Paul at Cuephoria Ashford**, the club has installed **three halo dartboard lights**. In addition, **two new dartboards** have been purchased, with a further board kindly donated by **Terry Briggs**.

Thanks to a donation from **Libby Varley**, the accessibility lavatory is now fitted with a 'Radar-Key', this saves users having to ask for a key from the bar staff. Thanks also to **Terry Sykes** for fitting.



Weekend Opening & Sky TV

The committee had noted that **Saturday and Sunday afternoons** had become increasingly quiet and, as a result, were no longer affordable to open under the previous setup.

After considerable negotiation with **Sky Business**, and with the help of **donated televisions**, the club has now installed **Sky TV**. This has already had a positive impact, with members coming in to watch live sport, enjoy **free pool on Sundays**, and make better use of the club at weekends.

Early signs are very encouraging, and this improvement has only been possible thanks to members continuing to come out and support the club.



Entertainment & Recent Events

Although it was disappointing that **The Jersey Way** had to cancel their evening on **28 February**, we are pleased to confirm that the event has now been **rearranged for 19 September**.

We did, however, enjoy a fantastic night with **Dean Case**, who kept the dancefloor busy all evening and even played well beyond his booked time due to the great atmosphere. Following such a successful night, **Dean has now been rebooked for 20 March 2027**.

Staffing Update

We are pleased to welcome **Adam Varley** back to the team. Adam will be covering both **door and bar shifts**, meaning the club is once again fully staffed.



Bar & Stock Updates

By shopping around for the best value and using **Lansdells alongside Bookers**, the club has been able to introduce some new stock lines. These include **Nobby's Nuts**, which have already proven popular, along with **Forest Fruits still water** and **cranberry juice**.

Struggling to obtain a replacement bitter. I have requested help from the NARC General Secretary for guidance.

We are doing our best to **hold off any bar price increases**, however the upcoming **minimum wage rise in April** may make this difficult. Rising costs affect not only staffing, but also our suppliers, many of whom are increasing their prices as a result.

Darts, Crib & Club Activities

The club is looking to welcome **three Wednesday night darts teams**, which would be a great boost to midweek activity.

We are also still **actively looking for another Thursday evening Pool team and more crib players**. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact **info@ashfordrailwayclub.co.uk** for further details.

Facilities & Future Plans

The **dancehall floor** has recently received another professional treatment, kindly arranged by **Brian Saxon**.

We have also been obtaining quotes to **replace the flooring in the lounge bar**. While this will require significant funding, our landlord **Kier Property** has offered support once a lease agreement is confirmed.



Club Future Update

The committee is currently working towards securing a **long-term lease** with **Kier Property Group**, who have owned the building since **1996**, following the privatisation of British Rail. Historically, the club has never had a formal lease agreement in place. We are pleased to confirm that lease terms are now with **Girling**, and all being well, this will help secure the future of Ashford Railway Club for **at least the next 10 years**.

This is a very positive step forward and provides reassurance and stability for the club and its members.

Sports & Social

Our **Sports and Social Secretaries, Charlotte Sykes** and **Yannika Jackson**, continue to work hard arranging events throughout the year.

Charlotte focuses primarily on events in the **dance hall**, while Yannika organises activities in the **lounge bar**, ensuring there is a wide variety of events for members to enjoy.

Dates for the Diary

Club Events & Lounge Bar

Saturday 21 March –

Fun Bingo hosted by Yannika

Sunday 5 April – Easter Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt, Mini Disco and plenty of fun games.

Sunday 5 April – Easter Sunday Evening

Karaoke From 20:00.

Saturday 18 April – Bowls Opening Drive / Open Day

Open to club members.

Saturday 18 April – Deal or No Deal

The long-awaited return.

Saturday 2 May – MacMillian Charity Darts Marathon

Race to 100,000 points. Prize for the winning team and all in aid of a good cause. Register 09:30

Saturday 23 May – Race Night

In memory of **Cath Owen**, raising funds for **The Brain Tumour Charity**.

Saturday 8 June – Hoy Bingo

Corners!

Saturday 13 June – Family Quiz Night

Fun quiz hosted by Yannika

Dance Hall

Saturday 11 April – Northern Soul Night

DJs Soul Guardians take over the dance hall. A limited number of discounted tickets remain available behind the bar.

Saturday 25 April – Fit 2 Funk

Five-piece band playing party classics, disco and funk.

Saturday 16 May – Heroes

Local band playing the club for the first time. Tickets are expected to sell out.

Saturday 27 June – Del & Den

Back by popular demand with their Cockney / Rockney sing-along show.

ANPR Parking Update

The ANPR parking cameras have been updated, and since January 96 parking fines have been issued.

A number of appeals have been received, some stating that there was “nowhere else to park”. Members are reminded that **vehicle registration numbers must be logged on every visit** to avoid receiving a fine.

Thank you once again to all members for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the club throughout the spring and beyond.



Sunday 5th April
EASTER £8 per child
Please give payment, names and ages to bar staff

Easter Egg Hunt
HUNT TIMES
11:00am to 12:00pm (Ages 6 to 10)
1:00pm to 2:00pm (Ages 2 to 5)

Mini disco 2pm-4pm
Additional Activities Include:
Egg and spoon races
Egg rolling
Pass the parcel
Hook a duck
Tombola

HAPPY EASTER

And don't forget to bring in your Easter Bonnet for the competition!

Then to finish off the day we have Karaoke from 8pm in the lounge bar



Afternoon Tea
Starting at 3.30pm
Easter Monday 6th April

Join us for a delightful afternoon tea featuring an assortment of sandwiches, cakes, scones, jam, and clotted cream, accompanied by unlimited Yorkshire tea.

Prices: £12.50 per person (Adults or children)

We are happy to accommodate vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Forms will be behind the bar from 8th March to add your name with payment.
Last date to put your name down will be Friday 3rd April



Ashford Rail Bowls Club

OPENING DRIVE

Saturday 18th April 2:30pm

Ashford Railway Club,
Beaver Road,
Ashford
Kent TN23 7RR

- Bake Sale

BEGINNERS WELCOME

- ✓ No experience needed
- ✓ Free coaching available
- ✓ Just bring flat-soled shoes
- ✓ Open to all ages

Contact Hazel Larkin
for more information
07922 945116

Saturday 18th April

Cash game night
from 8pm

DEAL OR NO DEAL
WHAT WILL THE BANKER OFFER
YOU FOR YOUR BOX.

8pm lounge bar. £2 entry to the club,
for non members accompanied by a
member.



Fit 2 funk
April 25th from 8pm

Party band playing funk and soul classics.

Members £3
Non members £5

Tickets on sale from 1st March.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

**ARE YOU READY TO HELP THIS WORTHWHILE
CHARITY BY PLAYING DARTS**



**IF THE ANSWER IS "YES"
THEN WE NEED YOU**

There is a charity darts tournament at the Railway Club
on Saturday 2nd May 2026

There will be teams of players, names picked out of the
hat, and the competition is the first team to reach 100
thousand points

£5.00 entry for Club Members
£7.00 entry for Non-Members

Payment can be made before hand by either giving it to
Yannika Jackson or Jackie Apps, or on the day

There will be a cash prize for the winning team

Registration for the day is 9:30 – 10:00am
Competition will start at 10:30am

Stay until the end or just come along and take part for as
long as you are able



**16th May from
8.30pm**

Tickets £8 members
£10 non members.
On sale from 25th April.



Race nights are back.
In memory of Cath we
will be doing a race
night to raise money
for

**THE
BRAIN
TUMOUR
CHARITY**

This is being held on
Saturday 23rd May from 8pm
Let's help Gary, Sam and Jaden
raise as much money as we can to
help a charity that was close to
Cath's heart.



27th June.



Back due to popular demand.

Including entertainment
Pie and Mash with Gravy/Liquor £20
Children under 14 £10
Seating time 7:15pm

Entertainment Only £9
Children under 14 £5
Children under 2 Free
Doors open at 8:00pm for an 8:30pm start.

Tickets on sale from 16th May.

Ricky Fontayne



**Saturday
August 15th**

**Tickets £5 members
£7 non members
Tickets on sale from 27th June**

WHAT'S ON AT ASHFORD RAILWAY CLUB

UP AND COMING FOR MAY 2026

Fri 1st	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Sat 2nd	MACMILLIAN CANCER CHARITY DARTS COMPETITION	LOUNGE BAR	ALL DAY
Mon 4th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	DANCE HALL	1PM
Tue 5th	ASHFORD ANGLING	DANCE HALL	8PM
Wed 6th	SLIMMING WORLD	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Fri 8th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Sun 10th	BINGO	DANCE HALL	8PM
Mon 11th	UPA LUNCH	DANCE HALL	11AM
Mon 11th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Wed 13th	SLIMMING WORLD	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Fri 15th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Fri 15th	LINE DANCING	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Sat 16th	HEROS (live band) TICKET ONLY EVENT	DANCE HALL	8:30PM
Mon 18th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Wed 20th	SLIMMING WORLD	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Fri 22nd	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Sat 23rd	RACE NIGHT - IN MEMORY OF CATH AND TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY	LOUNGE BAR	8PM
Sun 24th	BINGO	DANCE HALL	8PM
Mon 25th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	DANCE HALL	1PM
Tue 26th	METAL DETECTORS	DANCE HALL	7PM
Wed 27th	SLIMMING WORLD	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Fri 29th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM

WHAT'S ON AT ASHFORD RAILWAY CLUB

UP AND COMING FOR JUNE 2026

Mon 1st	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Tue 2nd	ASHFORD ANGLING	DANCE HALL	8PM
Wed 3rd	SLIMMING WORLD	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Fri 5th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Sat 6th	HOY BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	8PM
Sun 7th	BINGO	DANCE HALL	8PM
Mon 8th	UPA LUNCH	DANCE HALL	11AM
Mon 8th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Wed 10th	SLIMMING WORLD	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Fri 12th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Sat 13th	FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT	LOUNGE BAR	8PM
Sun 14th	ORCHIDS	DANCE HALL	2PM
Mon 15th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Wed 17th	SLIMMING WORLD	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Fri 19th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Sun 21st	BINGO	DANCE HALL	8PM
Mon 22nd	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Wed 24th	SLIMMING WORLD	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Fri 26th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Fri 26th	LINE DANCING	DANCE HALL	7:30PM
Sat 27th	COCKNEY NIGHT (with pie and mash) TICKET EVENT ONLY	DANCE HALL	8PM
Mon 29th	LOUNGE BAR BINGO	LOUNGE BAR	1PM
Tue 30th	METAL DETECTORS	DANCE HALL	7PM