

Ruby Roll Up, Sat 9th Sept 2023 at Needham Market Community Centre

On the hottest day of the year so far, 32 teams gathered for a carpet bowls tournament held to celebrate our ruby wedding anniversary and raise funds for Alzheimer's Research. The playing format was a series of group matches to guarantee all entrants 4 games of bowls, followed by a knock stage down to a final.

After some keenly contested matches and a long, hot, day, the final was won 6-4 by 'Odd One Out' (Emma & Clint, Steven, Sam) over 'Ruby Red & Relentless' (Tom, David, Rita, Pete). Well done to Odd One Out for staying the course over 7 games.

During the day we ran 2 raffles – the usual table raffle, which featured a total of 109 prizes, plus a 'super-raffle' with 9 higher value prizes, the most-wanted of which was probably the pair of day tickets to the World Indoor Bowls men's quarter finals next Jan, donated by Potters.

We were delighted when our sons, Tom & Sam, presented us with a lovely cake to celebrate our wedding anniversary, there was plenty to go around and was enjoyed by all who had a piece.

Special thanks are due to those who turned up early to help set up, to Tricia and her helpers in the kitchen, those who assisted with the raffle, to Paul D for his usual calm and efficient organisation of the matches, and to Mick and Shirley Watkins for their practical help and support throughout the whole day.

A big shout out must go to Rita for all her hard work in organising the raffle prizes, and thanks to those who donated prizes on the day, especially Kevin from Hundon (more than one prize, one was so good we added it to the 'super-raffle'), also to Hundon CBC for their generosity.

After all the number crunching we are pleased to report that we have raised the sum of £1250 for Alzheimer's Research. We are amazed and humbled to have raised such an amount from a simple carpet bowls event. The proceeds will be directed to supporting a research project which will look to "Develop a blood test for the early detection of neurodegenerative disease".

We received lots of positive comments during the day from those who attended – many thanks for these. The cards, flowers, and gift that we received were a kind thought and greatly appreciated. We are so grateful to those who entered and supported this event, you made the day the success that it was, so once again our profound thanks to you all.

With warmest regards
Rita & Pete Runnacles





The event winners, Odd One Out

Super-Raffle prizes



Raffle table



The Cake!



(Bowls is a shared interest. Rita is a keen gardener, Pete a railfan)