Good afternoon, everyone, especially our newer members,

We played our first game in the Nicholas Soames Competition last night (18th May) at Henfield, a lovely club in lovely settings. Nicholas Soames is a competition for inexperienced bowlers and no county players are allowed to participate, so it's a lovely low-key introduction to playing competition in Aussie Pairs format both at home and away, typically on a Monday evening.

We all arrived early, and we got our bowls out of the car, Simon did remember his after he left the boot open when departing, creating a hazard for a local cyclist, but at least the cyclist returned Simons bowls! The club is lovely, surrounded by hedges, but it was a chilly dank evening, so lots of layers were needed to stay warm, but it didn't rain.

Our three mixed rinks, were Clive and Sue LP, Sandi and Simon, Jacqui and Robin LP and we all had a challenging evening. Sandi and Si got off to a great start and forged ahead on rink 2, Clive and Sue, Robin and Jacqui had a much quieter start falling behind initially but as the night progressed, things changed and Simon and Sandi started to drop back whilst the other two rinks found better form Eventually Jacqui and Robin pulled ahead on the final end, Clive and Sue drew level on the final end. The highlight of the evening was a large dog chasing after one of the bowls on its way to the jack, actually lifted it and tried to run off, we thought it was a special guest player brought in to disrupt the game!

Finally, we retired to the bar, Henfield provided a lovely finger buffet and drinks, which was very welcome, and the scores were agreed. We each won on one rink, we both drew on another, and both lost on the third, so both teams scored 2 for a win and 1 for the draw, but Henfield scored more shots overall than us so won the extra 2-points, final score Hendfield 5 Peacehaven 3. A great start to the season of Nicholas Soames and a friendly club.

Our next game is on Monday 25th May away at the Drive – good luck one and all.