



## CALLING ALL PUB & CLUB LANDLORDS, STEWARDS & MANAGERS

Have you got an outside space which is at least 40 feet long and 6 feet wide which is not serving any useful purpose or not contributing to your revenue?

Would you like to attract a minimum of 16 customers old or new for at least 9 weeks on a Wednesday in the period between May and September 2024. Better still would you like that to be for 18 weeks next Summer?

**How?** You can have 1 or 2 teams in the **Abingdon & District Aunt Sally League** next season, all you need to find is enough players to make up a team of 8 representing your pub/club and it doesn't matter if they haven't ever played the sport, anyone can play no matter what standard all they need is enthusiasm and a set of sticks to throw at the doll. If you can encourage enough players to make 2 sides, then that's a minimum of 16 customers (and they are usually drinkers!) every Wednesday night for 18 weeks!

We already have 52 teams based in Didcot, Wantage, Abingdon and many villages in between. Our aim is to get that number up to 60 in 2024 and you can help.

How much will it cost you? Not a great deal if you have the space. All that's necessary is a bit of kit, lights to illuminate the throw, a £45 per team entry fee and ideally some form of covered area.

**Never heard of Aunt Sally?** She's got nothing to do with Worzel Gummidge. It's a traditional English game which dates back to way back when. It's been played by Royals, featured on TV. It's not an Olympic Sport yet.... but who knows what the future holds? 😊 It's been played in Berkshire and Oxfordshire for over 60 years and 2024 will be our 64th year.

What we do know is that 16 players spending just £10 each in your pub or club every Wednesday will generate income of £1500 over a season and if two teams are in place that's nearer £3000 and don't forget players normally bring along husbands/wives/friends so £10 a head spend is probably the minimum (certainly my wallet suggests it's nearer £25 every Wednesday, but I appreciate I may not be Joe Average).

If you are interested, we can help. We can put you in touch with landlords /stewards or whose pub/club who have been hosting Aunt Sally teams for many years.

Contact us by any of the web/socials below and we will be happy to give you more info.

You will never know unless you give it a try.

[www.abingdonauntsally.com](http://www.abingdonauntsally.com)

**You know it's good when you hear the wood!**

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## Hosts Guide to Aunt Sally in Abingdon

### What is Aunt Sally?

It's a pub game played for well over 200 years in Oxfordshire alone (generally) – our Abingdon league has been going since 1960. It involves tossing underarm (think bowls) six 18-inch wooden batons at a wooden doll 6



inches high put 30 feet away on a 2ft 6inch swivel. Sounds easy, doesn't it? You get a point or 'doll' if you knock it clean off with your stick. **You know it's good when you hear the wood!**

Team games in this league are 8 players each team so you'll have 16 players in your venue each home game.

If you have one pitch you can have two teams and we alternate home/away games so you can get **16 people (plus supporters) in every Wednesday evening for 18 weeks over the summer May to September.**

### What happens on match night?

Teams must arrive by 8.00pm to start the match between at 8.15 and 8.30. 3 legs are played for a match - 8 players from each side playing one side first then the other through to the end of the game.

Teams also have the option to play a beer leg and the loser buys the other matching player a drink.

After this it's into the bar for refreshments provided by the host side. Normally this is about 9-9.30.

### What do I need to provide as a host?

- Most importantly make the players welcome and that welcome will get around.
- A pitch – if you have one great if not there's details on the website of what's required – you'll need an area around 40ft by 6ft fairly level with no overhanging items like trees and ability to segregate from others!
- Make sure the pitch is sound, level and there's working lighting – especially in May/Sept when evenings are still dark.
- It is traditional (like other pub games) to supply food at the end of the game for home games – some charge the home team for this, others provide for free as an advert for their standard of catering – again word gets around.
- Some hosts pay the entrance fee for the league – this is a minimum of £45 (up to 15 players included registered to cover holidays etc) – this of course is easily recouped in the first few home games in takings.

### What if we win?

If your team wins the section, there's always the presentation plaque to put on the wall in celebration like The Bell at Grove landlord here taking their trophy in 2015.

**Yes landlords/ladies can play AND they get free entry!**

### Where do I sign up?

Registration forms are on the website and must be in on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

The league is then formed by the committee and fixture packs containing scorecards, fixture poster etc are with the teams a couple of weeks before the season starts in May.

**If you've never seen the game take a look at YouTube and search for AuntSallyTV to see a history video and some previous matches.**



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