

REPORT'S TO THE BOWLS SECTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 8th April 2026

Honorary Bowls Secretary

Bowls Committee

Over the past year the committee met six times to report and address section related issues. The minutes of these meetings are posted on the Club's website in the playing members' area soon after each meeting.

Outdoor Season 2025

After securing victory in the County League Central Zone, the 'A' team earned the chance to compete in the WP Baker Cup, facing other zone 1 winners for promotion to the Premier Zone. Their path to success included wins over Cawston, Kings Lynn, and Martham.

Age Concern had a successful season, winning the Norwich zone, finishing second in the league play-offs and beating Reepham in the knock-out cup final.

Several members reached the Men's County semi-finals, but only Barry Flatt and Gary Goodrum advanced to the Pairs final, where they lost to a Norfolk BC team. As runners-up, Barry and Gary represented Norfolk in the National finals at Royal Leamington Spa but were defeated by a pair from Kent.

The members took part in eight enjoyable friendly matches against local clubs and associations.

Summary of the final positions for the external team leagues and competitions: -

Norfolk Bowls Ass. County League	- Dell 'A' Central Zone finished top (qualified for WP Baker Cup play-off). - Dell 'B' Central Zone finished in 4 th place.
Bales Cup (Men)	- Quarter finalists.
Lord Fermoy Cup (Men)	- Dell 'A' lost in round 3. - Dell 'B' Quarter finalists.
Jermy Cup (Mixed)	- Quarter finalists.
National Top Club (Men)	- Lost in round 1.
National Club Two Fours	- Lost in preliminary round.
National Tony Allcock Trophy (O60 Mixed)	- Lost in area semi-final.
Ashill & District Mixed Triples League	- Division 1 finished in 2 nd place.
Age Concern League	- Norwich Zone finished in 1 st place (qualified for zone play-offs). - Knock-out Cup Winners.
Graves Cup (Mixed)	- Lost in round 1.

Indoor Season 2025/26

Both the Men's County League 'A' and 'B' teams have one game left. The 'A' team is at the bottom of division one, trailing County Arts by 1.5 points and likely to drop to division two next season. The 'B' team in division two sits in 4th place, 4.5 points behind the next team.

After reaching the play-offs in the Men's County O60 Double Rink Competition, the 'A' team defeated Acle 'A' and Gallow 'A' to retain their title.

In the 2024/25 Men's County Championships, Ian Turnbull and Julian Cook were runners-up in the Pairs, losing to Norfolk BC. Jamie Austin, Jack Adcock, and Peter Bailey have reached the final of the 2025/26 Men's County Triples, scheduled for Sunday 12th April at 2pm at County Arts.

Summary of the final positions for external team leagues and competitions: -

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| NCIBA County League (Men) | - Dell 'C' Division 4 finished in 3 rd place. |
| NCIBA O60 Double Rink Competition (Men) | - Dell 'A' Group B finished top (qualified for play-off). |
| | - Dell 'B' Group B finished in 6 th place. |
| NCWIBA County League (Ladies) | - Premier Division finished in 5 th place. |
| National Denny Cup (Men) | - Lost in preliminary round. |
| National Denny Plate (Men) | - Lost in round 2. |
| National O'60 Inter Club Double Rink (Men) | - Dell 'A' lost in preliminary round. |
| | - Dell 'B' lost in preliminary round. |
| National Mason Trophy (Ladies O'60) | - Lost in round 3. |
| National Egham Trophy (Mixed) | - Lost in preliminary round. |

County Associations

Throughout the year, our delegates participated in a number of meetings. After they are received, meeting minutes are displayed on the notice boards.

Next season, the Norfolk County Indoor Bowling Association will revise the O60 Inter-Club Double Rink competition format, moving from geographical groups to divisions and reducing the number of ends played to 18.

The Norfolk Bowls Association's has launched a new website to help with the administration of Competitions and County League.

Thank you to our members who dedicate their time and energy to managing the County Associations affairs for everyone's benefit.

The Future

If the weather allows, the outdoor green will open on Monday 20th April and starts with weekly Monday club roll-ups. In response to member feedback, we have entered extra teams into the external leagues this summer. Additionally, when the bar is open, we plan to offer bowls sessions on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings, depending on members' support.

Following member requests, we plan to introduce an indoor singles league and to bring back the Outteridge cup for new bowlers. Further details will be shared once confirmed.

The presentation evening for this year is scheduled for Friday 23rd October with a start time of 7.30pm.

General

I'd like to offer my congratulations to everyone who won indoor and outdoor competitions and leagues this year.

Thank you to the committee members for their participation in meetings and to the Officers for their ongoing commitment and support. I also appreciate the captains for organising and leading the teams, Ali Stevenson for keeping the Club's Facebook page updated and Sandy Hinton for hosting a monthly coffee morning throughout winter on the last Friday of each month.

I submit this report to the Bowls Section Annual General Meeting.

Jean Webb

Honorary League Secretary

The Winter 2025/26 Leagues are now nearing completion. This has included 11 leagues, 3 of which have 2 divisions and involved a total of 122 teams playing various formats. Unfortunately, during the 2025 Summer Season, there were no Outdoor Internal Leagues and only 1 Indoor League, which is obviously disappointing.

Un-played matches continue to be an issue; however, considerable effort is being made to get these matches played before the end of the current season and is being monitored closely. To facilitate management of un-played matches, forms have been created on the website which make it much easier to re-arrange matches. Members are encouraged to use those forms.

The Summer Indoor League registrations are still disappointing. It is hoped to run a new format 'Day League', outdoors on a Friday evening and/or Sunday morning during the 2026 Summer Season. The exact format will be advised in due course.

In response to a request from a number of members, it is the intention to run a Singles League during the Winter Season. The exact format will be determined at a later date.

We will also continue to look forward to providing a full program of leagues for the next year.

Bob Smith

Honorary Competition Secretary

Outdoor 2025 Season

Congratulations to the winners:

Singles: Peter Roseblade

Pairs: Graham Benefer & Andrew Gaze

Triples: Carl Walker, Garry Oakley & Gary Goodrum

Fours: Carl Walker, Jack Adcock, Richard Harvey & Ali Stevenson

Indoor 2025/26 Season

Congratulations to the winners:

Ladies Singles: Lynda Warnes

Ladies Pairs: Margaret Clayton & Linda Murfit

Mens Singles: Ali Stevenson

Mens Pairs: Richard Harvey & Ali Stevenson

Mens Triples: Peter Richmond (sub), Gary Goodrum & Garry Oakley (with Carl Walker)

Mens Fours: Keith Kinsey, Peter Harlow, Jack Adcock & Jamie Austin

Mixed Pairs: Jean Webb & Gary Goodrum

Open/Mixed Competitions

The Handicap Singles and Sets Singles will be completed soon. This season, we changed the format of the Carter's Shield, which seemed to be popular and will hopefully stay the same for next season's competition. Congratulations to Carl Walker and Andrew Gaze, who won the final.

Next Season

I propose that next season, the format of the Sets Singles be changed to two sets of nine ends, instead of seven.

Hopefully, the Outteridge Cup will run again next season for our newer players, and we will aim to run an Aussie Pairs Tournament around Christmas, along the same format as the Easter competition.

Jamie Austin

Ladies' Welfare Officer

No report submitted.

Ladies' Indoor County League Team Captain

Having been promoted to the premier division this season, we expected tough opposition and some of the teams were strong but we didn't give in and had some good results. At the time of writing this report, we are 4th which is an excellent position to finish the season.

In the first round of the Mason Trophy, we were drawn against Roundwood where we had a good win, our next round was against Lowestoft Railway another win, which put us into the 3rd round against Mid-Suffolk, unfortunately we lost that game by 2 shots, a very good team effort by all players.

I would like to thank the reserves who came into the team when needed, also the players who played out of their usual position to play skip on a few occasions, the support I have had this season has been brilliant, the captain picks the team, but it is the players who make the team.

Wendy Bryant

Men's Indoor County League 'A' Team Captain

We started off with optimism from a good season the previous year but for some reason this winter nothing seemed to gel and we struggled week in, week out.

In the league we played 11 games, won 2 and lost 9. All to fight for this coming Saturday at Lynnsport as we are only 1.5 points behind County Arts and Gallow need to go there and get at least five points to win the league.

So somehow it could still be in our hands.

In the Denny and Denny plate early exits also.

The club this winter entered the Egham which was well supported by both the Ladies and Men but again we had an early exit.

Well done to both Jamie and Ali getting to the County Singles quarter finals and then Ali to the semi-final, falling at this stage.

Again, another well done to Jamie, Peter and Jack in going so far in the County triples.

Thank you to all who supported me this Winter including members who did not subscribe to play.

Now after two years it needs a new Captain with a different view to myself.

Richard Harvey

Men's Indoor County League 'B' Team Captain

After winning promotion last year, we were looking to consolidate our position in Division 2. We knew we were in for a hard season as most of the teams we were playing were Club 'A' teams.

We started well, and by the end of the year we were 3rd in the league and hopeful of a successful second half of season.

We have so far collected 26 points at home with one game to play and 14 points in our away games. We should finish in a respectable 3rd or 4th place in the league.

We also achieved 8 Top rinks in our 11 games which shows the strength we have in the team, and also managed to score points in every game we have played.

I'm sure everyone who has played for the 'B' team this season have enjoyed themselves. There were some high and low points, but we always had a good team spirit, friendly banter, support and encouragement on our bad days and the commitment on all the rinks to play as a team.

There are always people to thank in any club, the 'A' and 'C' team captains who have been of great support throughout the season.

A big thank you to all the other club players who have played in the 'B' team, too numerous to list them all, your support was appreciated by myself and the team.

Also a thank you to the 'B' team this season, your support this season has been excellent and you have been a pleasure to play with, it has been an experience and a challenge with some unexpected moments, but let's all agree we achieved our target of staying in Division 2.

Lastly and not forgotten the club members who have come and supported us this season, I hope we have entertained you all and on behalf of the team a big Thank You!.

Looking forward to seeing you all next season.

Roy Gatehouse

Men's Indoor County League 'C' Team Captain

The 'C' team was re-formed at the beginning of the 2024/2025 season with a mixture of players - some experienced in competitive matches, with others having little or no experience.

That first season was a steep learning curve, but we competed well and finished just below halfway in the league table and, just as importantly, the team developed into a good-natured group of friends.

This year we have built on the first season. The inexperienced players have improved and gained in confidence, the "old hands" have continued to support and encourage them, and we've had some new club members joining, who have both strengthened the team and fitted seamlessly into the team's happy atmosphere. On the few occasions where we didn't have a full team, we were lucky enough to be able to call upon experienced players from the general club membership, as well as available "B" team players. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped us out in those emergencies.

All season we had been in the mix for promotion but eventually ended up in a three-way fight for 3rd place which eventually came down to the results of the very last Saturday of matches.

Before the start of those games Lowestoft Rail "B" had 52.5 points, we had 49.5 points and Gallow "C" had 48.5 points with Gallow playing at home against Lowestoft. The ideal result for us in that game would be a 5.5 –1.5 win for Gallow, leaving both opponents on 54 points and giving us a target of winning by 5-2 or better to secure the 3rd spot.

It turned out to be an exciting and close game for us against Norfolk B.C. "C" from start to finish.

With just 3 ends to go we were in trouble, losing in 2 rinks and behind in the overall score.

Somehow, we managed a late come back - starting the last end we were still losing in two rinks but ahead by just 1 point in the overall score – the comeback was completed by winning the last end on three rinks with a combined shot score of 6-1 and we had hit our target of winning 5pts.-2pts !!

It was a nail-biting few hours until the result of the other match appeared on the county website – Gallow had won 6-1 meaning that they now had a season's total of 54.5 points, the same as us, but as we had the better shot difference, we had clinched that 3rd spot.

WE CERTAINLY EXCEEDED THE EXPECTATIONS THAT WE HAD AT THE START OF THE SEASON!!

An extremely big thank you to **everyone** who has played for the team in the last two seasons, culminating in a highly successful second season, and for your contributions to the enjoyable banter and happy atmosphere we have at all our matches.

Chris Pickard

Men's Indoor O60's 'A' Team Captain

The A team had a very successful season dropping only 2 points in 5 league games. Into the semi-final against Acle we won 43-32.

The final played at Dereham with great support I might add we put in a good performance beating a strong Gallows side on both rinks to win the trophy for the second year running 50-35.

In the EIBA national competition unfortunately went out to Beccles in the first round by two shots 29-31.

Thank-you to all the squad members making my job easier unfortunately only 8 players can only play in one game. Thanks for all your support at games throughout the season.

Let's go on and win it again although it could be a bit tougher with a change in format to the leagues.

Gary Goodrum

Men's Indoor O60's 'B' Team Captain

No report submitted.

Outdoor County League 'A' Team Captain

It has been a pleasure to serve as captain for the A team over the 2025 outdoor season and to represent such a committed and supportive group of players.

After being relegated from the Premier Division the season before and joining the Central Division, I knew that it would be a tough challenge in getting the team promoted back to the Promised Land. We had a slow start to the campaign as we acclimatised to challenging greens and a different style of opposition, however, we always stayed close to the league leaders and keeping our title hopes within our own control and it was fantastic to seal the title on the last night of the campaign and progress to the Baker Cup, Ultimately winning the competition and claiming an immediate return to the Premier League for the 2026 season.

As I, now look forward to a summer off, I wish my successor all the best for the coming season and I am sure all the players will give him the dedicated support that they gave me.

I would like to wish all members joy and good bowling in all their individual and team competitions and hope for some good weather throughout!

UP THE DELL!!!!

Ali Stevenson

Outdoor County League 'B' Team Captain

No report submitted.

Ashill & District Mixed Triples League Team Captain

Division one had 6 teams, resulting in just 10 games. The team plays 3 rinks of triples, each with at least one male and one female. With 17 men and 6 women available, not everyone could play.

We finished 2nd in the league, just 2 points behind Mundford Village BC.

Thanks to all for your support.

Glenda Adcock

Age Concern League Team Captain

LEAGUE:

This year we were placed in the Norwich section. We had another excellent season winning thirteen matches and drawing the other one. We won our section and progressed to the finals day where we finished a very close second to a very strong Hethersett team. This year's top performer was Andrew Gaze who was unbeaten in the league section.

KO CUP:

Congratulations on lifting this trophy for the first time. We had convincing victories over Shotford, Cringleford, Aldiss Park, and Bintree to reach the final and overcame a sporting Reepham team on an excellent green at Lyng.

Finally a special thank you to Karen and Anne for providing the tea and biscuits.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on the green for the 2026 season.

Phil Norton