



Welcome to the latest edition of the Norfolk Bowling Club Newsletter

So, Spring has most definitely arrived and here we are in April with longer days at last! Indoor rinks have been frantically busy as teams catch up on games missed earlier in the season and club competitions are coming to a close. At the same time, preparations are underway for the launch of the outdoor season on **25 April** and we hope the weather will be kind in the coming months.

With Easter round the corner, don't forget there's still time to sign up for the **Easter Drive** which is happening at **2pm on Friday 3 April**

Please buy your tickets ASAP for the End of Season Lunch on Tuesday 14 APRIL – further details below

PLEASE NOTE that apart from the Easter Drive on the afternoon of Good Friday, the club will be closed for the Easter Weekend, reopening at **9.30am on Tuesday 7 April**.

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU! We are still seeking some new volunteers to take on a variety of essential roles within the club. Please, please consider giving some of your time to help us ensure that the club may continue to offer the full range of bowling opportunities and social events which we have come to take for granted. Your help will be much appreciated, and this is your chance to make a difference to the club. We are appealing to our members to come forward and help with the following roles, [please click here for details](#)

Men's A Team

The Men's A Team completed the season's fixtures with two good away results at County Arts (6-1) and Wymondham Dell (6-1), remaining unbeaten in 2026. Although recent results have been excellent, it is highly likely that the team will ultimately be runners up to Gallow in the league. Gallow have one remaining match and only require a total of 5 points from their final match to take the title. A disappointing season by the A Team's own high standards but still an excellent effort following two defeats at home to Acle and away to Gallow earlier in the season.

The team exited the Denny Cup in December at the last 16 stage of the country to Risbygate by 2 shots. This disappointing exit followed three excellent victories within the County against Acle (22 shots), County Arts (35 shots) and Gallow (21 shots).

Attention now turns to County and National competitions where the club is well represented by A Team players.

Report from Ian Wones

Congratulations to Wayne Willgress and Aaron Johnson who were both part of the England team winning the international series.

Ladies' A Team - Well you bowled...

The Ladies' A Team has had a very successful season.

Firstly, our congratulations must go to Bex Willgress, who was selected for the senior England Team in the home international series and was part of the winning team for the series. Also, congratulations to Ellie Johnson who was selected for the England U25 home internationals and, again, the team won the series. It is an outstanding achievement for the club to have two England players.

Further congratulations to Bex for coming runner-up in the national Champion of Champions held at the end of January at Dolphin IBC. The final against her fellow England international player, Nicole Rogers, was one of the best singles matches seen in a long time and could have gone either way. Bex narrowly losing 21-20. Bex, with husband Wayne, also qualified for the national mixed pairs finals but lost in the quarter finals to the eventual winners.

Bex and Ellie have both qualified for the national finals at Nottingham in March/April with Bex playing in the 2 wood singles, Ellie in the 4 wood singles and playing together in the Pairs. We wish them success.

Bex Willgress, Ellie Johnson, Jenna O'Hagan, Kay Carrick, Joyce Webster, Jackie Devitt and Nicola Segolo are part of the county Atherley trophy team (with Bernadette Scott and Sophie Blanche as reserves). The team had a great win in the national semi-final against Lincolnshire on 21 March at Huntingdon and will now play in the National Final. Again, this is a great testament to the strength and depth of the ladies at the club.

In the national team competitions, we had a disappointing start in the Yetton and Mason trophies, losing in the first round of the Yetton and the second round of the Mason. This meant, however, that we could enter the **Yetton Plate** and we have had a tremendous run in this and **brought the trophy home** after a hard-fought game, beating Swale 96-87 at the National Final at Nottingham on Saturday 28 March. **Well done to all the ladies who have represented the club in this prestigious competition.**

Within the county, we have managed to retain the **NCWIBA County Triples Premier Division League title**, only losing three games all season. A fantastic achievement. My thanks go to all those who have played this year.

It has been a season of change and adjustment with the retirement of some players and new players brought into the A team. The success we have had demonstrates the dedication and commitment of all who have been part of the squad. I am proud and humble to be the A team captain.

Report from Jackie Devitt



EIBA Finals – the Indoor National Finals are taking place at Nottingham IBC between **28th March and 21st April**, [please click here for full schedule of games](#). We will update the website and Facebook as the championships progress.

We are very proud that the club is well represented at this year's finals (see list below) and wish all players the very best of luck.



Competition	Qualifier(s)
Ladies Pairs	Bex Willgress & Ellie Johnson
Ladies Singles	Ellie Johnson
Ladies 2 Bowl Singles	Bex Willgress
Men's Triples	Aaron Johnson, James Segolo, Wayne Willgress
Men's Fours	Aaron Johnson, Richard Summers, James Segolo, Wayne Willgress
Men's 2 Bowl Singles	Wayne Willgress
O60 Singles	Ian Wones
O60 Pairs	Ian Wones, Bernie Perrett
U30's Double rink	Ellie Johnson Connie Dowe Aaron Johnson Shannon Tucker Tom Cooper Dan Seabourne
Family Pairs	Adrian Field, Wayne Willgress
Atherley	Ladies County Team
Yetton Plate	Ladies Club Team (played and won!)

Ladies' Development Group vs Diss Bowls Club

We wish our Ladies Development Team the best of luck on their return match against Diss (at Diss) on **Saturday 11 April**. Although a 'friendly' match we know it will be strongly fought! Thanks to Pat Headland for co-ordinating this match.

Norfolk Bowling Club v English Fire Service

On Sunday 1st March the club played the English Fire Service in a "friendly" match which saw some very close games. Overall Norfolk BC ran out winners 98 - 94, winning on two rinks, drawing on 1 and falling just short on the other 3. The game was played in good spirits and followed by a meal enjoyed by all those taking part with our thanks to the bar/kitchen team.

Phil Richards (Club Captain)



Indoor Section AGM

The Indoor Section AGM was held on 26 March with a good turn-out of 56 members in attendance, This was a constructive and productive meeting with compromises reached on a number of issues. Full details will be available in the minutes which will be published shortly.

We are hoping to keep indoor enthusiasts busy over the summer with two leagues – Monday morning Triples and Thursday morning Aussie Pairs. Entries have been coming in and to give members time to organise their teams the closing date for receipt of entries has been extended to **17 April** – please get your entries in ASAP!

Don't Forget!

Yes, we know the Indoor Winter season has just come to an end but it's time to start thinking about your entries for club leagues for next Winter. We ask for entries so early in the year as the organisation of the club diary is a complex task that takes time to ensure all league games can be completed in the required time frame, fitting in with competitions and events at the club.

The offering will be:

Monday Morning Open Triples Evening Open Sets 4 Wood pairs	Tuesday Evening Single Triples Division 1&2
Wednesday Afternoon Open Triples Evening Aussie Pairs Div 1 & 2	Thursday Afternoon Aussie Pairs Div 1&2 Evening Aussie Pairs Div 1 & 2
Friday Morning Open Triples Afternoon Open Triples Evening Open Sets 2 Wood Triples	

*Please note that, in an attempt to avoid a repeat of the high number of game cancellations we had this season, we would ask that for each team there are at least three players in a pairs team and four players in a triples team registered.

Entry forms for all of the above are available in the lounge or can be downloaded by [clicking here](#)

***Closing date for entries for Winter 2026/7 now extended to Sunday 31 May – don't miss out! ***

The Sunday Development League will continue over the Summer and will run next Winter too. No need to complete entry forms for this league as this is organised separately by Trevor Goddard (please contact Trevor if you require further information.)

Club Finals & Presentation Night

Please come along to **Club Finals & Presentation Night on Thursday 16 April** starting **6.30pm** A great opportunity to enjoy a drink with friends, watch some interesting bowls and celebrate with the victors! A light buffet will be provided.



New members

A warm welcome to our new members:

Adrian Bell

Richard & Patricia Hill

Stephen Cork

Charles & Rosemary Purkiss

Barry & Lorraine Surtees

200 CLUB

April 2026 Winners

£50

Peter Chapman

£20

Anne Ferris-Jones

£10

Jeremy Lovejoy

If you wish to join the 200 Club, please contact the club

Outdoors – the opening day for the outdoor season is **Saturday 25th April.**

Preparations are already well in hand but any member wishing to take part in the leagues is asked to add their names to the lists which are on the indoor noticeboard (Outdoor section).

Please keep an eye on the website and noticeboards for more details about the outdoor programme in the coming weeks.



The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that repair work has been undertaken around the green to replace the surround boards and a big thank you goes to John Colcombe, Phil Richards and Marty Ellis for working in all weathers to have this ready for the start of the season. This, on top of their regular all year-round work keeping the site clean and tidy. **THANK YOU!**



Need some new kit for the new season? All available to purchase from the indoor bar (or from the outdoor bar)

Shirts £26

Trousers £32

Shorts £29

Hoodies £40

Dates for your diary (please see noticeboard for more details)

April	
Fri 3 rd	Good Friday – Easter Drive 2pm
Sat 11 th	SOCIAL – Bingo & Race Night – sold out
Mon 13 th	Domestic Leagues last date for games to be played
Tue 14 th	End of season lunch, see below for details
Thu 16 th	Club Finals & Presentation Night
Fri 17 th	Indoor Bar Closes
Sat 25 th	Outdoor Green Opening Day

(*) - subject to earlier round result

Social Events

Tickets for the Bingo & Race Night on 11 April are **SOLD OUT** but there is still time to sign up for the Easter Drive on **3 April** and/or grab some tickets for the End of Season Lunch on **14 April**.



Sadly, the indoor bar will close for the summer on **16 or 17 April tbc** but, fear not, refreshments will still be available at the outdoor clubhouse from **25 April**. Opening times will be **Monday – Friday 6pm – 9.30pm** plus weekends when matches are scheduled as advertised.

A number of social events are planned for the summer season so please keep an eye out for details in the newsletter, noticeboards and website/Facebook.

Coaches' corner

I am pleased to let you know that Adrian Bell has joined the club from County Arts. Not only is Adrian a very good bowler who will be a useful addition to our indoor leagues and, potentially, our county league sides, he is also a Level 3 coach and will join our Coaching Team. The Coaching Team now comprises two Level 3's and two enthusiastic Level 1's (Jack Norton and David Willoughby) so if members would like advice on specific bowling issues, please let us know.

The Coaching Team has been kept busy over the last few weeks, with 10 new members having joined recently. I am confident that as more potential bowlers approach the club, Adrian will soon be pressed into action, which I know he will relish. Best of luck Adrian!

Trevor Goddard

For Sale – a list of any bowls items for sale is now available on the club website, [please click here.](#)

if you have an item you wish to appear on this list, please leave the item(s) details and your contact info at the bar for the attention of Carole Slaughter

Please do not put up additional notices



And finally

For those of you who have not heard yet, Suzanne Edwards is taking over the co-ordination of the Club Newsletter. We want your views, reviews and ideas for inclusion in the newsletter so please email newsletter@norfolkbc.org.uk or have a chat with Suzanne (she does love to talk!!)

Thanks very much to Chris Taylor for his input on the Newsletter since its inception; Chris will take a well-earned break from editing and continue to focus on the many other tasks he undertakes for the club.



To make sure you stay up to date with all the club news and activities make sure to check the club website

www.norfolkbc.org.uk

or join our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/norfolkbowlingclubnorwich>