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EDITOR'S NOTE

APRIL 2022

International bowls appears to be on the edge of a precipice as I welcome you to the April issue of *Bowls International*.

As I write, with a heavy heart, news is breaking from informed sources that two of the top events in the British Isles outdoor bowls calendar – the men's and women's international series – have been axed.

Despite our best efforts to establish the reasons behind the decision-making, the Bowls International team – which strives to inform, instruct and entertain readers – is yet to obtain full details. An announcement is expected on the future of the former international events, but unfortunately not before this issue went to press.

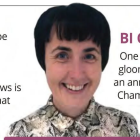
As a former Welsh international, I know this is heart-breaking news for our sport and the players who revel in the honour of donning their country's shirt to do annual battle against the other home nations each year in the zenith of the season.

Given bowls must make itself attractive to a wider non-bowls audience to remain in the Commonwealth Games, I am shocked UK bowling history is being destroyed – even more so in a year when we are hosting the event at Leamington Spa and what's more without anyone knowing exactly what is happening.

First staged in 1903, at the instigation of, among others, the legendary cricketer Dr W G Grace, the men's Home International Series has developed into the most prestigious bowls event in England, loved by all, and regarded as the pinnacle of our marvellous sport. The women's series was first played in 1936.

Playing for your country is the ultimate ambition of anyone who thrives on competitive sport. And, over the years, the British Isles men's and women's series have become the epitome of everything that is good about our sport.

Let's not forget the spectators too. It is a devastating blow for bowls fans who travel the length and breadth of the British Isles to support their country.



BI CHAMPIONSHIPS

One bright spot is helping dispel the gloom around the international series – an announcement about the British Isles Championships which have historically gone hand-in-hand with the former.

Following a meeting of representatives from the four home nations and Channel Islands, agreement was reached on a calendar of events for this season only.

A statement received said: "Wales will be hosting the championships at the Llandrindod Wells Bowling Club from June 30 until July 3.

"In the absence of BIBC and BWIBC officers, the event will be jointly co-ordinated by the WBA and WVBWA.

"This will be the first unified championships to be held and will provide a shop window for both our best male and female bowlers.

"Countries with qualifiers from 2019 and 2021 seasons have been requested to hold playoff events to determine representatives for this season's event.

"Everyone involved in the home nations agreed that it was essential for our sport to move on from the pandemic and provide meaningful competition for our athletes."

Some good news at last for the winners of the coveted competitions and an event to look forward to and witness top class matches.

Until next month...

PS look out for updates on all of these developing issues on our social media channels.

Ceris

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Main photo: What a shot! Action from the EIBA Denny Cup semi-final between Spalding IBC and Wey Valley IBC which resulted in an historic day for Spalding who reached their first cup final

Credit: Sophie Morton Photography



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Indoor closes, outdoor begins



Cover photo: The battle of the Celts, Wales and Ireland playing against each other at the last men's international series in 2019



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see pages 48-49

Winter Olympics – a missed opportunity?

Ever popular with the British public during an Olympic Winter Games, curling received immense media coverage due to the successes of the GB teams at the recent Games in Beijing.

Two decades had passed since Margaret Morton, Janice Rankin, Fiona MacDonald, Debbie Knox and Rhona Martin won the women's competition at Salt Lake City in 2002, but Team GB enjoyed further success this year.

The men's team of Ross Whyte, Hammy McMillan, Bobby Lammie, Grant Hardie and Bruce Mouat took home the silver medal in the men's discipline, with the women's team of Mili Smith, Hailey Duff, Jennifer Dodds, Vicky Wright and Eve Muirhead going one better to pick up the gold medal less than 24 hours later.

Whilst the parallels between bowls and curling may be tenuous, it is no surprise why many bowlers are gripped by 'bowls on ice' when the Winter

Games comes around every four years.

It is common practice in Canada for bowling clubs to partner with a curling club, with members joining forces to learn the ropes and intricacies of each other's sport. These 'rock and bowl' sessions have proven to be very popular throughout the country and provides another opportunity to build relationships and introduce new blood into our sport.

With very few curling ice rinks in the UK, and limited TV coverage for our sport, it is crucial for us to take full advantage of any similarities that we can muster to promote our sport to prospective new bowlers, particularly as 'the nearest alternative on grass/carpet'.

The *Bowls International* team trusts that our curling-inspired recruitment poster on the centre spread of this issue can be put to good use by your club – for a free high-resolution PDF version, just head over to the *Bowls International* website.

OUR CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As we continue our campaign to get bowls coverage on the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year show in 2021, we contacted Nigel Huddleston MP, Minister for Tourism, Sport, Commonwealth Games, Heritage, and Civil Society at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for support.

Nigel's team responded: "The BBC is independent of government in all operational and editorial matters, so this is not an issue for the government."

"An important way for the BBC to be held to account is for

audiences to complain directly to the BBC.

"The BBC's website sets out the routes through which members of the public can contact the BBC to raise issues, complaints or provide feedback."

Bowlers, your sport needs you. Please make your voices heard directly to the BBC.

We will continue to work on our SPOTY campaign to ensure our voices are heard.

We will be raising the profile of the campaign further on our website and social media channels throughout the next few months.

Below: Team GB ended a 20-year wait for curling gold
Credit: Getty Images



Team Scotland names strong para bowls line up for Birmingham 2022

Team Scotland's momentum towards the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games continues to pick up pace with the selection of an eight-strong line up in para lawn bowls.

With Birmingham 2022 set to have the largest para sport programme in Commonwealth Games history, four men and four women will make up Scotland's para lawn bowls team competing at Learningland Spa's Victoria Park this summer.

Garry Hood returns for a second Commonwealth Games appearance, an incredible 28 years after his first. He finished seventh in the men's fours at Victoria 1994, playing alongside the legendary Willie Wood. Now, after an inspiring battle back from serious illness, he will once again pull on the colours of Team Scotland.

"When I got the 'phone call to tell me I was on the team, I could have cried," he said. Five years ago, I thought I would never walk again, so it's hard to describe. I look back at where I've been, the bad days, 11 months in hospital, paralysed for most of it and you would never believe you're even going to be considered to play at the top level in the game again.

"It's been a lot of hard work, frustration, pain, but I'm delighted the hard works paid off. After about a year, I started to realise that I was getting back to what I had been and I realised how fortunate I am, having been a bowler, to be able to carry on. It's been a great motivator and help for me.

"To go from being more worried about falling on the green, to being selected for the Home Nations where we went undefeated in the pairs, to being selected for Team Scotland, I just can't believe it."

Garry will be partnered by Kevin Wallace in the B6-B8 men's pairs, who is also returning for a second games with Team Scotland after finishing fourth in the B6/B7/B8 mixed triples at Glasgow 2014.

2015 World mixed pairs silver medalist and nine-time world wheelchair curler Rosemary Lenton, will partner Pauline Wilson in the B6-B8 women's pairs as both will make their debut for



Team Scotland at a Commonwealth Games.

Pauline, who has lived in Scotland since 2018, is no stranger to the games however, having skipped Wales to sixth place in the B6/B7/B8 triples at the Gold Coast.

Robert Barr and his director Sarah Jane Ewing, make a return to Team Scotland following a fourth place finish at the Gold Coast in the B2/B3 mixed pairs.

Melanie Inness, directed by George Miller, will partner Robert this time around and the pair will be aiming for the podium in Birmingham.

George will make a little piece of history of his own in Birmingham, as at 75 years and eight months when the games begin, not only will he be the oldest athlete selected for Team Scotland for this year's games to date, but he will also take the all-time record from Scottish legend Willie Wood, who was 72-years-old at his eighth and final games in 2010.

"I feel a little bit embarrassed to be honest," said George.

"Willie Wood is one of the greatest bowlers of all-time. You

don't have to do anything to get old, it just happens. It's all about the enjoyment, the camaraderie that you get when you play any sport that you like.

"Being able to carry on is easy, because you see these people enjoying themselves, you see them playing great bowls, so it's fantastic, absolutely fantastic."

Elinor Middlemiss, Team Scotland chef de mission, said: "Huge congratulations to all of the athletes who have been selected to represent Scotland this summer."

"We look forward to them representing their families, communities and country with pride in Birmingham this summer."

"There is a huge amount of experience in this para lawn bowls team. Scottish Para lawn bowls has performed well over the years, and we wish them every success this summer in Birmingham."

Bowls Scotland's para bowls co-ordinator, Bob Christie, added: "During the selection period, all the squad performed to a very high standard which made it extremely difficult to select the chosen athletes."

"With a change in format for the para programme to include men's and women's physically disabled pairs along with the visually impaired mixed pairs, I believe we have selected a talented team to compete and bring back success to Scotland. In preparation for Birmingham 2022, the athletes will undergo a period of squad days, specific training and test matches at the venue to be ready for the games in great form and mind."

"Personally, I wish all the athletes and support staff a great Birmingham 2022 and look forward to working with the full squad."

To find out more visit:
www.teamscotland.scot

SELECTED ATHLETES

Robert Barr
Sarah Jane Ewing (director)
Garry Hood
Melanie Inness
Rosemary Lenton
George Miller (director)
Kevin Wallace
Pauline Wilson



Tournament joy for Beeton

Suffolk's Charlie Beeton enjoyed success at Daventry IBC in Northamptonshire as 30 youngsters took part in an Under 19s open singles tournament. Entrants were randomly drawn into eight groups, with each match consisting of six ends, before the group winners and runners-up proceeded to the knockout stages. The quarter-finals saw Joshua Austin beat

Matthew Murphy 9-0 and Beeton win 11-1 against Ellie Hamblett to book their semi-final spots, but the other two games at this stage were much tighter. Jorja Jackson overcame local hopeful Cauty Swift 5-4, with Ollie Sloan also reaching the last four with a single shot victory over Haydn Chambers. Beeton booked his place in the final with a 9-0

win over Austin, with Jackson again winning by a 5-4 scoreline – this time against Sloan. In the final, Jackson started well, leading 3-0 after two ends, before Beeton took control of the contest to run out a 9-3 victor. Tournament organiser Darren Wheeler has shared his hopes that due to popular interest the tournament next year will be split into two age groups.



ROUND ROBIN RETURNS

Following a vote by the county associations at the recent Bowls England AGM, the Middleton Cup and Johns Trophy will return to a round robin format in 2023. Due to COVID-19, a provision was made for all inter-county competitions to be held later in the season in 2021 on a knockout basis, with all rounds over the traditional 21-end format. The inter-county events will be played as knockout competitions for the 2022 season. The Middleton Cup is one of the oldest competitive bowling events in the world, dating back to 1911.

GALA DAY JOY FOR WANSTEAD

Teams from as far away as Clacton, Hoddesdon and Dartford joined 13 other local indoor and outdoor clubs in the Ilford and District IBC gala day in Essex, which raised £1,000. The unique bowling format saw the top teams from each of two groups group playing each other in the grand final. The final this year was contested between teams from Wanstead Central and Hoddesdon and Rye Park, with the Wanstead quartet of Gerry Rose, Sandra Dupuy, Wendy Gray and Mark Newman securing the gala trophy and a very nice cash prize. The Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr. Roy Emmett, was a guest of honour at the gala, with Disability Bowls England internationals Michelle White and Colin Milner also taking part in the event.





Mann of the moment

Kirsty Mann from Beccles and Boston's Matt Whyers enjoyed success in the English Indoor Bowling Association's champion of champions competition for the 2021-22 season.

Former junior international Mann, who previously represented her country at both Under 18 and Under 25 levels, defeated Somerset's Rebecca McMillan in the final to secure her maiden national title.

The 28-year-old, who had reached the final of the event in 2018 whilst pregnant with her eldest daughter Darcie, made no mistake on this occasion by overcoming McMillan 21-7.

Mann's defeat in the final four years ago came in the middle of Katherine Rednall's dominance of the competition, with her

success this year ending Rednall's incredible run of five successive champion of champions titles.

Following her success, Mann said: "It feels incredible to win the champion of champions – it is my first ever national title, and I am so proud of my achievement."

"Going into the championships I knew there was no pressure on me to do well so that helped the nerves (slightly) but I also hoped I had bought my 'A-game' with me as nobody wants to get to the national finals and lose their first game knowing they didn't play as well as they could."

"The standout game has to be the semi-final against Chelsea Tomlin. We both bowled exceptionally well, and it was such a well-fought game. In the previous round against Nicole Rogers, I was 16-9 down and came back to win 21-16 so that really helped to shake off any remaining nerves."

"I am a generally a nervous person when it comes to these sort of games, but I just kept reminding myself that I had done myself proud. Win or lose the final, I knew I had played the best I possibly could to get to that stage."

"During the final, I tried not to think about the end result, but on a couple of ends when I started to

pull away, I did start to think that winning could be a possibility!"

Mann recognised the support she had both rinkside and at home, with husband Darren providing both support at Dolphin IBC and live scores to the family back in Suffolk

"Darren was keeping my family up to date on an end-by-end basis throughout the competition and my two biggest supporters, my daughters Darcie and Eadie, were back at home being looked after by their grandparents."

"I know my family were all so proud of me and I felt very emotional afterwards when I spoke to my mum and dad

who have always supported me massively with my bowls."

In the men's event, Matt Whyers continued his impressive form and defeated Lincolnshire teammate Graham Smith 21-13 in the final.

Whyers reached the final of the delayed 2019-20 national singles final earlier this season, losing out to Nick Brett.

Wins over Jamie Barker, Cameron Legate and Sean Coyle set-up the clash with Smith, who had reached the final with victories over James Brennan, Sean Cook and Tom Segolo.



Kirsty Mann secured her first national title

MEN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS RESULTS:

Preliminary round: Tom Segolo (Norfolk) bt John McGuinness (Dorset) 21-13; Cameron Legate (Harrogate) received walkover from Huw Crosby (Copeland)

First round: Graham Smith (Spalding) bt James Brennan (Worthing Pavilion) 21-10; Shaun Cook (Colchester) bt Gary Smith (Durham) 21-15; Adam White (Chawton Park) bt Stuart Evans (Plymouth) 21-16; Tom Segolo (Norfolk) bt Andy Walters (Welford-on-Avon) 21-20; Cameron Legate (Harrogate) bt Bradley Prowle (Riverain) 21-8; Matt Whyers (Boston) bt Jamie Barker (St Neots) 21-7; Sean Coyle (Swale) bt Mike Prosser (Mid Glos) 21-13; Barrie Forse (St Andrews) bt Jon Wilson (Wey Valley) 21-20

Quarter-finals: Smith bt Cook 21-15; Segolo bt White 21-18; Whyers bt Legate 21-6; Coyle bt Forse 21-19

Semi-finals: Smith bt Segolo 21-15; Whyers bt Coyle 21-10

Final: Whyers bt Smith 21-13

WOMEN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS RESULTS:

Preliminary round: Heather Stapleford (Riverain) bt Stef Branfield (Cleveland) 21-10; Tina Smitham (Cumbria) bt Rita Hodgkinson (North Cave) 21-5

First round: Chelsea Tomlin (Spalding) bt Susan Walter (Wealden) 21-4; Sue Entwistle (Redcar) bt Rose Kerridge (Colchester) 21-7; Nicole Rogers (Exonia) bt Jackie Watts (Victoria) 21-8; Kirsty Mann (Beccles) bt Susan Atkinson (Bromsgrove) 21-14; Heather Stapleford (Riverain) bt Tina Smitham (Cumbria) 21-10; Rebecca Moorby (St Neots) received walkover from Penny Strong (Lincoln); Morgan Merryweather (Whiteleights) bt Amy Barnes (Swale) 21-14; Rebecca McMillan (St Andrews) bt Pauline Clark (Egham) 21-18

Quarter-finals: Tomlin bt Entwistle 21-7; Mann bt Rogers 21-16; Moorby bt Stapleford 21-4; McMillan bt Merryweather 21-11

Semi-finals: Mann bt Tomlin 21-18; McMillan bt Moorby 21-19

Final: Mann bt McMillan 21-7



Matt Whyers won the men's competition

A full report of the mixed pairs and mixed fours finals from St Neots will be included in next month's issue of *Bowls International*.

Youngest ever women's Commonwealth squad announced

Lawn bowls is the first sport to name their Team NI squad of players for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The squad has a mixture of experience and youth; the men's squad features Martin McHugh and Ian McClure, both gold medal winners at the 1998 games in Kuala Lumpur. It will be McHugh's seventh Commonwealth Games, while McClure will be competing at his sixth.

But for the women, it's the youngest ever squad and all five players will be experiencing the event for the first time.

High performance coach Neil Booth, who will be team manager in Birmingham, feels the squad is well-equipped to add to the 20 medals which Northern Ireland have won in bowls at previous Commonwealth Games.

"We're delighted to announce the squad," he said.

"We had told the players a few



Martin McHugh will be appearing at his seventh games

months ago and we're delighted to get it out there and really start the preparation."

He continued: "One of the things we wanted to do was change the

age profile of the ladies team

"With a lot of the top countries in the world, the average age of the ladies is in their 20s, but they just don't pick young players for the sake of it, they have to be good enough and these five have proved they are good enough over the last number of years.

"I'm delighted with the squad we have in the ladies' side; I'm delighted with the age profile and looking forward to working with them."

Adding: "Marty [McHugh], Ian and myself in 1998 won a gold medal and the two old stalwarts are still hanging around and playing as well as ever.

"It is a really good foundation to have two players like that in a 10-player squad. We are going to lean on their experience a lot and certainly the girls will lean on the experience that Marty and Ian have and we're hopeful that they can inspire the others to success.

"I'm not a great one for giving predictions, but we have the best squad that has ever gone to the Commonwealth Games as far as strength and conditioning is concerned, physiological resilience, all sides of the game on and off the green.

"We'll be as well prepared as we can be and after that it is down to a bit of luck and things going our way, but I'd be very hopeful."

WOMEN

Singles: Shauna O'Neill

Pairs: Megan Devlin, Shauna O'Neill

Triples: Ashleigh Rainey, Courtney Meneely, Chloe Wilson

Fours: Megan Devlin, Ashleigh Rainey, Courtney Meneely, Chloe Wilson

MEN

Singles: Gary Kelly

Pairs: Sam Barkley, Martin McHugh

Triples: Adam McKeown, Gary Kelly, Ian McClure

Fours: Sam Barkley, Adam McKeown, Ian McClure, Martin McHugh

THREE BOWL PAIRS WINNERS

Winners of the Association of Irish Indoor Bowls Three Bowl Pairs were Belfast IBC's Ryan McElroy and Jack Moffett.

RESULTS

Results from the event, held at Ballybrakes Community IBC, were as follows:

Quarter-finals: A Tennant and I McClure bt J Montgomery and A McKeown 7-6; J Kyle and A Kyle bt J Calvin and R Miller 8-4; R McElroy and J Moffett bt S Colvin and B Kane 7-4; M McPeak and S Bennett bt R Kane & A Walker 7-6

Semi-finals: Kyle and Kyle bt McPeak and Bennett 7-1; McElroy and Moffett bt Tennant and McClure 9-8

Final: McElroy and Moffett bt Kyle and Kyle 13-6



Pictured, from left: Micheal Morgan (chief umpire), Jack Moffett and Ryan McElroy (winners), Tommy Smith (AIIB president), Clifford Craig (AIIB team manager)

Leinster Lions roar to success

The Leinster Lions is an academy team in the Bowling League of Ireland that since its inception has sought to encourage and promote younger participation in the game of bowls.

Initially, the project was led by devout bowlers Eamonn Carruth, Sarah Kelly, Richard Leonard and Ian Wilson, but over the past few years many more have been keen to help.

They started with one team entered into the winter league. The team was made up of three coaches and nine academy players aged between five and 25.

In their first season, they finished a very respectable third in the group stage, but the experience greatly benefited them all as many then established themselves in club teams. Success followed as Colum O'Brien became a British Isles champion and Amy Carruth, along with her father Eamonn, secured a Crumlin-Leinster mixed pairs title.

Following the hard hit of COVID-19 to the sport, the Leinster Lions came back with a bang and some new kids on the block. Having already established one team in the winter league, the decision was taken to enter a second team.

The first team, made up largely of the more experienced youth and captained by Amy Carruth, has endured a difficult group this year, but spirits are still high after back-to-back wins has seen them move up the table.

The team will use the year to form bonds and no doubt will be back next with a bang.

Isabel Larrigan and Amy Carruth have been selected for the Irish indoor Under 25s team and it wouldn't surprise anyone if that number increased this time next year.

With a Junior Inter Association series coming fast upon us, the experience gained for all these young bowlers will no doubt pay in spades.

The second team has been somewhat of a shock to the league,



Emily, Eve, Ciaran, Isobel-Ruby, Beibhinn and Holly – Leinster Lions' second team

peppered with the youngest bowlers the academy has to offer (none of whom are over 14 years of age), they put two narrow losses early in the season behind them and have miraculously qualified for the quarter-finals with a game to spare having won seven straight on the bounce.

Emily, Eve, Ciaran, Isobel-Ruby, Beibhinn and Holly have been an unbelievable force on the green and they just keep getting better. No wonder when you take into account that some are children and grandchildren of Irish superstars.

They have no fear and with a small bit of coaching, they have certainly shown they can play just about every shot in the book. Best of all they are having fun doing it! Fuelled by chocolate, sweets and Capri-Suns, the youngsters have

risen to every challenge and given their coaches and opponents infectious smiles as they look on in awe of how they have taken to the game.

Looking at the big picture, this has been one of the brightest lights in the game of bowls as the young stars continue to shine and it is hoped the stars will help coach the next wave of incoming players.

Hopefully with a full season around the corner, all these players will continue to succeed and grow with their parent clubs.

It should also be mentioned that none of this would be possible without the dedication of the parents involved. The organisers are eternally grateful to everyone involved and hope this is only the beginning of the new wave of future stars.

AIIB INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2022 SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Three new caps have been selected in the team to represent Ireland at the BIIBC International Series to be held at Belfast IBC on Thursday and Friday, October 13 and 14. Jack Moffett (BIBC), Adam Rankin (BCIBC) and Aaron Coleman (CAIBC) will receive their senior honours, while David Corkill and Simon Martin (both BIBC) are recalled. Andy Kyle (CAIBC) will captain the side.

TEAM SELECTED IS AS FOLLOWS:

Ryan McElroy (BIBC), Jack Moffett (BIBC), Adam Rankin (BCIBC), Ian McGuire (BCIBC), Sam Barkley (CAIBC), Al Coleman (CAIBC), Adam McKisken (CAIBC), Stephen Kirkwood (BIBC), Aaron Coleman (CAIBC), Peter Campbell (BIBC), Gary McCloy (BCIBC), Stephen Coleman (CAIBC), Chris Eadie (BIBC), David Corkill (BIBC), Robert Kirkwood (BIBC), Stuart Bennett (BIBC), Dean Mills (BIBC), Derek Smith (BCIBC), Andy Duncan (CAIBC), Andy Kyle (CAIBC), Mark McPeak (BIBC), John McCullough (BIBC), Gerard McGhie (BIBC), Simon Martin (BIBC).
Reserves (alphabetically): Robert Allen (BCIBC), Ryan Cavan (BIBC), Mark Foster (BIBC), Jayden Kyle (CAIBC).

Said captain Andy Kyle: "In life, one of the greatest honours is to be asked to be captain of your country. To be asked and selected to do so is the greatest honour of my life."

"One I take not lightly, but one I accept and feel honoured and proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with some of the best bowlers and some of the best men I have ever known."

SIBA National Age Group

This month we feature the third SIBA national finals of the season – the **Scottish Age Group national championships**. Held at Stirling IBC, the event was supported by sponsorship partners and Age Scotland and saw some exciting matches. Let's look at what happened.

MEN'S SENIOR SINGLES

Blantyre secured their name on the men's senior singles roll of honour thanks to Robert Murphy, while defending champion Danny McCormick failed in his attempt to become the first back-to-back winner of the title.

Although played on his home Stirling carpet, Danny never recovered from a slow start that left him trailing Aberdeen's Duncan Nicolson 9-0 after just three ends, and although clawing back to 16-8 nine ends later, he eventually did go down 21-10.

In the other semi-final, Robert Murphy also got off to a great start, dropping only one of the first eight ends in his match against East Lothian's Dougie Berwick to lead 8-3, and then continuing his great form and only dropping three more ends on the run home to post a 21-9, 18 end victory.

And what a tussle the final turned out to be in a 29-end exchange.

Robert opened up a 9-1, seven end lead and looked to be well on course to the title when he stretched that advantage to 13-4 after 16 ends.

However, the Granite City player found line and length and held Robert on 13 shots over the next six ends to cut that deficit to 13-12.

A relieved Robert managed to stop the rot with back-to-back singles to increase his advantage to 15-12, but Duncan continued to work his magic and a procession of inch perfect deliveries from both players only heightened the tension to 18-16, and then consecutive singles to 20-16 in Robert's favour.

Duncan held the upper hand on 29th end with his bowl lying only a few inches from the jack, but 'cool as a cucumber' Robert navigated an exact draw around the holding shot to seal the destination of the title 21-16.

Robert Murphy



George Prosser and Robert Gordon

MEN'S SENIOR PAIRS

Lanarkshire regained the men's senior pairs title when they held off Coatbridge in the final.

Jim Bell and Hugh Smith took the title back to Beltane Park two years ago when they claimed the silverware at West of Scotland and this time, with George Prosser and Robert Gordon flying the flag, they came good in their semi-final against Turrif and Willie Beaton and Jeff Robertson 18-15.

In the other semi, four shots on the 11th end were instrumental in Coatbridge – winners of the inaugural senior pairs title way back in 2011 – making space

against Tweedbank's Tom Mann and Ian Crawford. They were however forced to hold off a strong finishing challenge from the Borders pair before progressing 15-12.

In the title decider, the scores were locked at 4-4 after six ends with Lanarkshire then reeling off six straight shots over the next five ends to lead 10-4. A double for Coatbridge cut that deficit to 10-6, but they failed to score over the remaining ends with Lanarkshire chalking up two singles, a four and another single finish to take the title 17-6 with an end to spare.

winners crowned

MEN'S SENIOR TRIPLES

Midlothian completed a hat-trick of men's senior triples titles since the event began 11 years ago in 2011 – winning the title back-to-back in 2014 and '15 and again at Stirling – with one common factor – all successes were skipped by Lindsay Plenderleith.

This time round, he was aided

and abetted by clubmates Drew Pearson and Ian Fleming against Whiteinch trio Mick McDermott, Billy Adams and George Bruce as they claimed the silverware 16-12.

In the final,

Midlothian were quickly out of the blocks, leading 4-2 after five ends, added nine shots to go 13-2 four ends later and put the title well and truly in their sights at 16-4 three ends later with just three ends remaining.

And although Whiteinch fought back, they had left themselves too big a hurdle to overcome and despite a strong three, two and

three finish, it was too little too late and Midlothian raised the victory salute 16-12.

Enroute to their title decider, the highly experienced Midlothian threesome made a storming semi-final start, opening up a 13-1, five end lead against Garloch's Frank Sinclair, Ian Ingram and

Bruce Middleton, and despite only scoring on three of the remaining 10 ends, Midlothian had inflicted the damage over the opening exchanges, and they won 20-9. Whiteinch met Dumbarton's John

Shaw, Fred Sharpe and David Nixon in the other semi-final and in a nip-and-tuck battle, they saw the score tied on no less than five occasions over the 15-end exchange. They stood 8-8 after 11 ends, and then 11-11 three ends later, the penultimate end. But victory went to the Whiteinch lads on the last for the narrowest of 12-11 wins.

"The highly experienced Midlothian threesome made a storming semi-final start"



Mick McDermott, Billy Adams and George Bruce



Peter Crainey, Allan Paterson, Billy Cochrane and Jim Prunty

MEN'S SENIOR FOURS

The questions being asked in the fours final were could Midlothian celebrate a double success after winning the triples crown or could Coatbridge make up for their disappointment at losing in the pairs final and have something to celebrate?

And what a contest it turned out to be before a jubilant Coatbridge support savoured success with Peter Crainey, Allan Paterson, Billy Cochrane and Jim Prunty producing a stunning run home to fend off the Midlothian quartet of Ian Fleming, Drew Pearson, Sandy Knight and Lindsay Plenderleith 17-10.

In a low scoring first half, there was never more than two shots separating the teams with the scoreline showing 8-8 after nine ends. However, Coatbridge moved up a gear and reeled off nine shots over four of the remaining five ends to seal a 17-10 victory and a place in the British Isles

Championships in Belfast later in the year.

They played a similar type of game in their semi-final against Doug Lambert, Jack Ewan, Charlie McLaren and Eddy Gray from Perth. They trailed 13-15 at 12 ends but produced a grandstand finish wrapping up their 20-15 victory with a one, two, one, one and one.

Midlothian made the early running in their semi-final clash against Jim Jess, Jim Bremner, Sandy Wyllie and Hugh Brown from Ayr taking a 12-2 lead after six ends.

However, the Ayr rink scored on eight of the next 10 ends to stand all-square at 17-17 going into the defining last end. They looked to have done enough to set up their tilt at the title, however Lady Luck decided otherwise and a 'kind' glance with the last bowl gave Midlothian the nod and their spot in the final 18-17.



Carol Condy

WOMEN'S SENIOR SINGLES

Coatbridge had more to celebrate when Carol Condy became the sixth recipient of the women's senior singles crown.

In her semi-final against Auchinleck's Heather Kay she chalked up a 21-14 win but had to work hard for the duration of the match – where singles were scored on 20 of the 26-end exchange.

In the other last four clash, Aberdeen's Margaret Durward was aiming to take the title for an amazing third time after her inaugural win in 2016 and then retained the title the following season. She went head-to-head against seasoned campaigner Celia Smith from East Fife – and that match certainly did not disappoint, with both players in top form.

Celia trailed 14-16 after 17 ends, but she checked out with a two, one and four finish to win 21-16.

The final was another testing exchange that kept everyone on the edge of their seats, but it was the Coatbridge player who narrowly held the upper hand throughout, scoring a title winning double after a tense 25-end decider much to the delight of her large Coatbridge travelling support 21-15.

SENIOR WOMEN'S PAIRS

The last session of the two-day seniors' finals certainly had a full house of spectators on the edge of their seats with all matches going to tension packed conclusions.

None more so that the women's senior pairs final between East Lothian's Mags Thomson and Yvonne Veitch in the red corner and Maureen Shimmors and Josephine Williamson from defending champions Auchinleck in the blue corner.

It was a high-quality game from start to finish with East Lothian doing the early running to take an 8-3 mid game lead.

However, a treble followed by a double levelled the score at 8-8 and from there to the finishing line both teams scored on four each of the remaining eight ends.

East Lothian held sway at 11-9, but two singles and a double pushed Auchinleck ahead for the first time in the match at 13-11 playing the last.

With two shots against, Auchinleck played four bowls into the head – the last of which broke unkindly and left skip Veitch with a free draw to add a treble to seal the title by the narrowest of margin 14-13 and give them their first ever success in this event.

To book their final berth, both teams had comfortable semi-final wins. East Lothian pulled away from the seventh end and eventually accounted for former champion Margo Duff and her Balbardie teammate Betty Johnstone 26-13, while Auchinleck only conceded five ends in their 23-10 win over Turfiff's Frances Thomson and Lynn Ronald.



Mags Thomson and Yvonne Veitch



Aimee Harris and Stewart McAlees with their trophies

UNDER 22 SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Now in its eighth year, the under 21 singles championship was pushed to an Under 22 age group because of Covid so that players would not miss out.

Unfortunately, only one semi-final was contested as local Stirling player Eilidh Weir had to call off her semi-final challenge after contracting the virus and that meant Abbeyview's Dylan

Robertson received a bye.

However, the semi-final match between Inverclyde's Stewart McAlees and Finlay Gowan from Turfiff did go ahead with Stewart securing a 21-4 victory and a place in the final – and what a blockbuster that turned out to be with both finalists in top form throughout their 28-end head-to-head.

In a game of two halves, Dylan led the early exchanges, taking an 8-2, six end lead, staying in the driving seat for the next eight ends to sit at 11-9 after 14 ends.

But a double and single saw the lead swing in Stewart's favour at 12-11 as they both continued their battle for the title.

They stood all-square at 12 shots each and then again at 16 apiece after 23 ends.

A double gave Stewart the advantage once again and put him within touching distance of the title at 18-16, and in a tension packed finale, singles were scored over the next three ends with Stewart narrowly hanging on a 19-18 advantage. However, it was the Inverclyde player who emerged victorious, finishing off the marathon match with a double to check out 21-18.

UNDER 19 SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

West of Scotland's Aimee Harris joined Garioch's Carla Banks in the record books, becoming only the second female to win the SIBA

National Under 19 singles title.

The semis and finals at Stirling were three quality exchanges with Aimee limiting her Arbroath opponent Jamie Low to just eight scoring ends from their 20-end encounter as she booked her tilt at the title with a 21-9 victory.

The other semi was a fiercely contested affair between East Lothian's Keiron Dodds and Auchinleck's George Robertson. Keiron looked to be racing to that other final berth when a full house of four shots pushed him 15-4 ahead, however, the Ayrshire teenager dug deep, and 11 ends later had cut that deficit to 18-16.

But the East Lothian youngster stood firm, wrapping up the match two ends later 21-16 with a double followed by the vital single.

The final was also a nail-biting affair which lasted for 25 ends with only a few shots the difference throughout the course of the match.

"The final was also a nail-biting affair which lasted for 25 ends with only a few shots making the difference throughout the course of the match"

A good run between the 11th and 15th ends saw Keiron score six shots to take a 14-10 lead, but Aimee turned the tables and replied with a straight run of eight shots to take an 18-14 lead. Aimee actually held a game lie when the scoreline was 17-14 in her favour, before Keiron's last bowl saved that count as he flipped the jack out of bounds and Aimee's count was cut to a single shot once the jack was placed on the restpot.

The pair continued to battle bowl for bowl for the title with singles going to Keiron over the next three ends, but victory eventually went to the West of Scotland player when she rolled in three-inch perfect deliveries to secure the title and become only the second female to secure the title after Carla Banks victory in 2017.



The victorious Lanarkshire side with SIBA president Bruce Will and officials

The RIJO42 SIBA Scottish Seniors League Cup Final

Lanarkshire regained the Rijo42 Scottish Seniors League title at East Kilbride when they beat defending champions Auchinleck 63-44, making it a fourth time they have won the title in total.

The Beltane Park team showed their determination from the opening exchanges, getting the best possible start with a cleansweep of scoring over the opening ends to take an 8-0 lead and they increased that to 13-1 after the second end.

Four singles on the fifth end saw defending champions Auchinleck narrow the gap to 10-18 but a strong middle part of the match saw Lanarkshire take control of the contest and built up a 45-20 lead.

The Ayrshire team rallied a bit on the 12th end scoring on all four rinks to reduce the deficit to 14 shots at 45-31.

However, some tight play from the experienced players representing Lanarkshire saw

them close out the contest over the next few ends to complete a well-deserved 19 shots win much to the delight of their strong travelling support.

International Robert Grant was Lanarkshire's top skip beating Billy Anderson 19-8. Hugh Smith added a 16-11 win over Tommy Woods, Sandy Syme got over the line 12-10 against Duncan Kay and Lanarkshire completed their whitewash after a narrow 16-15 win for Robert Gordon against Jim Fleming.

SENIOR WOMEN'S PAIRS

Final score: Lanarkshire 63 Auchinleck 44.
Rink scores: McGuire, R Watson, J Bell, S Syme beat D Jagodowski, W Bell, E Duncan, D Kay 12-10; J Fenwick, M McParland, G Prosser, R Gordon beat F Fulton, S Rowan, R Dunsmuir, J Fleming 16-15; G Boyd, A Grant, P Jones, H Smith beat J Burns, R McCulloch, D Easterbook, T Woods 16-11; S Baker, W Findlay, K Hind, R Grant beat J Sloan, M Baillie, S Graham, B Anderson 19-8.
Lanarkshire reserves: John McAfferty, Andy Murray.
Auchinleck reserves: Billy Clobdick, Willie McLachlan.



OBITUARY LIZ DICKSON

I'm really saddened to report the passing of my former international colleague Liz Dickson from the Eyemouth Club in the Borders.

What a talent, what a personality, what an entertainer – both on and off the green – and what a bowler, a genuinely humble person who undoubtedly will be sadly missed.

She earned her first cap in 1988 maintaining that international status over a 25-year period until 2012, notching up fours bronze at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Canada alongside Dorothy Barr, Betty Forsyth and Janice Maxwell and then the following year taking out Atlantic fours gold in Durban with Betty Forsyth, Frances White and Eleanor Allan.

As an elite player, she had a great, encouraging temperament – and off the green was a smiling, courteous and friendly face to all. Her entertaining skills were legendary, and it was always a delight to be the company of this legend.

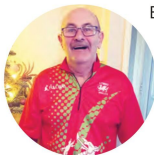
She was highly respected by everyone who knew her – not just in Scottish bowls but also in the wider sphere of life.

Condolences to her family and friends – she's sure to be a big miss especially at her Eyemouth club.

Rest easy my friend – thanks for all your guidance over the years.



Inspiring Dylan's Commonwealth Games heartache



Above:
A proud Dylan in his
Welsh shirt

Being chosen to play for your country in the Commonwealth Games is one of the highest accolades for any bowler. But for **Dylan Williams** who hails from Llanelli in West Wales, his route to selection has been tinged with sadness and even more traumatically because he has recently had to make the awful decision to pull out of the Welsh para bowls squad for Birmingham 2022.

Fifty-nine-year-old Dylan has played bowls since he was around 27-years-old. He has always been a member of Llanelli BC outdoor and Llanelli IBC and latterly the City and County of Swansea indoor club.

His name appears on many club and county trophies, with his claim to fame being winning the Welsh Indoor Bowling Association fours with Mark Howells, Robin Burden and Matthew Partridge in 2017 and representing Wales in the British Isles Championships in Paisley, Scotland, the following year.

Dylan has also represented Carmarthenshire at county level and had the honour of being county side captain. Dylan admits he is a 'social bowler'

"Bowls was his life. He would play every night and all weekend if he had the chance"

and enjoyed playing rugby and cricket in his younger days too.

"He's won loads of trophies for

bowls," his wife Tracey told *Bowls International*.

"Bowls was his life. He would play every night and all weekend if he had the chance. His favourite position was skip and he was club captain quite a few times. Dylan loved socialising with all his bowls friends.

"I've had a go myself, but it wasn't for me!"

But 18 months ago, Dylan's life changed dramatically.

He started slurring his words completely out of the blue and fell asleep at the wheel which resulted in



Dylan (second from left) and Chris Spriggs reached the final of the Wales Disability Pairs Championship losing out to Julie Thomas and Paul Brown, all seen with Stephen Rees, manager



Dylan (seen right) won the Welsh Indoor Bowling Association fours with Robin Burden, Matthew Partridge and Mark Howells in 2017 and received their trophy from David Phillips, WIBA president



Members of the Welsh para and VI bowls squad presented Dylan with a framed Welsh shirt. Making the presentation were Stephen Rees, manager, and Marion Purcell, coach

going to hospital for tests.

Initially, doctors thought he had suffered a stroke, but further neurological tests resulted in Dylan being diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), a condition that affects the brain and nerves which causes weakness that gets worse over time.

After diagnosis, Dylan courageously started to battle his illness continuing to play bowls. He was invited to join the Welsh para bowls squad and donned the red shirt of Wales when he was chosen to play in test matches in Leamington Spa and Ayr last summer before being selected for this summer's Commonwealth Games that starts in July.

However, within weeks of being chosen, Dylan's condition deteriorated so much that he became so weak he had to make the devastating decision to pull out of the squad.

"MND has caught up with me," he posted on his Facebook page.

"I'm giving up bowls," he continued. "I can't play every day, I get tired; my legs and hands are getting weaker. I don't want to let down Wales and the manager and coaches."

Said Stephen Rees, Wales' para bowls manager: "I was devastated to hear of Dylan's decision to finish playing bowls, but fully understand his decision.

"He joined the group last summer and

added a bit of class to our sessions.

"He teamed up with Chris Spriggs and reached the final of the Wales Disability Pairs Championship losing out to Julie Thomas and Paul Brown.

"Dylan represented Wales at Leamington and Ayr in July and September and was nominated for Commonwealth Games selection with Paul Brown before having to sadly pull out of an event he had looked forward to going to."

Dylan now cannot speak and is unable to eat unassisted.

He communicates via a whiteboard and has recently been given a wheelchair to aid his mobility.

The bowling fraternity, as well as

Dylan and Tracey's family and friends have rallied to support them and fundraising events have already raised thousands of pounds for MND and to help the couple purchase much-needed equipment for Dylan's care.

A benefit bowls match, a comedian and auction night, plus a virtual Arabian derby night have all been held to raise funds, while Welsh international Hannah Williams donned her trainers and signed up to March's Cardiff half marathon to raise funds for MND and Dylan, topping £2,000 at the time of press.

Dylan's family have also been putting their best foot forward in aid of Dylan and MND. A group of cousins took part



Dylan (left) with Robin Buden holding the Arthur Cambrey pairs cup



Dylan (right) winner of the Private League singles with Mark Ashcroft



Dylan and Chris Spriggs in their Welsh shirts at the para bowls test match in Leamington Spa with Chris's clubmates from Havelock Park BC



Dylan and fellow Welsh para bowls and VI squad members at a training day

in the 26-mile Ultra Challenge London Winter Walk collecting almost £1,000.

"Dylan's bowls friends are absolutely marvellous," said Tracey.

"We are taking things day by day at the moment, but I am hoping we will be able to go to Leamington Spa for the Commonwealth Games so Dylan can support the Welsh team."

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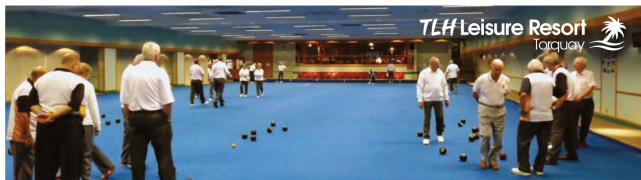
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Llanelli IBC was transformed into a field hospital

COVID-19 field hospital returns to bowls club

Plans are in hand to formally take Llanelli's Ysbyty Enfyf Selwyn Samuel through its decommissioning phase ahead of being returned to town council ownership later this spring, bringing an effective end to Hywel Dda's COVID-19 field hospital programme after two years.

Local authority contactors are undertaking a programme of reinstatement works before the health board hands back the Selwyn Samuel Centre – which provides a local indoor bowls facility and events centre – to Llanelli Town Council in late April.

Less than a month after the club staged one of the pinnacle events in the British Isles Indoor Bowls Council's calendar – the men's and women's international series' and championships in March 2020 – the unthinkable unfolded when as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the site was converted into temporary medical provision.

Ysbyty Enfyf Selwyn Samuel has seen the longest operational service (November 16, 2020 – June 23, 2021) of all of the field hospital sites in the health board area, treating 263 patients in that time.

Since being wound down as a field hospital in June 2021, the site has supported broader Health Board activity by acting as a base for the local acute response team, a lymphoedema clinic and as a training and development venue which helped us bring 160 much needed additional health care support workers into the system ahead of winter.

However, the impact of a lower than expected and plateauing of

the Omicron coronavirus strain infection rate, along with staffing challenges, has resulted in the facility not seeing further inpatient clinical use during the most recent period of health system pressures.

Hywel Dda's chief executive, Steve Moore, paid tribute to Llanelli Town Council for their support throughout in helping the health board to manage its patients, and for being flexible in the face of great uncertainty.

He added: "This will be a significant legacy statement for the facility and of course Llanelli Town Council. For the Health Board, the centre has proved to be an immense source of support in our aims to tackle the indirect impacts of the several waves of coronavirus we have seen in the past two years.

"On behalf of the Health Board, I would like to thank the Town Council for the support, flexibility and patience provided in the past two years which has been exemplified through a true spirit of collaboration and partnership."

The leader of Llanelli Town Council, Cllr. John Jenkins, added: "I am very, very proud of the support Llanelli Town Council was able to give our NHS through the provision of the Selwyn Samuel Centre to be repurposed as Ysbyty Enfyf Selwyn Samuel.

"I want to thank Paul Francis and Anyone Waiting for their support and cooperation and Llanelli Indoor Bowls Club for their support.

"This is a fantastic team effort to support the Local Health Board during the pandemic."



Chairman Richard Wilkins is seen with ladies' captain Beryl Jacques and other members of the committee

GUILDSFIELD CELEBRATE FUNDING BOOST

Guildsfield Bowling Club are celebrating a successful application for funding which will allow the sport to be played in the village day or night.

The club near Welshpool have been awarded £2,395 by the National Lottery Community Fund to purchase portable floodlights supplied by Ritelite Systems Limited.

Richard Wilkins, chairman, said: "We are thrilled," and

thanked the National Lottery players and the Community grant fund, on behalf of the club members.

"These portable and rechargeable floodlights will allow us, as a bowling club, to play later in the evening and lengthen our season and will also allow us to support other community groups who can also benefit from their use," he added.

Blaenau Gwent win Over 60 fours

Blaenau Gwent pipped Cynon Valley in the final of the Welsh Indoor Bowling Association's Over 60s fours. John Tinnell, Lawrence Jeffries, Anthony Williams and Steve Toms overturned a 12-5 and 17-11 deficit at eight and 15 ends respectively before scoring consecutive singles on the last three ends to clinch the title by one shot, 19-18, against K Bowen, R Darett, T Lovelot and T Robinson.



The winning Blaenau Gwent Over 60 fours team



#BPL14: Lions create history with memorable title win

A historic victory had eluded the Sydney Lions for years, but for the first time since BPL06 in 2017, they are champions of the Bowls Premier League (writes Lachlan Williams, Bowls Australia).

The Lions (Ben Twist, Aaron Wilson and Karen Murphy) did it the hard way, finishing third and forced to play in two elimination finals before going on to meet home-team Moama Steamers in the final.

The Steamers (Ryan Bester, Kevin Anderson and Natasha Van Eldik) were the standout team all tournament, losing just four matches and finishing atop the ladder after round robin play.

Moama jumped out to an early 7-0 lead in the first, before the Lions clawed back. Clutch shots from Ryan Bester and Kevin Anderson helped Moama fight back and secure the first set.

The Steamers appeared to be in the box seat in the second set, but the Lions dug deep, fighting on for a gutsy set win to force a tiebreak, the fourth from five games for the night.

With the jack potted in the ditch, it was Ben Twist who was able to take the shot, hold on and claim a memorable win for Sydney.

The victory takes the Lions to four titles, making them the most successful franchise in BPL history. It also gives Karen Murphy her fourth title, making her the equal most successful BPL player



Sydney Lions Ben Twist, Aaron Wilson, Karen Murphy and coach Steve Glasston celebrate success Picture credit: Bowls Australia

(level with Aron Sherriff and Aaron Teys).

Earlier in the evening, reigning champions Tweed Heads Ospreys (Aaron Teys, Corey Wedlock and Chloe Stewart's) dynasty came to an end in the first match of the night, falling short in a tie-break thriller against cross-border rivals Brisbane Pirates (Alex Marshall MBE, Chris Rosanes and Ellen Falkner MBE).

Alex Marshall showed all of his class to put the jack in the ditch then follow up and draw shot to knock the Ospreys out.

The Pirates looked to ride their form when they took on the Sydney Lions, with the match battled out into a tiebreak.

Marshall looked to have drawn shot with his final bowl, but it was

leaders Moama Steamers then enjoyed a relatively comfortable win over the Adelaide Pioneers (Scott Thulborn, Wayne Ruediger and Katelyn Inch) in the semi-final to advance straight to grand final, with the Pioneers forced to face off against the Lions.

The sides were neck-and-neck throughout, halving both sets with yet another tiebreak required to separate them. Wilson once again stood up for the Lions, with the Sydney side sending the Pioneers packing in straight sets and booking a spot against the Steamers in the final.

#BPL14 will go down as one of the more historic events in the competition's history.

Aron Sherriff was crowned as tournament MVP, with Kelsey Cottrell and Ben Twist named to the first ever BPL All Star team along with Sherriff.

Aaron Wilson who upstaged the Scottish champion to save the game for the Lions to send them through to the preliminary final. Home-town favourites and ladder

TEAMS (#BPL14)

	Adelaide Pioneers	Scott Thulborn, Wayne Ruediger, Katelyn Inch (Coach - Les Carter)
	Brisbane Pirates	Alex Marshall, Chris Rosanes, Ellen Falkner (Coach - Michael Breen)
	Gold Coast Hawks	Aron Sherriff, Nathan Rice, Kelsey Cottrell (Coach - Anthony Klepe)
	Melbourne Xtreme	Ali Forsyth, Matt Flapper, Carla Krizanich (Coach - Kelvin Kerkow)
	Melbourne Pulse	Barrie Lester, Gary Kelly, Ellen Ryan (Coach - Jeremy Henry)
	Moama Steamers	Ryan Bester, Kevin Anderson, Natasha Van Eldik (Coach - Ryan Burnett)
	Perth Suns	Cody Packer, Dawn Hayman, Pear Payne (Coach - Josh Thornton)
	Sydney Lions	Ben Twist, Aaron Wilson, Karen Murphy (Coach - Steve Glasston)
	Tasmania Tridents	Taelyn Male, Mark Nitz, Rebecca Van Asch (Coach - Mark Strochetter)
	Tweed Heads Ospreys	Aaron Teys, Corey Wedlock, Chloe Stewart (Coach - Wayne Turley)



Brisbane Pirates team members Ellen Falkner MBE, Chris Rosanes, Alex Marshall MBE and coach Michael Breen take to the green Picture credit: Bowls Australia



CHAMPIONS CROWNED IN NEW ZEALAND

2022 will be remembered for the dominance of the local favourites in Bowls New Zealand's national singles and pairs events. Here's a full round-up thanks to Bowls NZ and Michael Burgess.



Taylor Bruce finally got over the line in the women's singles

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Taylor Bruce was more relieved than jubilant after her success in the women's singles after years of near misses.

The 26-year-old had compiled an outstanding record at the tournament – arguably the most consistent player over the last eight years – but had always fallen short of the gold medal.

Not this time, as Bruce capped an outstanding week with a gritty 21-14 victory over close friend Clare Hendra, to finally see her name engraved in the winner's column on the trophy.

"It was a big thing to get over the line, after being so close for so many years," said Bruce.

"With all that hard work and the choices you make to succeed in bowls, it's a nice feeling to be able to celebrate that special win. It's been a

title I've been chasing since 2014."

That year, Bruce came close to being youngest ever champion at a national bowls event at the age of 18, before finishing runner-up to Helen King.

Ahead of this year's event, Bruce had reached the quarter-finals or better on eight successive occasions, reaching the final in 2016 and last four in 2015. The title was extra sweet, claimed at her local club Burnside, where she first became interested in the sport after watching the 2008 World Championships.

Bruce overcame national squad teammate and 2017 champion Selina Goddard at the semi-final stage in an epic encounter.

Trailing 19-20 on the final end, Goddard held enough shots to take the win and a passage to the final, before Bruce conjured some magic to draw a touch with her last bowl for victory.

MEN'S SINGLES

All eyes were on two former men's singles champions as they fought to etch their name on the coveted silverware for a second time in the event's history.

In what proved a gripping finale, 1998 champion Kelvin Scott was in devastating draw form as he closed out an impressive win opposite Auckland's Tony Grantham, who won the title in 2007.



Kelvin Scott (left) won the men's singles title 24 years after his previous triumph

A stunning semi-final performance saw Scott end the title defence of Royal Oak's Mike Galloway, who despite falling short of the ultimate hurdle, can be proud of his efforts.

Brimming with composure, Scott seemingly had a solid game plan to outdraw his opponents, drawing his way through to victory with uncanny accuracy and precision and executing the occasional resting shot when required.

A gritty fight back from Grantham in the final kept the game entertaining for the rink side crowd and those watching on TV, with Grantham digging deep and showing he has what it takes to compete at the highest level.

Though it proved to be Scott's day, as the Cantabrian collected two shots to close out the win 21-14 – some 24 years after winning his maiden national singles title.

WOMEN'S PAIRS

The triumph of Sandra Keith and Bev Morel in the women's pairs was the product of a six-year pact.

The Canterbury duo, who are long-time rivals, promised each other back in 2016 they would team up one day in a national competition. It took a while, but finally happened this year, with spectacular results.

They were unbeaten across the tournament, culminating in an emphatic 20-8 victory in the final against Clare Hendra and Taylor Bruce.

Despite never combining before there was instant chemistry. Their similar mental approach on the green, along with a relaxed attitude to the overall tournament, paid dividends to their success.

The final continued a pattern from across the week, with Morel and Keith getting into a strong position and able to control the contest from there, despite a late fightback from Hendra and Bruce.

It was the fourth national title for the 80-year-old Morel, after four success in 1995



Sandra Keith and Bev Morel enjoyed success in the women's pairs

and 2007 and a pairs trophy in 2018.

"They are all special, but this one was really special because it was a goal that I had for the year. It's up there, especially with someone that I had played against a lot, a top player, and a fantastic person.

Keith, 53, also had three previous national successes on her resume comprising of a singles title in 2012, pairs in 2013 and fours in 2020, and expressed similar sentiments about the significance of this triumph.

MEN'S PAIRS

It was an all-round high-performance final in the men's pairs, with national squad members

Andrew Kelly and Seamus Curtin combining to deny Gary Lawson a 15th title and consigning Tony Grantham to a second runners-up berth in as many days.

With Lawson and Grantham proving in fine form throughout the championships, Kelly and Curtin had to be at their best – and so it came to be.

Trailing 11-9 after 13 ends, Kelly and Curtin put on a commanding display in the last few ends, with the Lawson composite requiring six shots to force an extra end.

The win gave Curtin, who plays out of the Stokes Valley club in Wellington, his maiden national title. Beaten semi-finalists include singles champion Kelvin Scott and Barry Williams, and the formidable pairing of Taylor Horn and Jesse Russell.



Andrew Kelly and Seamus Curtin combined to win the men's pairs

Is the WBT's top 16 a 'closed shop'?

The World Indoor Championships created great debate on our social media channels, with over 400 comments being shared from followers all around the world.

We asked for your suggestions concerning what could be changed to improve the event, with many comments being shared about the World Bowls Tour's ranking list and the qualification process for the World Indoor Championships.

Bowls International contacted the World Bowls Tour with your views and we are delighted to share their responses.

IS THE CURRENT RANKING LIST FAIR?

Bowls International: Concerns were raised that with the current number of events, most of the top 16 players will remain in the top 16 and it is a 'closed shop'.

Where can the WBT ranking list be viewed and how often is it updated? How are the ranking points calculated?

World Bowls Tour: The WBT are currently having issues with the website and are looking for an administrator to volunteer to keep the website updated. The ranking list will be published on the website once these issues are resolved.

At the events all the players involved are continually informed of the provisional list. The main list is updated annually once the WBT season is ended.

For the World Indoor Championships, players get 10 points per round win whilst in other WBT events it is 10 points for the first round and then five additional points for a second round and quarter-final win.

The finalists get 10 additional points for winning the semi-finals and winner gets a further 10 additional points. The

lack of events means that the top 16 is likely to become more fluid.

INVITATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES?

Bowls International: At the World Indoor Championships, a number of players in the field are invited. How does this work – who invites the players and is there an opportunity for national singles champions to be included?

World Bowls Tour: For the World Indoor Championships, the sponsor has the opportunity to invite two players of their choice who are members of the PBA.

With regards to national singles champions being involved in the world open singles event, none of the national governing bodies are involved with the WBT, so why would a national singles champion be involved?

The PBA and IIBC are the organisations responsible for WBT

Below:
Ken Chan was one of just a few overseas representatives at the World Championships this year



IS IT REALLY A 'WORLD' CHAMPIONSHIP?

Bowls International: Our social media following feel that there is predominantly a UK-focus to the World Indoor Championship and feel that a reduction in the number of seeded players to eight with 24 qualifiers from around the world being an improvement to the field structure.

What is the WBT thoughts on this and how does the number of seeded players/qualifiers currently work?

World Bowls Tour: This would probably mean that the World Championships would not be broadcast on any TV platform as most of the TV companies require the top 16 in any sporting organisation to be involved in the event.

The loss of the event from the TV platform would then mean that the sponsorship amounts would be even more difficult to obtain, and this could then see the demise of bowls on any TV platform.

With regards to being a predominantly UK based event, this may have been the case over the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, all the countries linked to the PBA were invited, but due to the quarantine rules in place in none of the countries accepted the invitation.

Again in 2022, all of the countries were invited to send a representative, only Australia and New Zealand declined the invitation due to travelling restrictions.

Israel and South Africa originally accepted the invitation but once it became obvious that both Israel and South Africa governments placed restrictions on their residents travelling abroad, they withdrew their players.

For the 2023 event, the invitation will be issued to all the PBA countries once again and it is up to each country to decide if they wish to send a representative.



'Siteman says'



Katherine Rednall was invited to join the field for the open singles

events and the invitees and qualifiers come from one of those organisations.

The Ladies World Matchplay is different as this is an invitation event and is treated separately after recent discussions with the World Championship stakeholders. The invite field for the ladies' event is selected by representatives of the WBT board.

INCREASED FIELD?

Bowls International: Would it be possible to increase the field at the World Indoor Championships? Perhaps 48 players in the open singles draw which sees 32 players in round one with the top 16 getting a bye into the second round?

World Bowls Tour: In the past the field at Potters did contain 48 players which meant that the event took almost four weeks to complete.

The timeline to run the event means that it has to be completed within 17 days and finish on a day to fall in line with the broadcasting company's calendar.

Apart from the first day of the championships, the Bowlers Bar ranks are not available during the event as Potters run their own internal bowling event for residents that want to play as well as spectate the World Championships.

Please note: Questions expressed in the above have been created following comments shared on social media and do not necessarily reflect those of the team at Bowls International.

Whenever the topic of the World Bowls Tour and any assorted event comes up, there always seems to be discussions about the top 16 and the way that comes together.

To me, no matter how controversial it may be, there are many reasons as to why something like this is an essential aspect of the overall product the WBT has become for the game.

From a competitive perspective, I've always been a proponent that there should be a reward for competitive success over time.

When you look at the top 16 right now, you have a collective total of 73 titles in the tournament over 25 years of experience in the event (including David Gourlay whose first title in the singles came before I was even born and before the World Championships came to Potters Resort).

In addition to that, only two of the top 16 have yet to win a world title in any of the three disciplines they have been eligible - though they've been extremely successful on tour with the other events on the circuit (Mark Royal and Michael Stepney).

Through that core level of consistent tour success - you'll get the best field possible every time.

Thinking of it from my professional context in the world of public relations, there are so many benefits to having an event in which top players get direct entry into the field.

When it comes to events like what we see on the WBT circuit, it is truly the closest thing we see to bowls being a true 'stadium sport' (in that we have people who spend their hard-earned dollars to come to an event and watch the best in the game).

Concepts such as the top 16

guarantee that you'll see stars that are iconic to the game and get people through the door. As a fan, seeing players like Foster, Marshall, Harlow, Brett and Dawes (among others) on the draw makes for an effective product to market and get eyes on the game.

When it comes to encouraging entries into qualifiers - having the possibility of facing some of the top players in the world is a great thing to harness to get people onto the green competing.

Events such as the Australian Open (with their fully open 'festival') have shown and proven that significantly in recent years with their high entry numbers because of that draw.

In saying what I've said as to why I like the top 16 - I will never say it's a completely 'perfect' system for determining who is worthy of a spot worldwide. A huge amount of the issue is simply in the nature of how the events are normally held just in the UK and most qualifying spots are UK-based.

As a Canadian (or for any of

the international qualifiers), I would say that it would take an insane level of consistent success to get into the top 16 from where I'm from simply in the few that do get to qualify.

That is where I'm extremely happy to see the expansion of the tour to offer more events and innovative formats to encourage players from all over the PBA's member nations to compete in qualifiers and make their way to the portable rink.

It's with innovations like these that you'll see a wider variety of players make their way into the top echelon of the indoor game.

I know we'll see debate on either side of the view but to me - the top 16 makes these events better for many reasons. I hope to get there one day to play those best of the best in bowls!

John Siteman is an under 25 representative bowler and sports broadcaster from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. He has been bowling for 12 years and is a member of the Dartmouth and Wanderers lawn bowls clubs.

DO YOU AGREE?

HAVE YOUR SAY!

We would love to hear your views and opinions on all things bowls related.

Send your emails to: matt.wordingham@keypublishing.com to be considered for a future edition of *Bowls International*, or you can join our social media community - it would be great to have you involved in our discussions.

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The Athena Theatre in Leicester was the venue for the inaugural Bowls England Awards Night on Saturday, February 19. Over 350 guests from across the bowls world attended the event, launched in 2022 to recognise all the incredible people in our sport. Players, clubs, county associations, volunteers and coaches were among those who had their dedication celebrated across the evening. It was a night to reward success, highlight great work, and to honour all those that help make our sport great.

Host Howard Benthall kicked-off proceedings by introducing 2020-21 Bowls England president Paul Robson.

The outgoing president spoke about the challenges of the past two years, but also the opportunity afforded by a home Commonwealth Games and the continued easing of restrictions.

Chair of the board David Tucker took to the stage to pay tribute to Unsung Hero nominee Joy Steele, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Alongside husband Sid, who was present on the night, Joy had shown incredible dedication to junior bowls, and the entire audience observed a moment silence in her memory, and for others lost over the past year. As the evening progressed through the 16



awards presented, there were some incredible reminders of the remarkable stories this sport throws up.

From the touching moments of the Greenkeeper of the Year to the inspirational awards of Unsung Hero and Certificate of Merit, Bowls England's lifetime achievements awards, the rich tapestry of bowls was on full display.

The audience also heard from Commonwealth Games squad members Siân Honnor, Army Pharaoh and Sam Tolchard, along with high performance director John McGuinness about preparations for Birmingham 2022.

"The awards night showcased the best of bowls, shining a light on the many and varied

contributions which make our sport possible," said Bowls England chief executive Jon Cockcroft.

"We celebrated those at the top of our game, who have enjoyed great success on the greens in 2021, and the often unheralded heroes working behind the scenes to keep bowls moving forward.

"Aligned with our Fit for the Future strategy, it's wonderful that we were recognising the incredible work and sacrifice of our volunteers – the heartbeat of our clubs and counties.

"The evening looked back on 2021, a year in which our sport bounced-back from the challenges of the global pandemic. It would be remiss also not to look forward to this summer and Birmingham 2022 which is now less than six months away.

"We have a golden opportunity to use the platform of a home Commonwealth Games to increase the visibility of our sport and inspire more people to participate."

Bowls England would like to thank the evening's sponsors Dennis Mowers & SISIS, Bowls International and Sutton Winson for their kind support.

You can find a full list of winners from the night on the next four pages – well done to all who were nominated.

THE AWARDS PANEL

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our expert panel and individual category specialists.

The expert panel: David Tucker, Norma Hazzledine MBE, Ellen Falkner MBE, Deepak Tanna, Foster Johnson, Jon Hart and Jon Cockcroft. **Individual category specialists:** Mal Evans, Alan Lewis, Roger Moore, David Boow, Ceris Hewlings and Charlotte Emanuel.

RAFFLE SUCCESS

The raffle on the night raised over £1,600 which will be put towards junior development.

Bowls England Awards Night was proudly sponsored by...



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Bowls England Awards



Winner – Emma Cooper,
Kings BC, Devon

ENGLAND FEMALE RISING STAR

Emma Cooper enjoyed an incredible 2021 season. As well as winning the national triples for Kings BC, the international star finished as the runner-up with clubmate Nicole Rogers in the Under 25 pairs.

When receiving her award, Emma spoke of her "excitement for the upcoming season and using 2021 as a springboard for greater success."

The award was presented by Harry Nijjar, Bowls England independent director (marketing and communications).

Nominees in this category

Katherine Bowman, Thringstone BC, Leicestershire: Katherine secured the national Under 25 singles title and reached the Under 25 pairs quarter-final.

Rachel Tremlett, Royston BC, Hertfordshire: Rachel reached the semi-final in the national rinks and the quarter-final of the national pairs.

ENGLAND MALE RISING STAR

Harry Goodwin had a stellar year. After lifting the Under 25

pairs trophy, the young Devonian finished runner-up in the Under 25 singles. He spoke on his ambitions for 2022, saying: "I hope I can make it the finals this year, for a re-run of the 2021 singles final, with me hopefully winning the final!"

The award was presented by Foster Johnson, Bowls England director of governance.

Nominees in this category

Tom McGuinness, Gerrards Cross BC, Buckinghamshire: Tom reached the men's fours final, in addition to playing a pivotal role in his county's White Rose triumph.

Jordan Philpott, Royal Mail Cart BC, Lincolnshire: Jordan enjoyed national success by securing the junior singles title securing a 21-16 win.

ENGLAND FEMALE BOWLER OF THE YEAR

Stef Branfield was the talk of the national finals last summer. She appeared in three singles finals – claiming the coveted national singles title, as well as lifting the two-bowl singles trophy. She nearly completed an historic treble, but narrowly missed out on the champion of champions crown.

After receiving her award, Stef was asked how it felt to represent Clevedon BC, home to arguably the greatest bowler of all time, David Bryant CBE. She spoke about what "an honour it is to represent a club with such a rich bowling history." She added: "David was clearly watching over me at Leamington last summer."

The award was presented by Adam Tanner, Bowls England director of development.

ENGLAND MALE BOWLER OF THE YEAR

Sam Tolchard secured his sixth and seventh titles last summer when he won the two-bowl singles and claimed the national singles title, which he first held back in 2006. He has been selected for this year's Commonwealth Games.

The award was presented by Deepak Tanner, Bowls England junior vice-president.



Winner – Sam Tolchard
Kings BC, Devon



Winner – Edna Bessell MBE,
Somerset

sports and represents bowls as an outstanding ambassador.

Mike Wade, Bedfordshire: Mike is an outstanding and selfless organiser. He makes himself available when needed, and is very focused, whether it is live scoring, dealing with accreditation, ticketing, or sorting the parking – he is always willing to offer practical help.

Patricia Harvey, Warwickshire: Pat is a strong supporter of the game, a superb organiser and constant source of motivation; resourceful and helpful to anyone who needs support. She continues with her long-standing involvement at Warwickshire County Bowls.

Her love for the game remains undiminished and is an inspiration to everyone.

Robert Stanley, Worcestershire: Rob used his IT skills to create the original Worcestershire website. Passionate about the game, excelling in live scoring, flexible and friendly, Rob is always available to help and support. A highly experienced player who enjoys all facets of the game and offers commitment to the sport at all levels.

BOWLS MAKER OF THE YEAR

Edna Bessell MBE quickly embraced the role of volunteer at the national finals. Within a short period, Edna was promoted to volunteer team manager organising and overseeing an efficient and successful volunteer experience. After collecting her award, Edna dedicated her win "to all of the volunteers, who give up so much of their time to keep our sport alive."

The award was presented by Hazel Marke, Bowls England immediate past president.

Nominees in this category

David King Taylor, Nottinghamshire: David is Nottinghamshire's county administrator and he oversees growing, building and sustaining the game across the county's seven leagues. David is an excellent ambassador, as well as a hands-on individual who clearly enjoys a wide range of

COUNTY OF THE YEAR

Devon continues to achieve great results whilst producing the current and future stars of the game.

The county promotes excellent media platforms whilst retaining an oversight role for the local clubs. Six performance squad members underpin a strong youth programme, and this is supported by a high level of consistency at championship and inter-county level.

The award was presented by



Winner – Harry Goodwin
Kings BC, Devon



Winner – Stef Branfield
Clevedon BC, Somerset

Night winners



Winner – Devon

David King-Taylor, Bowls England incoming junior vice-president.

Nominees in this category

Durham: Durham continues to register higher numbers of playing participants across the county. The county continues to deploy social media to connect with local clubs and remains the focal point to build and support the game.

Essex: The county enjoyed solid results for the year with both championship and competition winners. Ed Morris joined the

performance squad as the county continues provide options for the national team. Committed to player development, and with a strong connection to the local clubs, Essex remains a vibrant bowls hub.

Kent: With success at county level, as well as positive results nationally, Kent enjoys great support from the local clubs. Sian Honnor is a member of the Commonwealth Games squad. Kent is using the various social media platforms to provide regular information to players and supporters across the county.

Somerset: Supporting development programmes and enjoying excellent playing membership, the county continues to provide a great environment to grow and play the game. The county provides a great information source and an active youth programme points towards a strong future.

COACH OF THE YEAR

The Newport Pagnell Junior Academy blueprint hatched by Howard Jones was expanded



Winner – Howard Jones,
Newport Pagnell BC,
Buckinghamshire

during the coronavirus pandemic in conjunction with the county development officer. This pilot project was established with the North Buckinghamshire's Regional Academy. Howard trialled a system of measured skills' practices and analysed individual performance. Several academy members have successfully progressed to the county men's Under 25 and women's Under 31 squads.

The award was presented by Mal Evans, Bowls England director of coaching.

GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY DENNIS MOWERS & SISIS

When Philip Jefferey Wright took on the green, it was graded 'B' by the county and had several bald patches and corners damaged by scarifying. Philip secured technical qualifications, sought funding from the club, and has created a green that the club can be extremely proud of through persistence. It was a special moment for Philip, as he spoke about his "shock and surprise on winning such a prestigious award."

The award was presented by Ian Howard of Dennis Mowers & SISIS.



Winner – Philip
Jefferey Wright,
Earls Barton BC,
Northamptonshire

work creating a rigorous regime to rectify the poor condition of the green. Previously deemed unplayable, Glyn has now produced a surface that has become a pleasure to play on.

Mark Piper, Maldon BC, Essex: Previously maintained by the council, the club took over the green in early 2021. Mark and his team of volunteers set to work on addressing the moss, thatch and weed issues. He has shown expertise, commitment, and dedication.

Martin Tibbs, Chew Stoke BC, Somerset: Martin has a true understanding how to translate knowledge into the delivery of a superb green. Martin has provided a surface that is the envy of other clubs, achieved through devotion to bowls, the club and the green.

Ted Jameson, Jarrow West BC, Durham: In 2018, the three clubs in the park formed an association to maintain the greens. Ted devised a programme to improve the greens through regular maintenance. He has also solved a bad moss problem and the greens are considered to be the best in its 40-year history.

Nominees in this category

Gilly Ainsley, Unity Park BC, Plymouth: As the coach coordinator for Devon, Gilly provides coaching support for clubs across the county. She has worked tirelessly often to the detriment of her own bowling time. Gilly has been involved in introducing a county wide junior development programme providing season-long coaching/ training sessions for young bowlers.

June White, Thurlton BC, Suffolk: June has for 30 years run a Saturday morning junior section in addition to running a regular after-school club for the village's primary school. Alongside this, she offers a two-hour coaching session and roll up on a Monday and Friday afternoon for all members. June offers coaching for all ages. She is always looking for ways to make the game fun, accessible and engaging.

Ken Bousfield, Darlington South Park BC, Durham: From the initial enquiry to becoming a member, the club has gained 40-50 members during the last two years of Ken's coaching. More than 50 per cent of the new members have joined as a direct result the enjoyment and kindness shown by Ken.

He was a pivotal person in the Bowls' Big Weekend success.

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Significant events such as the nationals need endless support helping with organisation, from match schedules to locker



Winner – Maxine Groce,
Lancashire

Nominees in this category

David Robertson, Hexham Elvaston BC, Northumberland: David has worked tirelessly to breathe new life into a green which was in a perilous state due to moss. A new irrigation system was installed and the green now enjoys a regime of maintenance that has produced a 'majestic' surface.

Glyn Lyford, West Hoathly BC, Northumberland: Faced with a deteriorating green, Glyn quickly set to

keys and refreshments. Maxine never considers herself above anything that needs to be done. Her priority is the reputation of the game and the enjoyment of the participants. Maxine provides flexible work ethic which makes an enormous contribution to the smooth running of any event she is involved with.

The award was presented by Jo Doust, Bowls England independent director.

Nominees in this category

Keith Sawdon, Berkshire: Keith performs a dual role at his club as both umpire and greenkeeper. He is also a member of the outstanding umpiring team at the National Finals at Leamington this year. Keith was county president and supported Berkshire clubs as they progressed to the fours semi-finals and the triples final. Keith was ever present for the Berkshire teams.

Ed Poole, Oxfordshire: Even with working full-time, Ed still finds the time to undertake a few very enjoyable umpiring events culminating last season in being able to umpire a final at the national finals. He has been an umpire for seven years and always enjoys being able to support players ensuring their game runs smoothly. Ed is currently running a marker awareness session with the younger players who are under training.

John McKenzie, Somerset: John is used to dealing with tight schedules and is always on hand to support last minute changes. As part of the EBUA, he has been involved with re-writing their constitution. John represents his county Somerset for the EBUA and shows great commitment to his role and is always keen to help and support others.

STORY OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY BOWLS INTERNATIONAL

Despite numerous health issues, 87-year-old Barrie De Suys's willingness to serve his local community has inspired new members of all ages to join his club. Five members became 40 in 2021, and Barrie has also turned his hand to numerous other jobs – painting, coaching, umpiring, the lot! His charitable efforts, walking the club's perimeter for the Royal National Institute of Blind people in 2020, were notable. In his acceptance speech, Barrie said

TEAM OF THE YEAR

The Somerset Amy Rose Team's progression to the final was achieved against strong competition, with a nail-biting match against Norfolk in the semi-final a highlight. The team went on to defeat Hertfordshire in the final. This victory was achieved by high quality bowling and an impressive level of consistency.

The award was presented by Terri Keen, Bowls England vice-president.

Nominees in this category

Banbury Central Tony Allcock, Oxfordshire: Banbury Centrals victory in the Tony Allcock Trophy continued a run of just a single defeat in this tournament in four years. A close final against Bromley was only decided on the last end.

Bowls Northamptonshire: Reaching the Middleton Cup final is perhaps Northamptonshire's most impressive achievement, given they lost one of their star players, Jamie Walker, for the finals due to international commitments. They also enjoyed success in the Balcombe, and another final in the White Rose. Their squad achieved the county's most successful season across all competitions.

East Leake Senior Fours, Nottinghamshire: A newly formed team, the group entered and won the county competition, thus qualifying for the national finals. The wins kept coming, with East Leake eventually reaching the final versus Durham.

Surrey Ladies Triples: Milford BC is a small club so



progression to the national finals was already an achievement. Wins in the quarter and semi-finals led to a final against Devon which proved a step too far in the end.

Katie Sturtridge and Michelle Moore, Cornwall: Katie and Michelle, sisters from Cornwall, secured victory in the county pairs final. They regularly reach the national finals individually, but the place at Leamington together crowned a successful year for them both.

how "age really is just a number."

The award was presented by Ceris Hewlings, *Bowls International* editor-at-large.

Nominees in this category

Peter Jones, Bristol St. Andrews BC, Gloucestershire: Peter Jones has been the driving force behind the changes at his club for 11 years. Taking on all responsibility, Peter secured new floodlights for his club –

even digging the installation sites himself. He established a new floodlight league in Bristol, gaining TV coverage. He also runs an extremely popular and competitive fours tournament which is regularly oversubscribed.

West Wimbledon BC, Surrey: This club's centenary year started badly, and it looked likely to close. One new member, however, changed everything. Enthusiasm for the sport, advertising, social

media, and word of mouth took the total membership from single figures to 105.

More income allowed a refurbishment of the clubhouse, and success both on the green (with a VI Bowls England player now in the ranks), and off, have changed the fortunes of this club.

UNSUNG HERO OF THE YEAR

Sid and Joy Steele devoted over 10





years to developing junior bowls in Dorset. They are renowned for producing new equipment to keep young bowlers engaged and introducing award schemes and fundraising. They were founding committee members of the Dorset Youth Academy, sacrificing their own bowls to help support young players.

The award was presented by David Tucker, Bowls England chairman.

Nominees in this category

David Linney, Market Bosworth BC, Leicestershire: David, new to bowls when he joined the club, threw himself in to all aspects of club life. He installed a new clock on the roof, a new honours board, a new kitchen and freshly decorated club rooms. He has helped fundraise for a new mower.

Jacqui Jarvis, Newport Pagnell BC,

Buckinghamshire: Jacqui is truly a multi-faceted club member. She combines her role as secretary with being the council contact, COVID-19 officer, recruitment driver, social team member, organiser, and facilitator.

Jason Parkinson, Heaton Hall BC, Lancashire: Jason launched the Lancashire Super League, a format for new bowlers to play against more experienced players. Eighteen teams with 72 players took part in year one. A prize fund of £2,000 was offered, and using social media, the league gained traction.

Nigel Morgan, Haydon Wick BC, Wiltshire: Since starting in 1999, Nigel has revolutionised coaching in Wiltshire. A coach for 23 years, Nigel has played the key role in establishing the new Bowls Wiltshire Youth Academy. He is also the international squad coach for VIBE.

Richard Spriggs, Essex County BC, Essex: Richard saved over £17,000 by doing the hard-physical labour himself on several projects, with this saving funnelled into things like recruitment. Even at 70, he takes the lead on major club projects.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Ronald Garner has been a member of Bedfordshire's Maulden BC since 1962. During that time, he has been successful at club and county level, representing Bedfordshire in the Middleton Cup for several seasons during the 1980s.

At both club and county level, Ronald's contribution to our sport has been enormous. He was awarded the Bowls Bedfordshire Award of Merit in 2020 and we were delighted to honour his fantastic dedication to our sport.

During the 1950s, a group of ladies from were challenged to game of bowls which was so enjoyed by all it became a regular event and led to the formation of Stotfold Ladies Bowls Club.

The first ladies' chairperson was Mollie Jennings. No stranger to fundraising for her club, she has raised over £15,000 during her time on the committee. She has worked continuously for her club, of which she is a life member.

We were honoured to showcase her fantastic devotion to our sport. The Certificate of Merit awards were presented by Paul Robson, Bowls England president.

The Bowls England Awards Night will return in 2023. We will provide an update once further information is known.



CLUB OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY SUTTON WINSON

Bowls' Big Weekend was a focal point of Kingswood and Hanham BC which attracted over 60 people who enjoyed introductory fun sessions and preliminary coaching. The club recruited 19 women and 15 men, the majority of whom are under the age of 60.

The award was presented by David Boow, of Sutton Winston.

Nominees in this category

Bristol St. Andrews BC, Gloucestershire: The installation of new floodlights and the creation of a new Floodlight League generated interest and increased participation. Over the past

year, the club's membership has grown by 20 per cent, with female membership increasing by 100 per cent.

Darlington South Park BC, Durham: Darlington South Park BC is a club committed to changing the culture in bowls. In addition to breaking down social barriers, the club have also liaised with Alzheimer's associations, Age UK and Darlington Borough Council.

Essex County BC, Essex: Essex County BC retained the county shield and county championships. In 2021, the club were able to recruit 155 new members in total. The club have promoted bowls

at local schools, including several school groups coming onsite.

Lyndhurst BC, Durham: Lyndhurst BC continue to develop the sport of bowls at grassroots level and is a designated community amateur sports club with an open-door invitation to anyone to join. The club have had success on the playing side in the ladies' county double rinks championship and were also the men's league winners, a first for the club. Coaching is imperative to support and encourage new members to build skills and match competence and the club are always looking to improve

how they teach, encourage, and promote the game. They have also made improvements to the club's playing surfaces, as well as the club's facilities which has helped increase membership. Lyndhurst BC is looking forward to a successful future!

New Herrington Colliery BC, Durham: The growth in membership at New Herrington Welfare BC is the standout achievement. From the low point of 12, the club have grown to a very healthy 39. This is achieved with the commitment of a dedicated secretary, treasurer, and captain.



"I did everything that I could"

England's selected squad for Birmingham 2022 is filled with international and previous Commonwealth Games experience, there's no doubting that, but when the squad was announced recently there was resounding support shown towards Ed Morris, who didn't make the final cut. *Bowls International's* **Matt Wordingham** caught up with the Essex star to find out his thoughts after missing out on a place in the 'final five'.

Representing your country at a Commonwealth Games is often near the top, if not top, of all young bowlers' aspirations.

And with a Games taking place on the greens that you've performed so well on in recent years, reaching no fewer than 11 national finals in the last five championships, you'd be remiss for not feeling like you'd given yourself a good shot at getting into the team.

But it wasn't to be for Ed Morris. The 34-year-old had dedicated many hours over the last few years as a member of Bowls England's high performance squad, only to miss out on selection to represent his country at the pinnacle of our sport by the barest of margins.

Nick Brett and Jamie Walker will make their Commonwealth Games debuts later this year, and will be joined

Ed Morris narrowly missed out on selection for the Commonwealth Games

Photos supplied by Bowls England / My Sport Photography

by Jamie Chestney, Louis Ridout and Sam Tolchard who all have previous Games experience as part of the five-strong squad.

Following the withdrawals of Robert Paxton and Andy Knapper during the selection process, only six men remained as part of the high performance squad, meaning just one player would miss out of selection for the Commonwealth Games.

"When Rob and Andy both pulled out and we now had a squad of six and a team of five was going to be picked from that, you can't help but think that you've got a better chance of being selected," said Morris.

"There had to be someone not picked and sitting here now I still wish that wasn't me, but the fact of the matter is someone had to miss out and unfortunately that happened to be me.

"It might be a bit easier if there was still eight of us in the set-up and two others would be in the same position as me now."

With the Commonwealth Games taking place on the greens at Victoria Park, where Morris has enjoyed so much success in recent years, it would be remiss to not feel that those performances would give him an edge over the other five bowlers still in the process.

At the 2021 national championships, Morris reached three finals, winning both the mixed pairs and men's triples and as a finalist in the men's two-bowl singles.

"That is the main reason why I felt that I had a very good chance of being selected," said Morris.

"My experience at Leamington and last season in particular when I performed very well on the greens that the Games will be played on, I felt was going to be heavily weighted towards selection in my favour.

"I felt that if I was going to be picked for any championships it is likely to be at Leamington as I've probably played there as much as, if not more, than anyone else since the men's national championships moved there in 2014."

An email was sent to all members in the high performance squad at the end of January, with Morris admitting that his fate was evident shortly after opening the message.

"My heart dropped upon reading the first line," said Morris.

"I was pretty crestfallen – it wasn't easy, and obviously it was another week or so until it was announced so I had to go about my general day-to-day without sharing the news with anyone.

"That whole week was pretty rubbish to be fair."

Morris, who works as the office manager at Essex County BC, then received a 'phone call from high performance director John McGuinness to discuss the decision.

"In previous years when I had been dropped from the wider England team, I didn't get a call which I felt was something that needed to change and, in this instance, it obviously had changed," Morris said.

"It's bad enough to not be picked, but to only have an email and no further contact in the past was pretty rotten.

"Everyone has their life to be getting on with and John obviously has his own business to sort too, but we had a long chat, so I really did appreciate his time to ring me."

SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPORT

The announcement of the England squad saw an outpouring of support shown towards Morris on his non-selection for the team.

"It was nice to have so many people believe in you and share on social media

that they felt I should have been in the squad," he said.

"There was a lot of support from my club and from Essex, but there were also plenty of people from all over the country.

"There are people that you are friends with on

Facebook just because they're bowlers and you've never really spoken to before, and it was nice to receive messages from people like that too who were showing their support for me.

"It also perhaps validates my own thoughts that I was unlucky to not get picked and it is nice that others felt that way too."

Following Ellen Falkner's emigration to Australia, the women's high performance squad was reduced to seven with Lorraine Kuhler and Katherine Rednall suffering a similar fate to Morris as being the unlucky ones to not make the final cut.

"I've spoken to a lot of the squad since we knew the selected team and a lot of the players have reached out to me too as we've all been through the same process together," he added.

"There are people in the squad who have been in this situation before and probably the most obvious example is Jamie Walker who wasn't selected four years ago for the Games on the Gold Coast.

"I think a lot of people, myself included, thought he was a shoo-in to be selected with what he had achieved and there was a lot of support shown for him on social media then too.

"There will always be people not picked for things when others think they should be in the team. It's very subjective, but I do believe it when selectors say that it is the hardest part of their job.

"We became a tight-knit group, so it was nice to talk things over with people like Lorraine (Kuhler) who was in a similar situation and also those who were selected too."

COMMITMENT

Building on a new performance strategy, Bowls England received a £200,000 grant from Sport England to fund its preparation ahead of a home Games.

Specialists at Loughborough University in both physiology and psychology implemented a sports science programme that served all athletes involved in the high performance squad, with the aspiration to build the foundations for future success.

"It was certainly a new experience, but I really bought into the processes and what they were trying to tell us to do to gain that edge," said Morris.

"I don't think many people consider sports science, psychology and nutrition within bowls which is why we're still considered as quite an amateur sport."



Left:
Ed has won
Bowls England's
Bowler of the Year
award twice





Above:
Ed celebrating his
2021 national mixed
pairs success with
Elaine Score

"I felt that if I was going to do it, then I would make sure that I did it properly, but I probably took it a bit too far as I lost two stone in weight.

"It's much more wider reaching than just the performance on the green. Even warming up before a match, other than the trial ends you don't see many people within bowls doing a warmup before their game.

"I can't think of any mainline sports that you don't naturally do a warmup for. It's certainly an area where bowls is lagging behind other sports.

"I told myself at the start of the whole cycle that I didn't want to look back on the experience and feel like I could have done any more. From that point of view, I did everything that I could."

With a young family consisting of wife, Diane, and sons Reuben, five, and Neo, three, the whole process was a huge commitment for Morris.

"It was a big commitment, and I can now see why people do see the need to have to retire from international duty and things like that because it is hard,

especially when you have a young family," he added.

"On the other side of that, I would willingly do that most summers anyway and my wife is long-suffering, but that is part of why I don't bowl indoors anymore to ensure I spend those seven months of the year enjoying more time with my family.

"I had Diane's full support throughout the process – yes it was a big commitment, but it didn't feel like it was too much for me in our personal circumstances."

The high performance squad took part in a number of test matches over the last couple of years, which

Morris reflects on as a positive experience.

"The test matches were an eye-opener as I had never played in matches of that level before," he said.

"It was a step up and a different feel playing in those elite level matches compared to even the international series.

"Playing in matches like that made me want to play in them even more and

now I've had that experience I want to keep doing it and performing in matches of that level.

"You realise that any bad end is going to get punished and you certainly don't get away with having a bad end at that level. The whole playing side of the process was great."

PERFORMANCE SQUAD

Despite regular appearances at the national finals and success at that level, Morris admits that his inclusion within the high performance squad at first did come as a surprise.

"It was something totally out of the blue at the time, as when it all came about I wasn't even a regular in the full international side of 28 players," he said.

"Every time I had played in that international team, I was out the following year, so to go from a fringe player at that stage to being in the performance squad of 12 players was very good and from my point of view I saw it as an opportunity to have a good run in the main England side.

"This selection immediately followed the season when I had won the national singles which obviously helped my cause, but it was also at a time when there was a change in regime in the

"I didn't want to look back on the experience and feel like I could have done any more"

selectors at Bowls England.

"I saw it as a fresh chance to impress someone else, as the previous officials seemingly didn't have a lot of faith in me.

"I felt that the opportunity made me feel that I was being looked at more intently."

Morris had reached the final of the national mixed fours as a skip for three successive seasons, winning the title in 2017, but recognised that his versatility on the green was an important factor to his selection.

"I obviously appreciated that I wasn't being looked at to skip a rink at a major championship, but I had also had the successes in the singles and two-wood singles, so I had shown myself to be versatile," he said.

"I thought my best chance of being selected for a major championship would be to slip in the middle of a rink somewhere between lead and skip.

"I was happy to just get my head down though and show people what I was able to do on the green rather than focusing on the selection for upcoming championships and events at that stage – it wasn't going through my head at all."

The first selection for the high performance squad was for the postponed World Championships in 2020. Whilst Morris wasn't selected, he was pleased with the account he had been showing of himself throughout the process up to that stage.

"I didn't think I was going to get

selected for that as it has the different conditions to England and I haven't played there before, but in all of the trials and test matches we'd played leading up to that selection I felt I played very well and gave a really good account of myself.

"Whilst it was disappointing to not be picked, I didn't dwell on it at all or take it as a knockback as I was pleased with how I had been performing in the squad."

LOOKING AHEAD

With the 2026 Commonwealth Games set to take place in Australia, it is still unknown at this stage whether bowls will form part of the programme, but Morris is optimistic that he will get the

opportunity to play in the southern hemisphere at some point.

"I don't have any experience of playing on the greens over in Australia, but you're not going to get it unless

you are given the opportunity," he said.

"I would like to think that I would get picked for something at sometime over there. I feel that I have perhaps done enough to earn that right, but again you don't get handed it on a silver plate and I will pick myself up and dust myself off ready to go again and hopefully have that chance.

"This outdoor season now gives me a chance to prove myself again at the international series and the national championships.

"People are saying that it would be nice to get in the Commonwealth Games squad in four years' time as it's

BOWLS ENGLAND NATIONAL HONOURS

2021	Men's triples champion
2021	Mixed pairs champion
2021	Men's two-wood singles runner-up
2019	Men's singles champion
2019	Balcomb Trophy runner-up
2019	Men's Bowler of the Year
2018	Men's two-wood singles champion
2018	Mixed fours runner-up
2017	Mixed fours champion
2017	Balcomb Trophy champion
2017	Mixed pairs runner-up
2017	Men's Bowler of the Year
2016	Mixed fours runner-up
2013	Men's pairs champion
2013	Balcomb Trophy runner-up
2011	White Rose Trophy runner-up
2008	White Rose Trophy champion

in Australia.

"It would be an amazing experience, and I totally get where they're coming from, but it doesn't make me feel any better at the moment.

"I was really thinking it would be great to play at a Commonwealth Games in your own country in front of loads of friends and family on greens that you know and where you probably have a better chance of winning gold.

"I'm certainly not finished by any means, I'm only 34 so hopefully there are many more opportunities ahead of me."

Bottom left:
Ed in action at the national finals

Bottom right:
Ed with triples teammates Chris Muir and Steve Gunnell



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MANCHESTER

From a bowls standpoint, it was rather ironic that the 17th Commonwealth Games were staged in Manchester in 2002, right in the middle of crown green country – so there were very few suitable venues for our sport.

Top left:
Gold for Ellen Alexander (now Falkner), Shirley Page, Gill Mitchell and Carol Duckworth in the women's fours with Mary Price and Tony Allcock

Top right:
Ruth Small won B1 gold medal in the women's singles. She is seen with husband Jack (right) and Tony Allcock

Some critics felt that the bowls should have been played at Worthing or Leamington, but that would have meant distancing ourselves as a sport from the main event. Part of the joy of the Commonwealth Games is that we, as bowlers, get to rub shoulders with the greatest sportsmen and women of the land. Life in the Games Village is an important part of the experience.

In the event, Heaton Hall did us proud, and the greenkeepers worked hard to provide decent surfaces, even if the weather was against them. Talk of the rain still exercises the players who were there. The women's changing rooms were flooded, and Sarah Gourlay recalls how Mary Price paddled through to the greens in bare feet.

"I laugh when I remember practising with Ireland's Jim Baker," she told me.

"We had a bucket of water at both ends of the rink and had to wash our bowls before playing with them!"

Sarah also remembers being invited, with her Scottish colleagues, to Granada TV, where Coronation Street is recorded.



"We spent a happy hour or so in the Rovers Return," she says with a smile.

"It was only a stage set, so there was no actual alcohol flowing, but Big Joyce (Lindores) got behind the bar and pretended to pull a few pints."

The success of the Malaysians was, once again, a feature, proving that their achievements in Kuala Lumpur, where they garnered one silver and two bronze medals, were no flash in the pan. This time they struck gold, thanks to the emerging talent of Siti Zalina 'Lina' Ahmad, who methodically and ruthlessly dispatched her opponents on her way to the women's singles title. Winning six of her seven games, she

scored 143 shots and conceded 102, and certainly made her mark on the bowls world. And, 20 years later, she is still one of the world's best. Malaysia also picked up a silver in the men's pairs.

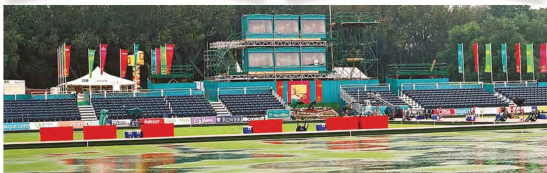
South Africa's Bobby Donnelly, who should not have been in Manchester at all, surprised everyone by winning the men's singles title, beating the reigning world champion Jeremy Henry, from Northern Ireland, in the final. Donnelly was a last-minute replacement for Donny Piketh, who broke his leg a few days before he was scheduled to leave for the UK.

Scotland's George Sneddon and Alex Marshall added the Commonwealth men's pairs title to the world crown they won in Johannesburg two years before, and Kiwis Sharon Sims and Jo Edwards struck gold in the women's pairs – but the biggest cheers were reserved for the host country's remarkable double triumph in the fours. John Ottaway, Simon Skelton, Robert Newman and David Holt came out on top in the men's, while Ellen Alexander (now Falkner), Shirley Page, Gill Mitchell and Carol Duckworth won the women's title.



Top left:
Celebrations when England men won gold in the fours

Top right:
Scotland's George Sneddon and Alex Marshall won the men's pairs



Left:
Talk of the rain still exercises the players who were there

MEMORIES



Top left:
The women's singles medal winners



Top right:
South Africa's Bobby Donnelly, who should not have been in Manchester at all, surprised everyone by winning the men's singles title



Bottom left:
Wales' Ian Slade shakes hands with the late HRH Prince Philip during a royal visit



Bottom right:
Amy Gowshall (now Pharaoh) and Anwen Butten were bronze medallists in the women's pairs and will be representing England and Wales respectively in Birmingham

Photographs supplied by Bowls England



Preview – a new world championship

Members of the impressive City and County of Bristol Indoor Bowls Club are looking forward to hosting a hugely prestigious 'new' global event this month (April), when the World Bowls Indoor Championships, organised jointly by World Bowls (WB) and the International Indoor Bowls Council (IIBC) take centre stage from April 25-29, writes **David Rhys Jones**

In 2019, just before we were hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, an historic agreement was reached by World Bowls and the World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC), settling a controversial and long-standing disagreement as to who governed the global indoor game of bowls.

The two joined forces in 2019, when the WIBC agreed to a change of name, becoming instead the International Indoor Bowls Council. A new event that actually combined two existing tournaments – the WIBC's World Indoor Championships (held annually in the UK) and the WB's World Cup (traditionally staged at the Warilla Club in New South Wales – was scheduled for April 2020.

Covid cruelly put a stop to that, and caused it to be cancelled in 2021, so here, at last, the curtain will be raised on an event that, at the time of going to print, had attracted a record number of entries, including the holders of the WIBC titles, Scotland's Stewart Anderson and Guernsey's Alison Merrien, and the reigning World Cup winner Gary Kelly, the Australia-based Irish star.

The latest news from World Bowls is that at least 29 countries will be sending representatives. These include the usual suspects, like England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, Australia, South Africa, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Canada. Surprisingly, when we went to print, New Zealand was missing from the list of entries. But, adding spice to the occasion, and boding well for the future, players from Cinderella countries like the Falkland Islands, Hungary, Switzerland, Sweden, Pakistan and Jamaica will be strutting their stuff.



"The latest news from World Bowls is that at least 29 countries will be sending representatives"

In line with the tradition set by the WIBC, competitors will combine (normally with compatriots) in a mixed pairs event, and *Bowls International* understands that it is currently envisaged that the World Bowls Indoor

Championships will occupy a regular spot on the bowls calendar, with the venue alternating annually between the northern and southern hemispheres.

When I caught up with the Bristol club's chairman, Welsh-born

Bob Griffiths, on a rather damp St. David's Day, he was working behind the bar – a sure sign that, as in the best of clubs, everyone is ready and willing to, quite literally, put their hands to the pump.

"Yes," he smiled. "We are that sort of club, and I'm proud to be chairman of it."

In fact, the club was struggling a few years ago, and nearly went under, but a serious review of how it was run saw members being asked to take an active role in every aspect of the organisation.

"And, as a result, we have a great atmosphere based on hard work, team spirit and co-operation," said Bob.

He added: "We are certainly looking forward to hosting this unique world event and are relishing the challenge."

"Bringing a world championship to Bristol is a real feather in our cap. Everyone is excited about it. Our members can't wait to see some of the world's best bowlers in action, and I know they will give 100 per cent to make it work."

Rotas are being drawn up for car parking duties, event stewards, volunteer bar staff, plate collectors and cleaners, scoreboard operators, markers, and umpires.

"Almost everything is done by club members on a voluntary basis, and, even though the catering is franchised, most of the kitchen staff are club members and regular bowlers," says Bob.

Despite the ravages of the pandemic, Bob is upbeat about the future of the club.

"Before Covid, we had a membership of over 800, but we were hit quite badly, and that went down to something like 550," he explains.

"However, as the lockdown

eased, people seem to have been looking for new pursuits, and I'm proud to say that we have recently recruited 125 new members, and our membership is back up to over 700."

During the world championships, the club will be providing breakfasts and snacks, and a double decker bus has been chartered to run competitors from the Premier Inn accommodation in central Bristol to the club at the end of South Liberty Lane.

STAR-STUDED LINE-UP

So, who are we likely to see parading their skills in this exciting new tournament?

The reigning WIBC (sorry, IIBC) champions, Scotland's Stewart Anderson and Guernsey's Alison Merrien MBE will be there as of right, as will Ireland's Gary Kelly, who won the last World Cup at Warilla. Now living Down Under, Gary was recently ranked number four in Bowls Australia's ranking list, but he will occupy Ireland's singles berth in the Commonwealth Games in July. Sadly, the last winner of the Women's World Cup, New Zealand's legendary Jo Edwards MNZM, has retired from international bowls, and therefore declined the invitation, but the field will still be awash with stars.

"Bringing a world championship to Bristol is a real feather in our cap"

England's Andy Walters has made his mark indoors and out, while Scotland's Mike Stepany is a member of the World Bowls Tour's elite Top 16. Andrew Duncan will be representing Ireland in the men's event, while former England international Robert Chisholm will carry Welsh hopes, and a strong challenge is expected from the Malaysian Mohamad Fairus Abdul Jabal, Canada's highly experienced Hirendra Bhartu and South Africa's Jason Evans.

Stewart Anderson's wife Claire carries Scottish hopes in the women's singles, in a field that also includes Irish star Sandra Baillie and talented Welsh duo Kerry Packwood and Amy Williams. South Africa's Colleen Piketh, who struck gold in the Commonwealth Games women's pairs in Glasgow 2014 and took



Top: Gary Kelly, who won the last World Cup at Warilla, will be in attendance, Jo Edwards MNZM, the last winner of the women's World Cup, has declined the invitation

Bottom left: Guernsey's Alison Merrien MBE is the current IIBC title holder

Bottom right: Bob Griffiths, chairman of the impressive City and County of Bristol Indoor Bowls Club says everyone is excited about the event

a silver medal four years later on the Gold Coast, will be hotly tipped. Other strong contenders include Israeli Ruti Gilor, young Scot Megan Kivlin, who will be representing Jersey, Netherlands' lively Saskia Schaft, and Anne

Nunes, an aeronautical engineer from the USA.

It is hoped that competitors will be able to experience and enjoy some of the local highlights in the historic City of Bristol, like the iconic Clifton Suspension Bridge,

designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and the Floating Harbour, where the famous SS *Great Britain* is on display.

Chairman Bob is confident that they will find everything at his club 'Ship-shape and Bristol Fashion!'

BOWLS' BIG WEEKEND IS BACK!

Bowls England has announced the return of Bowls' Big Weekend for 2022, taking place from Friday, May 27 until Sunday, May 29.

Bowls' Big Weekend presents the opportunity for clubs to increase membership and get more people playing our wonderful sport.

Last year's event was a carnival for our sport and saw record numbers of people flocking to clubs across the country to try our great game. Over 1,100 events took place all over the country at 603 Bowls England affiliated clubs, with the sun shining down on new players of all ages as they got to grips with the game.

All research points to open days being the key to getting new players into clubs, and Bowls England will be running a centralised marketing campaign once again to get people to registered clubs.

A Home Commonwealth Games presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the sport of lawn bowls to increase participation.

What support will our club get?



Upon registering your events, clubs will be able to access free resources including publicity material and creative resources for social media channels and websites.

Additionally in 2022, Bowls England will be hosting an increased number of area-specific webinars to ensure you get the most out of the event. These webinars will cover planning, marketing, promotion and on the day experience and much more.



Over 600 of Bowls England's affiliated clubs took part in the inaugural Bowls' Big Weekend event in 2021

Were there any success stories in 2021?

Last year, bowls was put into the spotlight in the days leading up to the event with media coverage including BBC Breakfast sports legend Mike Bushell attending Colchester BC to film a segment for the show.

Bearsted and Thurnham BC in Kent grasped the opportunity with both hands welcoming over 100 visitors to their event. The club offered plenty of time on the green testing skills with fun competitions, meeting the friendly club members and advising how prospective new members could join.



Clubs can sign up and register their events now on www.bowlsbigweekend.com





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Alex Marshall MBE has returned to Henselite

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How accurate are laser measures?

Above:
A laser measure
in use

Which is best, modern technology or the tried and tested? Well, there has been a lot of discussion recently about the use of something a bit more modern than a length of string to carry out accurate measures. In the last few years, the focus has been very much on the use of lasers to replace the traditional measures that umpires have used for years

I should mention before I delve into this hot topic that the views expressed are my own and I am not endorsing, or otherwise, any single product.

There are now several models available on the market ranging in price from around £50 to £230. Of course, as with everything, you get what you pay for and all products are not equal. Essentially, all models on the market use a third party laser device mounted in an assembly that allows it to measure between jack and bowl. In order to get an accurate measurement between two round objects of different sizes, some devices come with 'targets' that are placed against the bowl as something for the laser, placed against the jack, to aim at. Others are designed to be the correct height to aim

"Essentially, all models on the market use a third party laser device mounted in an assembly that allows it to measure between jack and bowl"

the laser at the centre point of a jack and so are placed against the bowl.

The main question on the lips of umpires is: "How accurate are they?" and the answer to this lies in the quality of the laser measure itself and therefore the price. The more expensive the laser device the greater the tolerances of accuracy. Are these tolerances acceptable when compared to an official skilled in the use of a box measure or callipers? Certainly, with the cheaper versions with a tolerance of $\pm 3\text{mm}$, that is debatable in my opinion.

Next question: "How long is it going to take to carry out a measure?" Well, the smaller units that fire the laser at the jack without the need for target plates are as quick if not quicker than a box measure. The more accurate models that use target plates take a lot longer to set-up and this could be a big factor in timed games, and of course, the more objects you are placing against bowls and jacks, the more likely those objects are to be displaced.

There is plenty of video footage available now which show these measuring devices being used both well and poorly. One thing that has to be remembered is the device must be used in accordance with the instructions otherwise the accuracy will be lost. I notice in recent footage that the target plates are not in place.

So, what does World Bowls say about the use of these measures? Well, in 2015 the World Bowls Laws Committee evaluated a prototype of the measure that incorporated the target plates. This was approved for domestic use by national bodies. In 2020, the committee were again asked to look at the smaller measures utilising the cheaper laser devices and as a result issued guidance on their use for domestic play.

In this guidance, the laws committee stated: "The laser measure may be used as an alternative to the box measure,

subject to any restrictions adopted by any MNA, and it is now listed in the 'alternative equipment' section in the umpire development documentation on the Word Bowls website."

It noted the variation in tolerances and issued the following recommendation: "Due to a variation in tolerances among laser measure models and as they do not measure directly between the nearest points of the jack and a bowl, there is a recommended minimum distance for



Left:
A laser measure
being incorrectly
used without a
target plate

their use. The recommended minimum distance for using a laser measure in an ideal situation is 300 mm."

It was noted that the maximum distance may vary depending on lighting conditions and the visibility of the beam. Wouldn't it be great to be able to use a laser to determine the minimum jack length? Alas, this is unlikely unless you are playing in the dark.

The guidance ends with a further limitation that they can only be used when the jack and all the bowls are on the rink and not in the ditch. You can read the full guidance on the World Bowls website.

So, laser measures may be used for domestic play if approved by the national governing bodies. Personally, I would love to see a day where we can reliably use a laser measure that has an acceptable level of tolerance compared to a box measure or calliper and that is quick and simple to setup and use whilst not requiring another umpire kit to carry it around. I don't think we are at that stage yet, but we are close and maybe in the not too distant future, we will have a model that is acceptable for use at both World Championships and Commonwealth Games.

What is your view on their use? I would be interested to hear what you, our readers think.

"Wouldn't it be great to be able to use a laser to determine the minimum jack length?"

Should a marker in a singles match inform a player if the head has changed when they are walking back to the mat after visiting the head?

There was a robust debate between those that felt the marker should just be there to mark the card and centre the jack and those that, in my opinion, correctly said the marker should certainly tell the player the head has changed. Let me pose this scenario and again I would be interested to hear the opinion of our readers.

It is a national singles final and the scores are finely balanced at 20 shots to 19. The player on 20 asks you, as the marker, who you think is lying shot? You clearly state that they are. Before they get to deliver their next bowl, thinking they are lying shot, their bowl falls away from the jack and they are now two against. They reach the head after delivering a blocker or a back cover shot only to find they are match down because their bowl fell back without them knowing. Should you have informed them of the change in situation or said nothing?

Next month: In my next article in May, I will be giving an insight into the lead up to the Commonwealth Games from an International Technical Official perspective.



Middle left:
The device must be
used in accordance
with the instructions
otherwise the
accuracy will be lost

HOT TOPIC

I ended this month with a question which caused a great deal of debate on social media recently.

**ASK
ALLAN**

Do you have a laws of the sport or umpiring question for Allan?
If so, please email ceris.hewlings@keypublishing.com and Allan will do his best to answer it in a future issue.
We look forward to hearing from you!

Bottom left:
Birmingham 2022
will be Allan's
sixth consecutive
Commonwealth
Games as an official



WHAT THE REST OF NORTH TEAM HAD TO SAY

"To be in the company of players from DBE is a humbling experience. Their determination to play sport is to be admired. We at West Denton felt very privileged to be in their presence. We wish you all the very best of luck in all you wish to achieve." **Ann Lennie** (West Denton IBC)

"What a fantastic day and great experience. I loved it. Fantastic talent and level and of bowling all round. Very awe-inspiring and inspirational and lovely to meet new people. I look forward to taking part in many more!" **Vicky Happer** (South Shields Vipers)

"What an experience this was for me playing against Bob Love. Great bloke and it just goes to show what can be achieved with these disabilities. Such accuracy bowling with his feet, unbelievable. Thanks Steve Angus for the invitation."

Brian Poulter (Gateshead IBC)

"Although The Rest of the North came out victors, it was an awesome experience playing members of Disability Bowls England. Their skill and determination to win justifies all the opportunities our sport should and can give. A great day was had by all. Congratulations to the organisers and Stanley IBC who hosted the event."

Sheila Storey (West Denton IBC)

"It was a fantastic day played in a great friendly spirit and I'm looking forward to the next one either as a player or spectator. The Wrong Bias live stream of the singles has created a lot of interest in the event at our club." **Keith Atkinson** (Gateshead IBC)

"A great day of bowls, excellent venue and superb hospitality from Stanley Bowls Club. Very high standard of bowls from the DBE team." **Paul Hart** (South Shields Vipers)

Raising the profile of bowlers with a disability with Rest of the North challenge



Stanley IBC in County Durham hosted the first ever Disability Bowls England v Rest of the North challenge. Sixteen DBE members from around the country played against 16 players from four clubs from the North East, South Shields Vipers, Gateshead IBC, West Denton IBC and Stanley IBC. Let's take a look at what happened with Disability Bowls England member Stevie Angus.

The format for the event was two sessions of one rink of four bowl singles (two sets of nine ends, one end tiebreak if needed), three rinks of three bowl pairs (two sets of eight ends, one end tiebreak if needed), and three rinks two bowl triples (two sets of eight ends with a one end tiebreak if needed), with two points for a set win, one point each for a tied set and one point for tiebreak win.

After some close games in session one, the Rest of the North led DBE by 20 points to 10.

But after the buffet lunch, a rejuvenated DBE came out strong and again showed their skill and by the end of the second session, the points were shared with both DBE and the Rest of the North on 30 points each so ends won had to be counted to decide the winner. DBE won 108 with the Rest of the North pipping them at 114.

Medals were presented to the winners, the Rest of the North, and the runners-up DBE.

The event was played in great spirit and new friendships were made by the bowlers.



The winning Rest of the North team

Players representing DBE: Jeff Crowe (Louth and District IBC), David Masterman (Redcar IBC), Ali Domville, Claire Domville and Rob Domville (all New Earswick IBC), Steven Nicholson, Barry Nicholson, David Nicolson and Marie Nicholson (all Leeds IBC), Graham Patterson (Gateshead IBC), Gary Swift (Harrowgate IBC), Steve Angus and Brett Arkley (Stanley IBC), Craig Dalton (Durham IBC), Diane Rogers and Bob Love (Tamworth IBC).

Players representing The Rest of the North: Sadie Thompson, Brian Poulter, Keith Atkinson and Jimmy Taylor (Gateshead IBC), Ann Lennie, Karen Wailes, Herbie Blacklock and Sheila Storey (West Denton IBC), Vicky Happer, Brenda Harper, Mick Baker and Paul Hart (South Shields Vipers), Ryan Henson, Benson Turnbull, Brenda Turnbull and Ann Baggett (Stanley IBC).

Also in attendance was Richie

Mckie from The Wrong Bias Podcast who live streamed on social media the singles and pairs (afternoon session) game which featured Bob Love against Brian Poulter. The second session live stream featured Claire Domville and Steve Angus facing Brenda and Benson Turnbull.

The live streams can be viewed on YouTube by searching for the Wrong Bias Podcast.

An enjoyable day was had by all taking part and players are already looking forward to next year's event which will be extended to a two-day event which will be held on January 21 and 22.

Stevie Angus, chairperson of DBE, said: "I would like to thank Steve Angus and Stanley IBC for having the foresight for putting this event together to showcase to other clubs that our game of bowls is a sport for all and inclusive games and matches are the way forward for everyone to enjoy the sport we love. We are looking forward to returning to the Stanley IBC next year for a two-day event and look forward to meeting old and making new friends. We would also like to thank the Wrong Bias Podcast team for live streaming this profile which has raised the day of bowlers with a disability to a wider audience around the UK and the world."

For more information on DBE, visit: www.disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk



The DBE team were runners-up



Scotland team enjoying the moment

LDIBIS full steam ahead for Cardiff

The Learning Disability Indoor Bowls International Series management team, athletes and volunteers are ready to rock and roll in Cardiff in April.

After the event being postponed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic a total of three times, the LDIBIS event for the Munro Cup will be held at Cardiff IBC on April 26, 27 and 28 (with some COVID-19 restrictions).

The team at LDIBIS have been working hard behind the scenes to give the athletes something to plan for and look forward to.

"COVID-19 has affected us all and cancelling the previously scheduled events was the right decision but so heart-wrenching for all involved," said LDIBIS competition manager Janice Gower.

Athletes from Wales, Scotland and England will descend on Cardiff IBC for what will be a show of teamwork and prowess.

Defending champions England will have to see off tough opposition from the home team Wales and a very strong Scottish squad.

"This is great news for all involved," said head official Dan Bluett.

"We have some amazing volunteers who travel from all over the country to support

these athletes and the athletes themselves do not disappoint. They are great exponents of indoor bowls."

Barrie Jenkins, Welsh team head coach, said: "We are delighted to be hosts for this series, it has seemed a long wait, but we are looking forward to welcoming the athletes and their coaches, the event volunteers and LDIBIS



Naomi Baelz and Millie Campbell capturing the spirit of the series

management team to Cardiff."

The main play takes place over Wednesday and Thursday, April 27 and 28, with the closing ceremony and medal presentations taking place Thursday teatime.

There will be a raffle to help support the event and it is hopeful spectators will be permitted (COVID-19 restrictions allowing).

Added Janice: "The event and the teams are self-funded and we have some wonderful supporters but, as all events like these, we are volunteer led and if you would like to make a donation or be involved please do not hesitate to contact us via our operations manager Richard Maddieson at rmaddieson@gmail.com or contact one of the countries head coaches: Wales - Barrie Jenkins (barriejenkins50@live.com); England - Marie Nicholson (marie.nich52@gmail.com) and Scotland - Ron McArthur (mrronmcArthur@btinternet.com)."



The LDIBIS 2019 volunteers

Open When Anxious

A tool to manage anxiety

Open When Anxious is a memo to help you manage your anxiety without having to think too much about what works for you. When struggling with anxiety, sometimes it can be really hard to know what to do to help get yourself out of it and it can be hard for somebody else to help you get out of it. Having a memo on your 'phone that is called Open When Anxious, does exactly what it says. You need to open it when anxious and it will have lots of ideas on there to help you through.

How to make one

Part 1: Successes

This section lists all the times that you've managed anxiety or a panic attack. For example October 1 – I drove a new route to work and found my way feeling comfortable; November 15 – I spoke up in a work meeting, I was listened to and felt really proud; November 27 – I went to a party and felt okay most of the time.

Add to this every single time you've done something that has made you feel anxious. It is usually a trigger or normally causes a panic attack. Also write down any comments about it and how it felt.

Keep adding to that list every single time you go through other things that you get through. Over time, you'll have a long list of all the evidence that you can get through moments of anxiety and a reminder that it will pass.

It will also help you when preparing to face triggers as you will be able to see the times you have successfully faced them before.

Part 2: Affirmations

The next section is anxiety affirmations. So, these are affirmations that you find useful to calm anxiety. In moments of anxiety, it can be really hard for you to think of these yourself so being able to open this memo and see them all listed there will help to take away the thought process and allow you to just read it and hopefully help you to feel better. Some examples for you to use: This will pass; I will be okay; I've got through this before; I can do it.

It is entirely up to you what you do. There might be some affirmations that you like, it may be that you have to do some research and find some that you like, but just make sure they're ones that you find really useful and

that they are written in a positive way like the ones above. Try to avoid negative words or using the word 'anxiety.'

Part 3: Tools

The third section is an anxiety toolkit and involves all the tools that help you to calm your anxiety. Some of mine include talking to someone, journaling about how I feel, writing down everything that's on my mind, a mindful walk in nature, meditation or visualisation exercise, listening to a positive music playlist.

When you try new tools, add them to your list so you have an up-to-date list for when you need it. Over time, you will get quite good at using this naturally, but for now when you are new to it and aren't 100 per cent sure yet on what your toolkit is, and you're not confident in actually using it, this can be really helpful because you can just open this memo, pick a tool, try it, see if it helps, if it does your anxiety will begin to calm and if not you can try another one.

You can add any other parts to your open when anxious memo and make it as detailed as you want to. Ideas to add to yours include: a list of symptoms you experience, the things that trigger your anxiety, links to things that make you smile, positive quotes and a gratitude list.

If you have people around you wanting to support you with your anxiety, you can show them the memo to help them understand how you are feeling and they will know how they can best support you.

It's really important to know that everybody's anxiety is different, and no two people will have the same thought process, symptoms, triggers or tools that help. We all have different ways of managing and that's completely normal. What's important to know is what works for you.



About Lucy...

Lucy J Smith is a mental health advocate, author and podcaster supporting others with understanding and managing their anxiety after her own struggles.

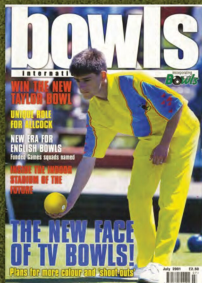
Lucy invested years into researching how best to manage anxiety to free herself from her own, then put the research and experience to good use becoming a mentor for others. Lucy is also certified in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

You can read more about Lucy at her website where you can listen to the Stand Up To Anxiety Podcast and access a range of books and journals to support adults and children with their mental health.

Website: www.lucysmith.com

Facebook: [Lucy J Smith](#)

Instagram: [@lucysmith_26](#)



500th ISSUE COUNTDOWN

What do Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake, Meghan Markle, Peter Crouch and Bowls International all have in common?

It would be amazing if we could say all four stars mentioned have appeared on the cover of the magazine having tried their hand at bowls.

But sadly not yet, however, they were all born in 1981!

Other big events that year included Lady Diana Spencer marrying Charles, Prince of Wales, the first London Marathon was held, Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper was caught, the first American test tube baby was born, scientists identified The Aids Virus, NASA launched the first Space Shuttle Columbia, an unknown piece of music written by Mozart was discovered and IBM launched its first PC which used Microsoft Software MS-DOS.

Popular music included John Lennon's Imagine, Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister and the average life expectancy was 74.1 years.

A new house cost £23,500, a new car £3,100, a pint of beer 49p, a loaf of bread 33p, a pint of milk 20p and a postage stamp 12p.

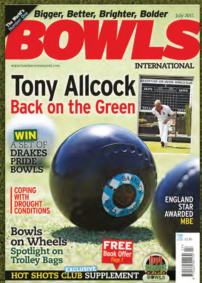
In the bowls world though April was a landmark month for it saw the launch of Bowls International costing just 75p.

The magazine will be celebrating its 500th issue in November and to celebrate the countdown to our milestone publication, each month we will be featuring a selection of front pages through the decades.

Here's a look at what was happening in July 1981 - our fourth ever edition - and four further issues from July throughout our 40 years.

Do you have a special bowls-related occasion dating back to 1981 or indeed which involves the number 500 this year? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please email ceris.hewlings@keypublishing.com and tell us your story.

Next month we take a look at a selection of front covers from August since our launch in 1981.



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JUNIOR COACHING ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Readers of past issues will know that I have written at length about junior coaching and methodology to provide opportunities for the next generation of avid youngsters.

For years, I have expressed the purely constructive opinion that the best way of ensuring the healthy longevity of our sport, across the globe, would be for the respective governing bodies to create a position of national junior recruitment coach.

This full-time position would carry a job description as follows:

1 To contact and attempt to forge positive educational and recreational links between schools/youth groups and bowls clubs (indoor and outdoor) in order to stimulate and generate an interest in bowls.

2 To create opportunities within junior coached sessions for children from the age of six upwards to receive high quality coaching in learning the basics of our sport, to develop knowledge of the rules, laws and expectations and to cultivate technical skills (delivery action), the full repertoire of shots and head-reading skills and the ability to make tactical decisions.

3 To provide enjoyable bowling formats that the children find fun to play in, thus stimulating and generating interest, enthusiasm, engagement.

4 To encourage the parents, grandparents and families of the children to take an active interest in their progress and development by attending, watching and supporting.

5 To use a multi-media approach to recruiting and coaching such as on-line coaching tutorials, analysis of technique through technology and social networking to spread good practice.

6 To use high profile players as inspiration and role models so that the new junior bowlers can aspire to reach the top and follow in the footsteps of their favourite players.

7 To share the success of junior development with other stakeholders to convey the message that Bowls is accessible to all and worth investing in.

8 To successfully integrate junior bowlers into clubs so they can play with and against adults in recreational and competitive formats and, in time, take up positions in the club.

THE WAY FORWARD

So how would the national junior recruitment coach meet his or her targets and be successful?

1 Some schools are keen to incorporate bowls into their Physical Education and sport curriculum. Great news, but it tends to be schools who have leaders or senior managers who already have an interest in bowls; they might have watched it on television, seen it played at a local amenity or could even be bowlers themselves already. Sometimes, a school reads or hears of a local player who has been successful in a high profile tournament and thinks it might be beneficial sporting activity for its pupils.

The week after I played in the televised UK Singles years ago from Preston Guildhall, some 60 inhabitants of Ipswich who had previously known nothing about the sport, or that there was an indoor facility on their doorstep, visited my indoor club – wanting to learn more about the sport and how to become members.

Such media attention brilliantly beneficial, but usually we have to take the first step in contacting the outside world. This is where a national or regional junior recruitment coach would take the initiative. He or she would make the contact with the school or youth group and perhaps attend an assembly or tutorial in which a video of young bowlers, perhaps Under 18 internationals or Under 25s are playing with skill and fervour, in their colourful kit, showing

the high five celebrations and atmosphere, clips of particularly effective shots and audience reaction. The video could feature interviews with children who already play the sport and love it, sharing information on how they got into bowls, who their favourite players are and why it is already their favourite hobby. Clips of televised events could be shown and the young audience would be educated as to what the basic aims and rules of the sport are.

The next stage is for the school children to ask questions about what they have watched and then to show their willingness to have a go. This is where a short mat in the school hall or the various bowls coaching resources could be installed and the first encounter arranged.

Two other potential opportunities: most primary and middle schools have an Activity Week when some children go on residential

visits and the remaining students stay in school, trying their hand at a range of different sports and activities outside the usual curriculum. When I was a teacher, we often gave whole classes the opportunity to walk with us to the nearest bowls

club where I would direct a two-hour session, the children learning the basics and, by the end, playing mini games against one another. Another related activity could be the children designing a bowls team strip or uniform for themselves.

Year 6 students finish their SATs tests and afterwards are given a less academic timetable as a reward for all their hard work, revision and exam-taking, making the last half of the summer term more relaxing. This is an ideal time for school pupils to be given their first opportunity to play bowls.

Of course, all of this assumes large numbers of children being coached together. There is also a place for after-school sessions at the local green, in smaller groups.

Only this week, I have heard wonderful



OW

news that a primary school in Suffolk has contacted its nearest outdoor bowls club to request information on how its Year 6 children could be taught to play bowls. Of course, this is music to our ears, particularly when it is the school contacting the bowling club rather than vice versa. The club captain was delighted but needed guidance on how this could be carried out. Who would do the teaching/coaching? What equipment would the children need to use, borrow or buy? Would the club need to purchase smaller bowls? Would the children be attending voluntary 'after-school' sessions or would they be receiving bowls tuition as part of their curriculum entitlement? Would the children be supervised by teachers or staff from the school? Would the coach be qualified to work with juniors? What are the specific individual needs of the children? How would the venture be funded?

All of these issues take a lot of consideration and planning, along with commitment of time and resources, yet it has to be worth it! What the children potentially get out of the opportunity to learn a new sport on their doorstep, and what the club reaps in terms of new lifeblood and new families joining is so considerable.

Many clubs would jump at the chance of staging junior opportunities, particularly at a time when recruitment and participation are in the spotlight. So, the way forward is for representatives from the club to sit down with the senior management of the school and answer the questions before making a structured plan of learning objectives, lesson plans, short-term and longer-term outlines. Each club and each school will be different.

2 If a national junior recruitment coach was to be responsible for demonstrating, explaining and cultivating efficient delivery actions and the full repertoire of shots, it would certainly help if they were a proficient competitive bowler themselves. They could also use video clips and programmes that analyse

delivery in the same way that golf swings and tennis strokes can be analysed. The coach would also need to be able to diagnose co-ordination problems and cure technical problems. As a youngster learning the game, I often wondered what my delivery action looked like. It was not until I had played on television that I knew. Most young bowlers love to see themselves bowling on camera, so video them on a 'phone, with permission. Years ago, I helped legendary coach Gwyn John at Worthing, analysing beginners' deliveries with a camcorder; he was way ahead of his time.

In terms of bowls resources such as hoops, cones, targets and inflatables, coaches now have far more available to them. Personally, I always start to teach children to bowl with co-ordination exercises, tennis balls, foam balls and beanbags first, to establish a coherent bowls delivery action before the bowl is in the hand.

3 When children are learning to play bowls, they need to be given lots of short, exciting activities that don't exceed their concentration span or become tedious, so short mini-games such as one-end singles matches against each other are great. In the same way, skills and drills need to be taught in short, punchy sessions. There also needs to be the recognition that teaching youngsters is not just about finding the new international stars of the future, it is an experience to be enjoyed and when the children enjoy it, they will want to come back for more. It is also a chance for the children to interact with their peers and the helpers or staff so it is good to build in breaks for questions and answers, socialising, rehydrating or snack-nibbling! Target Bowls and variations on the traditional game give further enjoyment to the session whilst being educational.

4 I have often realised that junior bowls events tend to be better supported than adult events. At Ipswich and District IBC, we introduced age-standardised singles round robins and junior pairs as club competitions. These games were usually attended by parents, but also brothers, sisters, cousins and grandparents, some of whom were wanting to have a go at bowling afterwards. There

is no doubt that supportive families place value on the sporting event and usually show appreciation to the coaches, helpers and club staff. They generally encourage all of the young bowlers and often help with junior section events. Supportive families also help to finance equipment and provide transport to matches.

5 Using technology as a coaching tool is certainly with us. Recently, Ellen Falkner and I were invited to coach the excellent junior bowlers of Lakenheath Indoor Bowling Club. Ellen made use of video clips and remote coaching when she could not be there. The children were glued to the big screen and loved being directed by her in an on-line tutorial session and hearing about her esteemed career. Many junior sections, club and county now have Facebook pages and communication about times, fixtures and arrangements are through social media. Lakenheath is a great example of a very successful junior initiative led by Michael Parker, with help from other club officers. The young bowlers have a modern playing kit and the county Under 18s shirts and track suit trousers are sponsored.

6 Aspiring youngsters need the opportunity to watch high class bowls matches, live or recorded, and to identify with their sporting heroes. Visits from high profile players and the chance to attend county, international and world events are so beneficial. Perhaps an arranged day out as a junior section to Potters or any other prestigious championship can only help inspire our young bowlers.

7 If we are to appeal to investors, sponsors and supporters, we as advocates of junior bowling need to 'spread the word' and show our successes to the big wide world. While some sponsors are charitable, others will want media exposure in return, or at least advertising boards or their name on equipment and clothes. They will want to see the benefits of their sponsorship, the players' prowess, enthusiasm, enjoyment and sportsmanship.

I have received several questions on how to integrate young bowlers into full club play and this will be the subject of the May edition of Bowls International.



"When children are learning to play bowls, they need to be given lots of short, exciting activities that don't exceed their concentration span or become tedious"



Indoor season closes...



...and outdoor begins

As I write this month's column, it's the beginning of March which signals the start of spring and the welcome longer days mean more bowling outside

Above: Ireland celebrate after winning the 2019 men's British Isles Series and players have recently launched a campaign to save the flagship event

Right: England secured the women's Senior International Series for the third successive year at Les Creux BC, Jersey, when the event was last held in 2019

Indoor events are wrapping up and we see a plethora of titles won and cups being displayed on social media. It's hard to believe just how many competitions are played to conclusion around the UK during March.

With the dark months behind us, most bowlers are looking forward to a full season of outdoor bowls.

Where I play, Belmont Bowls Club in Belfast, the league programme starts around late April, but before that there are friendly matches and get togethers for club members. With two greens, five teams and lots of activity around the club, it is a busy time, but also a time to enjoy club spirit and see friends from the outdoor game.

I am often asked what is better indoor or outdoor bowls? It's a difficult question because they are so different but during the winter months indoor is a must for us in the UK. I know some still play outdoors on artificial greens but that is rare and somewhat brave in our weather.

The problem is we don't get that many good weather weeks to play with the sun on our backs, but probably more relevant is that too many greens are so poor these

days. That makes it very rare to be able to absolutely enjoy parts of the outdoor season. However, when the green is good and the sun shines then there is no better place to be than playing bowls. We are fortunate that my club has good greens and great facilities with a supportive membership so the thought of playing outdoors is very appealing.

HOME INTERNATIONAL SERIES NEWS

For those competitive ambitious bowlers that were hoping to play in the Home

International Series in Wales this year will not get the opportunity.

The series has been cancelled, not postponed but cancelled.

The powers within the sport appear to feel that the Home Internationals as the premier international team event in its current format has run its course as part of the summer calendar.

The British Isles Championships however will be held though in Llandrindod Wells, Wales.

The International Series being cancelled is a much bigger issue with





serious ramifications for the sport. This has been a contentious decision taken within the British Isles Bowls Council.

What has replaced it? Well, nothing of the same calibre that is for sure, but I have heard of a couple of Test Series being held at Leamington Spa before the Commonwealth Games. This will not be a full International Series but an event with restricted player numbers.

Also, in the pipeline it appears are changes to the Under 25s International Series. The full teams of 24 have been

"I am often asked what is better indoor or outdoor bowls?"

reduced by half for both men and women. Of course, there may be good reasons for this, but none that I heard coming from young players trying to make their mark on the sport or indeed those trying so hard to get recognised at senior level within their respected countries.

I have no doubt we will know more over the next few weeks and probably before this article appears. But with so many changes, it is hard to believe that it will encourage growth in our sport. It makes me, and I'm sure many others,

think about who is driving this and what is happening at the 'leading edge' of bowls in the British Isles.

NEW BOWLER RECRUITMENT

I have seen a host of statements about streaming coverage of various events and other opportunities to watch bowls on social media, yet the people we really need for growth are those who don't play bowls.

While the viewing figures can be excellent on those platforms, especially after a few days when they can grow to 20-30,000, the output is designed and primarily focused on people within the sport whether organisations like it or not.

Bowls as a sport must encourage ways to get people involved and often that is getting the sport to a greater audience. Bigger sponsors and terrestrial television are of course the answer, but not always easy to accomplish.

Just ask any of the board members of the World Bowls Tour, of which there are six, and they will let you know that capturing streaming sponsors for events is just about achievable. But to sign-up big-name companies, that they once had, has become a task beyond many agencies and individuals that have tried. It is easy for bowlers to criticise, but

the truth is unless 'blue chip' or at the very least well-known UK companies come into the sport it is going to be very hard to get to the non-bowlers that we so need to grow the sport. This includes both indoor and outdoor.

There were many terrestrial TV events over the years shown on both BBC and ITV, but they dried up and were never replaced. Is that a fact of life or just poor commercial management? I don't know the answer, but either way the sport has suffered.

When events like the Home International Series – which has been televised before albeit not for many years – are done away with, it is more of a reflection of internal issues within the sport and it is one that we have some control over. Reducing the Under 25s doesn't look to be a forward step either.

We will all watch bowls whenever and wherever possible, but that will not bring the growth that the sport so desperately needs hence why clubs are disappearing at an alarming rate.

But maybe you know better, after all everyone has an opinion. This is only mine.

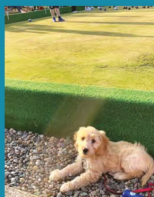
Above:
It appears changes to the Under 25s International Series are also in the pipeline

Please note: Views expressed in the above do not necessarily represent those of the team at Bowls International

Bowls International dog ambassador required!

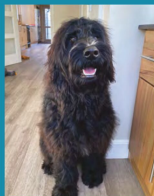
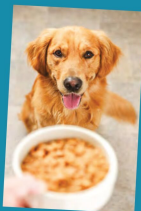


Wow! We've had an amazing response to our quest to find the paw-fect pin-up-pooch star! Here's a sneak peak at some of your four-legged friends who go on adventures to the bowling green and are keen to be chosen as our 'ambassador' – one comes all the way from New Zealand! But don't worry, you still have time to nominate your pet for this top title along with a doggie bag of goodies generously donated by Burns Pet Nutrition, just check out the details below.



THE PRIZE...

- 1 x 2kg bag of Burns Original Chicken
- 1 x Box of Burns mixed variety wet food trays
- 1 x Packet of Burns treats
- 1 x Feeding mat
- 1 x Treat bag Keyring
- 1 x 'Totally Pawsome' bandana
- 1 x Tailchaser Times magazine
- 1 x Cotton Jute Bag



To enter, visit: bowlsinternational.com/competitions

Closing date April 29, 2022. For full terms and conditions, see above website



Green maintenance: Broadway BC

Where once stood a croquet lawn and tennis courts, the Broadway Bowling Club opened its doors in 1919.

It sits in an idyllic location in beautifully maintained grounds with scenic views towards the Cotswold escarpment and the Broadway tower; a Saxon Tower folly which was the brainchild of 18th Century landscape designer Capability Brown.

The gently sloping banks of herbaceous flower borders and hedging change through the seasons and come days when the weather halts play, the club's pavilion offers a pool table and an indoor skittle alley for members to enjoy.

It was during 2021 that the weather brought matters to a head for Dennis Hall, Broadway's greenkeeper of 10 years.

Increasingly, the green was suffering from standing water after heavy rain, with one area getting progressively worse. Even in dry periods, it was noted the ground was frequently mushy when the mower went through the area.

Avonmore Associates, the highly respected South Warwickshire sports grounds construction and maintenance



company, regularly maintain the green with a regime of spiking and aeration. They suspected a deeper problem.

As happens with many older bowling greens, the sheer volume of play over the years, combined with the substrate of the original construction, leads to compaction at a depth not reached by normal aeration.


In Broadway's case, there are mixed areas of stone and clay with insufficient release of standing water built up over time.

Avonmore suggested using Terrain Aeration, with whom they have worked on a number of projects, to bring in their Terralift machine to provide one metre deep aeration.

At this depth, the ground is usually so compacted it requires fracturing to open up fissures and allow drainage.

Terrain Aeration's Terralift system works on the principle of hammering a hollow probe through the soil using a JCB road breaker gun, and compressed air is released up to 20Bar (280psi).

At the end of the air blast, they inject dried seaweed, which sticks to the fissure walls. This expands and contracts with the moisture in the soil to keep the area breathing. Working to a grid with approximately two metre spacings allows the Terralift to create interlinked cracks and fissures deep underground to carry away the water. The 1.5-inch probe holes on the green are backfilled with Lytag aggregate and covered with topsoil, making it playable almost immediately.

The work at the Broadway Bowling Club was carried out in November 2021 and Dennis Hall reports that they have had several periods of heavy downpours and the deep aeration has done the trick with no standing water to halt play. 

For more information, call Terrain Aeration on 01449 673783 or visit www.terrainaeration.co.uk

Above:
The work under way at Broadway BC in Worcestershire

Left:
The Terralift machine

THE SEVEN RULES

The great debate about green speed has raged on since the beginning of the game. But what are the factors known to affect green speed? In order of their impact on green speed, these are the top seven factors that you should bear in mind. There are others such as weather patterns, level of play etc, but these are largely out of the greenkeeper's control and in any case do not figure highly in green speed management



Above:
Check the depth of
the thatch layer by
soil sampling

Top right:
Localised Dry Patch
and moss

1 THATCH LAYER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

This means knowing the thatch levels on your green and having a feel for how quickly thatch builds up at each point in the year. Typically, thatch will be much quicker to build up in the main growing season and it can easily take greenkeepers by surprise if they don't keep a watchful eye on the situation. Reducing a troublesome thatch layer significantly is a job best left for the autumn when severe measures can more safely be undertaken but following a performance greenkeeping programme will ensure that you are minimising the occurrence of new thatch through the production and maintenance of a healthy living rootzone and turf.

Bottom left:
Soil compaction

Bottom right:
Effects of
compaction

2 COMPACTION CONTROL AND RELIEF

Second only to thatch in causing green problems, compaction is a major factor in reducing green speed. This

is because it reduces the air capacity of the soil and encourages excessive thatch build up and generally poor soil conditions. This leads to uneven surfaces and areas of varying growth patterns which can have a detrimental effect on green consistency and speed. Compaction is literally the squeezing of air out of the soil by foot and machinery traffic. It is vitally important to get compaction under control and to maintain the green free of major compaction for as much of the year as possible.

"There are lots of theories about what causes LDP, but it in my opinion and experience the major factor is the excessive use of sand top dressings"

Inevitably compaction increases through the summer months as we play on and maintain the green more intensively. Applying the correct aeration practices during the autumn renovation programme and continuing with deep slit tining throughout the whole of the winter period are the best methods of keeping on top of compaction.

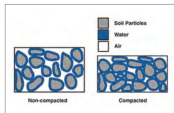
Preventing excessive compaction by staying off the green when it is overly wet and by spreading the wear around (usually by means of moving heads and asking players to enter and exit the green by different routes) can be a great



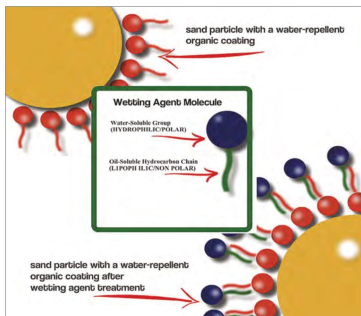
help in the summer, as can the judicious use of the Sarrell roller and pencil tiner. The use of rubber crumb materials, incorporated into the soil in the heads of greens can have a dramatic effect on reducing re-compaction. Deeper aeration is not always better. Verti-draining to more than 200mm depth for example is a common mistake made by many clubs and can result in damage to the subgrade and drainage capabilities of the green.

3 LOCALISED DRY PATCH MANAGEMENT (LDP)

A huge subject in itself and the one I have written about more than any other due to the severe problems it causes on bowling surfaces and the sheer volume of enquiries I receive about it. This not only adversely affects green speed, but green conditions generally. In basic terms, LDP is a condition (not a disease) that causes soil to be hydrophobic or water repellent. There are lots of theories about what causes LDP, but it in my opinion and experience the major factor is the excessive use of sand top dressings on bowling greens over the last 40 years. A thorough aeration programme throughout the whole 12 months of the year and the timely use of wetting agents are essential elements of any programme to overcome LDP. However, the main player in beating the problem is nature itself and for it to have a



OF GREEN SPEED



chance of working we must stop using sand top dressings and allow new humus to build up naturally through the decomposition of thatch over time. Some helpful tools that can be employed during the recovery process include zeolite turf amendments which help in increasing moisture retention which is usually greatly reduced in sandy soils; wetting agents which lower the surface tension of water and allow it to soak into affected areas more readily; the Sarrell roller which allows you to keep the surface open throughout the summer without adversely affecting the playing surface and careful irrigation management based on a water balance sheet. Liquid Bio fertilisers are a key component of the eradication of LDP also as they help to encourage increased soil microbial activity.

It is now also possible to re-introduce humus in granular form to excessively sandy greens and this is best applied in the autumn after hollow tining.

4 SWARD COMPOSITION (GRASS TYPES)

The finer bent (agrostis) and fescue (festuca) grasses are the desirable plants for creating a dense and uniform bowling surface which performs consistently. Unfortunately, almost all greens will suffer from annual meadow grass ingress and this is almost inevitable as this weed grass encroaches

from surrounding areas readily. Weed control is essential also but becomes less of a problem as the sward becomes finer and denser. Compaction and thatch control are key factors in producing a fine turf surface also; compaction being a major factor in the encouragement of annual meadow grass and meadow grass itself being a prolific producer of thatch.

5 MOWING FREQUENCY

A surprisingly important factor in producing a consistently fast paced green and much more important than mowing height which might come as a surprise. During the main playing season, it is almost impossible to mow the green too much. Daily mowing is advised, but if there is an evening event, then another cut in the late afternoon shouldn't be out of the question.

The majority of complaints about green speed could be eradicated if clubs could find a way around the tradition of cutting the green only three times a week.

6 IRRIGATION, AERATION AND FERTILISATION

Make sure that these regular cultural practices are applied as per the performance greens programme, in other words in timely planned fashion, using the most appropriate products and equipment each time. Irrigation practice should be based on a thorough

knowledge of the water balance of your soil through keeping records of rainfall and evapo-transpiration and applying water accordingly. Irrigation should always be applied deeply and not daily; this means that you should apply larger amounts of water at less frequent intervals rather than applying light applications every day during dry spells. Aeration practices vary through the year and these should also be adjusted to suit conditions but should include scarification in spring and autumn, solid/hollow tining spring and autumn, pencil tining and Sarrell rolling as required through the summer and repeated deep slit tining throughout the period from October to February.

7 MOWING HEIGHT

Within reason, lower isn't better and shaving greens will only produce a faster surface for a few hours and a pretty bumpy one at that.

Fine swards will suffer and meadow grass will dominate any sward where the cutting height is kept below 4.5mm for any length of time. Much more important is the requirement for mowers to be maintained and set properly and for the green to be cut frequently.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to drop me a message to john@bowlis-central.co.uk

Top left:
How wetting agents work

Bottom right:
Clean scythe cut versus blunt scissor cut credit: Bernard and Co

Top right:
Mower servicing, sharpening and setting are all important precursors to opening day

New shirt design for Gerrards Cross

For many non-players, the image of bowls is probably still this...



Thinking of refreshing your club's kit? Check out the advice from marketing expert Keith Young as we explore advances in colour, design, technology and style



But it is not just the colour of the kit that has moved on. There are new materials that absorb sweat and are lighter to wear and new printing methods that allow for intricate design.

Therefore, at some time, sooner or later, somebody at your club will say... *"Perhaps we should have a new kit!"*

It would not surprise me if as you are reading this, you nod in recognition and then shake your head and start pulling your hair out.

"We've been trying to get a new kit for years, but no one can ever agree on the design"

Can you relate to this? Read on and if you follow some of these simple rules you just might get that design through!

Gerrards Cross decided at its AGM on November 12, 2021, to change its shirt design.

Before fireworks had welcomed in 2022 the design had not only been approved but members had ordered shirts and waterproof jackets and the design was with the manufacturer.

So why is it so difficult? The trouble with design is that we are all designers! Don't believe me? When you got dressed this morning what did you put on? If you were going for a business meeting, what did you wear?

Maybe you selected a blue shirt and red tie?

If you were going to the pub for a beer with

your mates, what did you wear?

Maybe you selected jeans, trainers and a green hoodie?

What about the curtains that co-ordinate with the wallpaper so there is a nice effect that provides a nice contrast?

Believe it not, we all play the role of a designer and a number of times a day too. We don't always get it right and I'm sure we've all seen people that seem to have got dressed in the dark.

Design is also not an exact science.

In maths $1+1 = 2$.

In design $1+1$ might equal 2 but it could be 1, 3 or even 5!

So here are some of the rules that you might like to consider if you are embarking on the redesign journey.

1 Get 'buy in' from the club committee to a redesign.

Advise all club members that next season there **WILL** be a new shirt design. No 'ifs' no 'buts', the new season brings a new shirt and everyone that plays for the club has to wear it. No exceptions. Allow one and you might as well not bother

...Where in reality, it is all colours of the rainbow

2 Create a small group of individuals that work on the redesign. At Gerrards Cross (GX), we had two males and two females across all ages with a project manager.

These five people were not only representative of the club members, but they were charged with the redesign with no requirement to go back to the committee for design approval.

Five people is enough to get a balanced response, but be warned, the more people that become involved, the longer the project will take.

Five is a good number and get a gender mix of all ages with one of the members taking responsibility.

3 Decide what you want to achieve with the design. What do you want to say about your club? Work out how you as a club want to be perceived with the kit.

4 Start with the current shirt design. How far from today's design do you want to be? What is wrong or right with the current design? What would you keep

and what would get rid of? Is there any historical records you need to consider?

Looking at the GX kit, the core colours are white, light blue and dark blue. There is also gold in the badge.

Do you want to keep your core colours or start again?

Look at your design and ask yourself the questions above.

5 Create a set of criteria that the design can be scored.

We all have our favourite colours and no matter where that comes from, we have to respect that personal subjective colour preferences have to be put to one side.

We are ALL influenced by colour.

Go to Liverpool and ask 100 people what their favourite colour is.

Fifty per cent will say their favourite colour is blue with 50 per cent saying it is red.

Go to Manchester and ask 100 people what their favourite colour is.

Fifty per cent will say red and 50 per cent blue, however in this instance it will be a lighter shade of blue.

The power of football club shirts!

We are heavily influenced mostly without knowing. Taking colour, what colour do you associate with these brands?

Coca Cola? easyJet? Perrier?

Our brains are bombarded with messages, many subliminal and we have to create a subjective matrix for reviewing the designs.

So taking Gerrards Cross and its current shirt, let's look at a number of subjective questions.

Are the core colours of GX white, two blues and a hint of gold reflected in the design?

One if you think they are not, 10 if you think that is totally the case.

Current shirt scored an eight

Is the current design of the GX shirts something I'd be proud to wear?

One if you are embarrassed to wear the kit with 10 being very proud.

Current shirt scored a six.

Do these designs reflect the direction I feel GX should take?

One if you think totally not and 10 if you agree totally.

Current shirt scored a five.

So, with three very simple questions (and only you can decide the questions and how many you want) you are starting to take the subjectivity out of the decision-making process.

Having five people give their scores and then arriving at an average we were able to score the current shirt.

Current shirt score = 19/30

Therefore, any shirt proposal has to considerably beat this score.

DESIGN OPTION 1

1. On 'core colours' - 5
2. On being 'proud to wear' - 7
3. On being the direction the club should take - 7

Total 17/30

So not scoring as well as the current design overall however scoring better on proud to wear.



DESIGN OPTION 2

Since the club is Gerrards Cross and there is a cross in the club badge this seemed an obvious potential design route, but the feeling was a little too religious.

Crosses that were not religious were also reviewed.



DESIGN OPTION 3

Along with a design based upon the club badge.



DESIGN OPTION 4

All were scored and therefore ranked according to the objective criteria which is so much better than 'I don't like that'.

We knew the core colours and that we needed to add modernity and dynamism and therefore the new kit for Gerrards Cross next year is...



HOW DID THIS SCORE?

1. On the colour criteria - 9
2. On the 'proud to wear' - 9
3. On the direction that GX should be taking - 10

Total 28/30

In addition, the club name will appear on the back of the shirt as this is an important part of recognition for spectators.

As the design was being developed, a number of manufacturing companies were contacted and quotes were provided.

Not all companies can embroider and if you want to have your badge embroidered then this will limit the companies that you can approach.

Check the obvious things such as cost and delivery time and any volume discounts but also ask for a reference from another bowls club and contact them to see if they encountered any issues...

How long did the order really take?

Were the sizes on the large or tight side?

Do you pay 'upfront' or on delivery?

Members were given just a few days to select their size and despite this being in the run up to Christmas the response was incredibly positive with firm orders for nearly 100 shirts and 60 jackets. People responded to key deadline dates, because they had to!

As the club now had a very good idea of the sizes requested, additional stock was ordered in the most popular sizes.

In addition, the club is reviewing a range of products that members can wear at any time and here the products can be any colour with GXBC as more of a modern signature.



These types of products can be purchased from many suppliers with minimal lead times.

With a small team having the design responsibility, an objective approach to the design the process becomes less of a 'beauty parade'. Giving tight deadlines while on the surface may appear not to be sensible actually means that the process is much simpler.

There was the thought of asking members to select from some of the design proposals, however this is fraught with issues. Remember we are all designers so everyone would have had an opinion and the process would never have been completed.

This assignment took just six weeks from start to finish surely a redesign record?

BOWLS

INTERNATIONAL

BE INSPIRED, BE INFORMED...

We offer news, reviews, debates, features and coaching tips but we also highlight the issues. The result is a monthly magazine packed with articles that you will not find elsewhere- what's happening on the greens and in the game right now. We pride ourself on what we deem to be an ideal blend of interesting, entertaining, informative and instructive articles, supported by the latest news and views from some of the sport's biggest and influential names.



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HOT SHOTS Club

EXCLUSIVE SUPPLEMENT

BOWLS
INTERNATIONAL

HOT SHOTS Club

EXCLUSIVE SUPPLEMENT

Welcome...

...to the exclusive *Bowls International* Hot Shots Club supplement

Welcome to the exclusive *Bowls International* Hot Shots Club supplement.

It's been another bumper month of Hot Shot applications as the indoor season draws to a close.

Steve Artis and Mike Kett achieved their Hot Shot at Roundwood IBC.

"It was a top of the table clash in our Thursday evening pairs league which was very even until the Hot Shot end," said Mike.

At Market Weighton BC meanwhile, Sheila Burton and David Smith achieved two Hot Shots in separate matches. Will either or both of them get a third before the season ends to claim that all-important gold badge?

Elsewhere, Daniel Humphreys and Amy Rose Brooks achieved a Hot Shot in the Disability Bowls England Nomads Shield competition at Taunton Deane IBC. It was the first time the duo had played as a pair together too!

Fellow DBE players Jonathan Stokes, of Riverain IBC, and Colchester West End IBC's Dave Fisher also achieved a Hot Shot in their DBE classified national pairs match at Solihull IBC.

The *Bowls International* Hot Shots Club is famous throughout the bowls playing world.

It was launched more than 20 years ago to reward players achieving a maximum score on one end of a competitive match and remains as popular as ever.

Certificates recognising the feat and signed by 15 times world champion Tony Alcock OBE take pride of place in the clubs and homes of bowlers all over the globe.

Different coloured bowls stickers are also available to highlight the achievement of becoming a member of the world's largest and most exclusive bowls club.

Apart from having your names recognised in print and featured on our website:

www.bowlsinternational.com, why not send in a picture as well of the successful pair, triple or four, along with some interesting and relevant details about your claim.

You can provide a few details on the entry form that is featured in this supplement and email your photos to:

hotshots@bowlsinternational.com

Happy bowling and good luck!



Latest Hot Shot



From left to right: Ron Straw (second), Mark Strickland (lead) and Tim Medhurst (lead) from Knyveton BC with their Hot Shot certificates

BEDS

Kempston Park IBC (Melvyn Bowman, Linda Peck, Rod Fewings)
Kempston Park IBC (Mary Usher, Margaret Hinson, Margaret Howe)

CAMBS

March IBC (Shiksha Sharma, Bernard Warby, Mohan Sharma, David Warby)

CORNWALL

Newquay IBC (Richard Rowlands, Paul Holm, Frank Wilkinson, Bill Goudge)

CUMBRIA

Eden IBC (Barry Axom, Mel Cooke)

DEVON

Devon Colts IBA (Andrew Moore, Nick Moore, George Taylor, Scott Eveleigh)
Torquay BC (Jane Perrett, Richard Perrett)

DORSET

Dolphin IBC (Pauline Stoney, Bill White)
Dolphin IBC (Sandra Gowing, Di Phillips, Cheryl Sanders)
Dolphin IBC (Vanetta Westell, Eddie Harris)
Dorchester IBC (Marlyn Bickel, John Noble, Michael Lay)
Moonfleet 2000 IBC (John Marriott, Vic Mantle)
Wellworthy BC (Daphne Gale, Andy Smith, Marion Clements, Brian Durant)

ESSEX

Colchester IBC (John Kavanagh, Steve Eales, Sandy Finbow)
Harwich and Dovercourt IBC (Shelagh Wilby, Linda Ayre, Peter Wilby)
Rayleigh Leisure IBC (Peter Green, John Goldhawk, Brian Ashton, Chris Morris)
Turpins IBC (Dennis Mummery, Kris Rose, Peter Lester)

GLOS

Cotswold BC (Steven Sark, Goff Lane, Mike Fawlk)

HANTS

Banister Park BC (Ashley North, Marilyn Stubbington)
Leigh Park BC (Peter Rennie, Carter Blanford, Mark Miller)
Leigh Park BC (Karen Williams, Mike Curtis, Jamie Ward)
Riverside IBC (Gill Hurst, Pauline Bayliss, Sylvia Mould)
Stubbington SMBC (Marion Thomas, Ray Francis, Eric Goulding)

HERTS

Herts BC (Brian Hamilton, John Abbott, Roger Calverley)
Ilford and District IBC (Bob Chandler, John Batten, David Tomlinson, Brian Kelly)

ISLE OF WIGHT

Isle of Wight Community BC (Margaret Arnell, Catriona)

winners



Disability Bowls England bowlers Amy Brooks and Daniel Humphreys (both Devon)



Pauline Wright and Janice Brackenbury achieved their Hot Shot at Beccles IBC



Jonathan Stokes, of Riverain IBC, Hertfordshire, and Dave Fisher, of Colchester West End BC, Essex, achieved a Hot Shot at the Disability Bowls England national classified pairs competition

YORKS

Market Weighton BC (Sheila Burton, Sonia Robinson, David Smith)
Market Weighton BC (Rudy Young, Paul Widdows, Jean Phillips)
Market Weighton BC (Sheila Burton, Gavin Smith, David Smith)
New Earswick IBC (Wayne Osguthorpe, Dick Osguthorpe)
Selby BC (Sonia Turner, Louise Holland, Beverly Emmett, Gemma Broadhead)

WALES

Newport IBC (Jenny Small, Fiona Iling, Kath Gwatkin)
Newport IBC (Liz Watkins, Ganna Block, Eileen Samuel, Doreen Brine)

IRELAND

Maghera Presbyterian SMBC (Robin Clark, Robert Young)

CYPRUS

Aliathon BC (Margaret Jennings, Sheila Pullen, Jane Hewitt)

SPAIN

Cabrera Lawn BC (Christine Gunter, Jean Smallwood)
Greenlands BC (Sue Bosworth, David Morrison)

MISCELLANEOUS

Disability Bowls England (Daniel Humphreys, Amy Rose Brooks)
Disability Bowls England (Jonathan Stokes, Dave Fisher)

Mason, Melvin Mason, Patrick Bardsdell)
Isle of Wight IBC (Sheila Gates, Val Maddell, Pat Maher, Harry Kirby)
Isle of Wight IBC (Ted Box, Val Maddell, Barbara Moye, Vaughan Thompson)

KENT

Betteshanger IBC (Mark Crump, Bill Rackham, Sandra Tracey)
Bromley IBC (David Bellingham, Geoff Wooldridge, Darren Mortemore, Alan Browning)
Bromley IBC (John Wren, Barbara O'Connell, Chris Ellwood, Brian Heyburn)
Lewisham and Crystal Palace Indoor Bowls Partnership (Jeannette Singer, Michael Singer)
Mote Park IBC (Anne Gurney, Yvonne Crawley, Wendy Borer, Jayne Wood)
Mote Park IBC (Jane Turner, Mary Davey, Lesley Pantony, Jayne Wood)

LINCS

Dunholme and District IBC (Keith Staples, Keith Richardson, David Howell)
Louth and District IBC (Colin Marsh, John Bowles)
Skegness IBC (Frances Hopkins, Graham Hill)
Spalding and District IBC (David Hammett, Paul Turner, Tim Rogers)

MIDDLESEX

Bounds Green BC (Colin Harris, John Miller, Godfrey Sheldon)

NORFOLK

Diss and District IBC (E. Feavearyear, L. Jolly, C. Bond)
Norfolk BC (Errol Mount, Barbara Wilkins, Lin Curtis, John Collins)
Roundwood IBC (Steve Artis, Mike Kett)

NORTHANTS

Kettering Lodge IBC (Gail Brooks, Elaine Farley, Priscilla Davies, Peter Farley)
Kingsthorpe BC (Ann Udall, Maureen Brown, Celia Morris)

SOMERSET

Clarrie Dunbar IBC (Philip Hinvest, David James, Gary Ashworth)

SURREY

King George Field IBC (Dave Thomas, Shirley de Preez, Leslie Flint, John Marshall)
King George Field IBC (Barbara Smith, Vic Hemmett)
Old Coulsdon BC (Vanessa Gaunt, Bryan Gaunt)
West Surrey Bowling Association (Janet Robins, Andy Palmer, Andrew Boarer, Ray Uwins)
Wey Valley IBC (Barbara Crooke, Arthur Robins, Gill Macbean, Carolyne Stevens)

Wey Valley IBC (Arthur Cheung, Des Demaine, Dave Thurgood, Trevor Reigate)

SUSSEX

Adur IBC (Marion Hoggen, David Hoggen, Norman Edbury, Phil Hadley)
Worthing IBC (Barbara Froom, Percy Taylor, Don Nice, Roy Phillips)

WILTS

Five Rivers IBC (A. Walker, G. Warr, J. Gorringe)
Wiltshire IBC (Danny Holland, Alfie Holland, John Woodhouse, John Crowder)

WORCS

Bromsgrove and District IBC (Julia Simmonds, Roy Smith, John Albutt)
Bromsgrove and District IBC (Sam Perruzza, Simon Perruzza)



 Email your team pictures to hotshots@bowlsinternational.com to feature in the magazine



How to claim your Hot Shot Certificate

To claim your Hot Shot Certificate, complete this form and enclose your remittance for any Hot Shot merchandise required. Cheques payable to Hot Shots Club.

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(Secretary/Opponent)

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Date 3: _____

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Any interesting facts about the Hot Shot claim...

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What a night for Barrie! The 87-year-old celebrates winning the *Bowls International* sponsored Story of the Year at the Bowls England awards night.

WHAT'S ON: APRIL 2022

2022	Venue
March 27 - April 14	EIBA finals
April 2-3	WLIBA finals
April 9-10	WIBA finals
April 25-29	World Indoor Bowls Championships

OPEN SINGLES CIRCUIT CALENDAR 2022	Venue	Status (at time of press)
April 2-3	Leicester	Reserve list
April 9-10	Palmerston	Open for entries
April 15	Hartlepool	Reserve list
April 16-17	Wellingborough	Open for entries
April 17-18	Dorchester	Open for entries

Competition winner

Congratulations to **Jennifer Myers** who has won two pairs of Bias Bowlsweave bowls trousers in our recent competition

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

- UK Open report and photos
- English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh national finals round-up
- Crown green star's charity walk
- Expert tips for returning to outdoor bowls



ENGLISH FEDERATION ASSOCIATION WEEK WINNERS

Congratulations to David Adams, Janet Adams, Russell Pearce and Geoff Allen who won the English Federation Association Week at Potters Resort. They beat Pauline Ayres, Colin Cousins, Carol Miller and Colin Ayres 10-3 in the final. The winners are seen with EBF presidents Trevor Hardingham and Paula Gooch.

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