



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

Bowling Green, Leicester Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0LR



Newsletter – April 2026



The View from the Chair



Dear Members,

Electrical work, the major electrical work continues, with around 90% of the prep work now completed ready for the main switchover which is planned from the **29th April to the 5th May inclusive, when the Club will be closed.**

I just wanted again to thank you for your patience and support during this challenging time.

Air-conditioning work, the scheduled replacement of the two failed air-conditioning units is still on target for **Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th April 2026 when the Club will remain open, but the green will be closed.** Your support and understanding is much appreciated while this necessary work is undertaken.

Club Questionnaire, responses to the recent Questionnaire are now being issued via the notice boards, A5 print out on reception and email so, please take a look. Thank you again to all you who contributed.

The Movies, filming has now finished on the Club site with other locations now being used to conclude the film over the coming weeks. Thank you so much for your support and patience during the 6 days of filming, especially to those who were extras or were able to speak on set. Once the film is completed it is hoped that we can arrange a film night so everyone can see what the finished article looks like.

Phoenix Project, planting resumed late March and will continue during April with new trees and plants recently donated.

We continue to look for grant opportunities for the old clubhouse replacement having now received planning approval.

The sponsored benches will have the plaques fitted early April and re-sited and fixed.

The Pétanque terrain is now fully functional, if you are interested in playing, please contact Nigel & Jane May,

The Chairman's Birdbox challenge continues into the Spring and now stands at £680 as of today, thank you.

Regards

Martin Cooke

Winter Competitions

Competition Final's rinks booked with/by David Pick will be free of any rink fees. If you book the Final rink yourself, then you will be charged double-session rink fees for all players. Just a reminder – **it is no longer a requirement for you to wear 'Whites', i.e. white trousers and shirts, in Club Finals.**

Les Hall Trophy 2026

Nominations for this award are now closed, and the award will be presented at the AGM on Monday, 27 April.

Junior Vice President Election 2026

Nominations for this post close on 2 April. As to date, only a single nomination has been submitted then the applicant will be elected by a show of hands at the Club AGM on Monday, 27 April 2026.

Warning – Firing shots



Some of you are not complying with the rules associated with the use of firing shots. **You are required to warn not only the players at the head on your rink, but also any adjacent rink if their head is also at that same end.** In recent months, we have both seen and heard of damage as a result of such heavily weighted shots. We have also had an incident where a player suffered an injury whilst trying to jump out of the way. An injury that has involved several weeks being unable to play and problems for the victim's workplace duties.

Our Rink notices point out that you may be personally liable for any damage and possible injury. You may argue that the shot is part of the game. For some time now, we have asked that any practice of such shots is limited only towards the scoreboard end to reduce the chance of any consequences for the rink and bar lounge tables. (We would also point out that the desired success rate of such shots is relatively poor, and some skips have been heard to complain that games have been lost for the want of a lack of sufficient control.)

The Club is to remind players of the rules **with more highly coloured** rink side notices and will always look for contributions to the cost of any significant damage that occurs.

Quiz Night

Yet another successful quiz night was held on Sunday, 22nd February, under the direction of Quizmaster Martin Cooke. The winning team (suspiciously loaded with ex-schoolteachers) included Steve and Pam Alford, with their daughter and son-in-law, and Jim and Penny Brown. A good night was had by all.



Quiz-master Martin Cooke



The winning team

Club Team Match Reports (For full reports, and other news about Club players in their National Competition results please see the Club website.)

Men's Inter-League

28 February: Melton vs Carlton:

Melton had the advantage in this home match as Carlton were able to field only 5 rinks. They made the most of their opportunity, taking all five rinks to win by 99-61 shots and 22-0 points.

Mike Jones, Nigel May and Clive Wright started with a magnificent 5 on the first end. After that, the two teams were fairly evenly matched, with Melton scoring 3 shots in the 14th end followed by 1 on each of the last 4 ends to seal their victory with 17-12 shots.

Neil Eaves, Mike Greatorox and John Robinson started well and were 9-1 up after 4 ends. They maintained this momentum to be 21-5 shots up on the 14th end. Carlton tried to come back, scoring 8 over the next 3 ends, but too late - Melton won by 22-13 shots.

Zac Stevenson Wheeler, Dave Pick and Max Magee matched their opponents in ends won over the first half, but pulled ahead by scoring a 3 and some 2s to Carlton's single shots. At 8-7 up after 11 ends, Melton dominated the second half and won by 15-9 shots.

Tyler King, Trevor Main and Kyle Warrington were 20-8 up after 13 ends. Carlton staged a recovery over the last 5 ends and the final score was 22-14 to Melton.

Jim Gratton, Steve Kent and Jamie Deakin were well ahead at 18-5 after 11 ends, helped by a score of 6 shots in the 10th end and a 4 in the third. Carlton tried to pull back, but Melton held on to win by 23-13 shots.

14 March: Melton vs Charnwood away:

Melton lost their away match (last of the season) against League Champions Charnwood by 155-75 shots and 22-0 points. Melton finished bottom of the league after a tough season.

MOSIL League

Division 1

Friday 6th March:

Melton Torpedoes vs MH Mercenaries - (Dave Pick, Steve Kent, Dave Armstrong and Martin Warner) lost their home match against Market Harborough Mercenaries by 18-21 shots.

Melton Mavericks VS Leicester Bravehearts – (Dave Ward, Dave Hill, Paul Wells and Mel Burgess) Mavericks lost their away match against league leaders Leicester Bravehearts by 8-32 shots. Leicester dominated throughout first half to lead 21-5 at the break. Melton managed to tighten the game up in the second half apart from the 16th end where they managed to concede another six.

Monday 9th March:

Melton Torpedoes (Dave Pick, Geoff Turner, Ian Raynor and Mick Lawrence) lost their away match against Barwell Buccaneers by 7-29 shots. This was their final match of the season.

Friday, 13th March:

Melton Mavericks away vs Carlton Caesars - Mavericks (Terry Halliday, Phil Hopkinson, Peter Kipling and Mike Greateorex). It took some time before the Mavericks got to grips with the slower carpet, and they found themselves 2-16 down after just seven ends. Throughout the match they had few answers to the accuracy of Carlton's Lead and No2. Whilst the Mavericks started to pick up the scoring after the tenth end, dropping another five on the 13th end sealed the destiny of the result. It was some justice that the Mavericks took the last end, but the final result was 13-27. Mavericks will be demoted to Division 2 for next season.

Division 2

Friday 6th March: Melton Bandits won their home match against Barwell Tempus Fugit by 20-11 shots.

MOSIL CUP Semi-Final - At home vs Church Gresley Miners Thursday, 26th March

Melton Mavericks (Bob Jackson, Dave Hill, Dave Ward and Peter Kipling) found themselves 0-5 down after just two ends. They immediately rallied to take the lead in the fifth end by 6-5 shots. However, that was to be the last time Melton scored until the 15th end, the scoreboard showed Melton to be down 7-21 shots. Melton had not been playing badly, but had been bettered by some accurate draw and take-out shots from Gresley's No3 and Skip, who constantly undid the good work done by Melton's first two. Game to the end, and being three shots down, Peter Kipling went for Dave Ward's call for a firing shot with his last bowl. Melton were happy to see the three down become three up, and a final score of 10 – 23.

EIBA National Competitions 2025-6

Congratulations go to Jamie Deakin on winning his Novice Singles Area Final on 7th March against Rhys Taylor (Charnwood) by 21-20 shots - a very tight match that had spectators on the edge of their seats. He will now play Peter Burnell (Barking & District) in the last 16 of the National Finals at Nottingham IBC on Thursday 9th April, start time 3 pm.

'WOMEN CAN' DRAWN AUSSIE PAIRS COMPETITION

'Women Can' is an initiative run by the Bowls Development Alliance to increase the participation of women in the sport of bowls. The current gender split across the sport nationally is 39% female to 61% male. As part of the Club Development Plan, the Recruitment and Retention Team are striving to increase the participation of women in all aspects of the Club activities.

The second 'Women Can' drawn pairs competition has taken place over the Winter season to encourage ladies who haven't played in competitions to have a go. This time it was an Aussie Pairs format and again an experienced player was paired with a less experienced player to make things fairer. The competition was played



over 2 hours in all rounds to make the matches similar to the matches usually played by the newer players to put them at ease.

20 ladies entered the competition making 10 pairs who competed over 4 rounds. Many of the matches proved close with 3 decided on an extra end. Margaret Roswell & Chrissie O'Donovan played Peta Bourne & Hazel Aylott in the final, with Margaret & Chrissie coming out on top after a close game. They were presented with small individual trophies to keep as a memento. We would like to thank all the ladies who played, particularly the more experienced players who did a great job making their partners feel comfortable in the matches. The feedback from those new to competition was positive and it is hoped that they will consider entering the main Club competitions in the future. This competition will be run again over the Summer season with a sign-up sheet on the Ladies noticeboard.

Club Friendlies

Inaugural Indoor/Outdoor Friendly Match: 5th March

Melton hosted 12 players from West Bridgford Outdoor Bowls Club in this thoroughly enjoyable event; the final score was 57-22 to Melton. This was the first friendly between the two clubs and the return match outside at West Bridgford is scheduled for 5th July; no doubt the West Bridgford members will be looking to reverse the score.

There were no losers as such; the winning home team comprised Yvonne Kent, Sue Burgess, Dave Armstrong and Nigel May and West Bridgford's best rink team was Margaret



Abba, Robin Gardner, Richard Tegre and Ian Doley. Following the match, the teams had an enjoyable meal in the restaurant. A big thank you goes to Jeni Fanthorpe for helping to make this event possible. *Hazel Armstrong*

President's Tour 20-23 March, 2026 or Band on the Run!

FRIDAY 20TH March 2026

58 members left the Club at 9.30 for the first match at Cambridge Chesterton with 24 players, and non-players being provided with maps to visit the city close by. Overall score was 73-61 in our favour with best rink comprising Jane May,

Phil Hopkinson, Alan Hickin & John Robinson achieving 18-7 win. Departed Cambridge 3pm for Sprowston Manor Hotel for the duration of our stay in Norfolk

Arriving 4.30pm – 5pm in time to check in, relax and swim before dinner and a Red Nose Day quiz



SATURDAY 21ST March 2026

After breakfast, 24 players on board for Roundwood I.B.C with a carpet slow and similar to our pre-flip. Our overall score was 47-95 loss with best rink Kate Toon, Vanessa Watling, Phil Hopkinson & Jamie Deakin with a 12-18 win.

A further 24 players, plus non-players, then boarded the coach to play in the afternoon at Wymondham Dell and overall score was 46-118 which was our largest defeat. Best rink was Joan Casey, Suzanne Hughes, Brian Donovan & Peter Kipling on countback of ends won as our 3 best rinks all had a 6-point loss! Members took the opportunity to visit the town of Wymondham and the lovely Abbey.

Special Guest & after dinner entertainment was provided by Olly Day

A legend in Norfolk who has been engaging audiences with his unique mix of music, comedy and illusion including being the headline act at the Cromer Christmas Show for over 10 years and also the vocalist with the Jonathan Wyatt Big Band



SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2026

After breakfast the coach departed for Wroxham for folk to sample the Broads and then continue to County Arts I.B.C for the final game of our tour, 18 ends of 4's + spider were played. Overall score was 75-120 loss with best rink Sylvia Donovan, Mel Burgess, Pauline Wells & John Robinson with 21-11 win. Pauline Wells won the spider. What was pleasing was that we won 3 of the 6 rinks against the biggest bowls club in Norfolk.



Very special guest was Ross (regularly seen on TV at Potters) during the World Bowls Event accompanied by Scott Vallance the England visually impaired bowler who played on the day.

Dinner that evening was followed by the presentation of all prizes and awards. Eva and Stella were responsible for choosing 'shot of the tour' and chose John Robinson's last shot at Cambridge where he drew to within an inch of the ditch. He was presented with an engraved paper weight. We ended the tour with our Chairman Martin administering fines for a verity of misdemeanours with a wonderful sense of humour. This, and donations from County Arts raised £300.00 for Guide Dogs

MONDAY 23rd MARCH 2026

We departed the hotel for home via Kings Lynn for a break and walk around, arriving M&D IBC 2.30pm. We were so fortunate with the weather which was dry and sunny and we saw Norfolk in its best light.

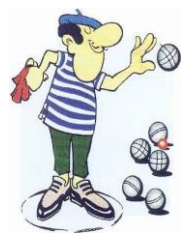


Open Coaching Session

23 Players enjoyed an Open Coaching session under the watchful eye of Mark Warrington and his team of Coaches. All 8 rinks were in action with a series of challenging tests of the skills of the participants. Once again, we have received some pleasing feedback after the event and requests for more such coaching. It is hoped that we will be able to put on another session on the afternoon of 11th May – keep your eyes peeled on the noticeboards for further details.

Pétanque

We are pleased to confirm that we have entered a M&DIBC team into the Rutland Pétanque League, and our first cup match is on the 14th April and our first league match is the 21st April at home to Saltby, starting at 19.30 if anybody wants to come along to support.



Our first official Saturday, 'Come and try Pétanque' event will be on 11th April at 11am - 1pm, all equipment will be provided. See notice board for future dates. *Thanks. Nigel May*

Events in April

Planned rink closures:-

Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th inclusive, and then Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th for Short Mat National Competitions.

Electrical work then closes the entire Club building from 09.00pm, Tuesday, 28th April until 09.00am, Wednesday 6th May

Winter Season Presentation Evening – starting at 18.30pm, Monday, 20th April

This event will also feature the hand-over of the President's Chain of Office for 2026/27 to Phil Hopkinson.

Annual General Meetings – starting at 19.00pm, Monday, 27th April

The Company AGM will be followed by the Club (BMC) AGM including the elections of the various Club Officers for 2026/27, including the post of Junior Vice President.

Our next social event will be:

Saturday, 30th May

Almost 60's Band Night

Tickets at the bar, meal also available

Find Us on Facebook



Another way to keep up to date with the Club is to follow us on Facebook – why not share us with friends and family. Take a look – but remember to use 'Indoor Bowls Melton Mowbray'.

If you know of a Club Member who does not have access to the internet, please ring them and tell them about the items in this Newsletter.

Raising Funds

Hi, we're now registered with **easyfundraising**, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/melton-and-district-indoor-bowls-club/?>