

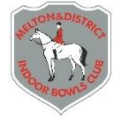


MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



Newsletter – May 2026



The View from the Chair

Dear Members,



Electrical work, the major electrical work was completed by a band of electricians over the bank holiday weekend and means the Club will be fully compliant and certified.

Air-conditioning work, the two air-conditioning units were successfully fitted on the 27th & 28th April with new control panels also fitted. We are now discussing plans to replace the remainder over the coming 2/3 years.

The Bar & Cellar, while the Club was closed, we took advantage of having the cellar completely refitted by the brewery and the installation of new pumps and beers, we also have new pint and ½ pint glasses, all donated by the brewery.

Club questionnaire, a small A5 booklet detailing response to many of the points raised by members is now available in the club and will be emailed out over the next few weeks. The winner of the free 12-month membership draw was Bob Thompson. Thank you again to all those who contributed.

Advertising & Sponsorship, observant members will have noticed that the various advertising boards around the green have been re-sited with new ones added in recent days and additional potential space for further boards. Members are asked to support the various advertisers where possible and if you are aware of other companies who may be interested in advertising, please ask them to contact Racheal. We are also looking for companies and / or people to sponsor the various leagues and competitions so if you are interested or know someone who may be, again please see Racheal.

Company AGM gave the opportunity to explain some of the ongoing challenges with the ageing building and increasing costs and how we were working on several fronts to keep the business on a positive track.

Kate outlined the financial status and members supported proposals from the board to keep membership fees at £78 (£73 for early payment), competition & league fees at £2.00 and introduce an increase on rink fees to £4:00 from September. I was also pleased to inform all those present that following some concerns raised over the green since it was flipped last year, Greengauge, have agreed to change the underlay and relay the carpet during the summer.

The AGM concluded with the presentation of the **Les Hall Trophy** to **Mike Greateorex** for his outstanding contribution, hard work and support around the Club over the past 12 months.

Regards

Martin Cooke

Phoenix Project

Thanks to some tremendous work by Kate in the office and the Melton Hub we have managed to secure sufficient funding for a new building to replace the old outdoor bowls clubhouse. Work will begin in June with an expected finish date early July. During the build members will notice a large skip and trailer on the car park for about 3 weeks. We have also resumed some planting with new trees and shrubs, and replaced some odd perished plants along the way.

Summer Competitions

The Summer Competition entry forms are available and the closing date says 1st May, but with the Club being closed for remedial work, we will accept entries up to 8th May. **The draw will be at 19.00 on Friday, 15 May in the Bar lounge.**

Winter Presentation Night

It was good to see a good turn-out for the Presentation Evening which, in a break from normal procedures, started with the investiture of the Club President for 2026/27 – Phil Hopkinson. Unfortunately, Phil was not to be able to attend on the date of the Club AGM due to a long-standing family commitment. The rules allowed the BMEC to move the hand-over to any event (e.g. an EGM) within a month of the AGM that had a substantial number of the Club membership in attendance, and the Presentation Night was ideally timed.

The evening started with Hazel Armstrong's end-of-office speech before placing the chain onto Phil's shoulders. Phil gave his incoming speech and presented Hazel and David with a token of our thanks before taking up his first duty awarding the trophies for the Winter Competitions and Leagues.

The Club also took this opportunity to surprise Stella Warren with a 90th birthday card and present. Erica Warrington was able to award Junior Section prizes to some of our very talented U-25 players, who also appeared in the main Club competition awards.

Competition Rules Changes - Entry Eligibility

The entry rules changes are as follows:-

Novice Competitions – If a member wins a Novice Competition, they are then not permitted to enter that same Novice competition again. They may however enter any other Novice Competition.

Intermediate Competition – If a member wins a Intermediate Competition, they are then not permitted to enter that same competition again. They may however enter any other Intermediate Competition.

Main Competitions – Any member who wins a Main Competition, is permitted to enter that same Competition each season if they wish, and all other Main Competitions are open to enter. They are not permitted to drop down and enter any Novice or Intermediate Competitions.

Any Competition that takes place with less than four entries does not count for the eligibility rule, and if you win you do not lose your pre-competition status at that level.

Summer and Winter Competitions are to be treated separately, winning a Summer Competition does not exclude you from entering the equivalent Winter Competition and vice versa.

In the Questionnaire, it was also mentioned about the play-by-date rules and this will be discussed at a future BMEC meeting, and a new rule will be added to the Competition Rule Book.

Annual General Meetings

A slightly disappointing total of just 46 members attended this year's Company and Club AGMs.

Company AGM. The opening financial news presented by Kate Burgess was also a slight disappointment with a significant loss posted for the year, as a result of an increased burden from the large number of essential maintenance activities on our 40-year old building, and a slight drop in the income from membership and rink fees. The increases in the Living Wage and NI payments for our staff are something that we cannot avoid, but add to out-going column of our accounts. The resultant figures might have been worse had we not received higher income from the solar panels and significant income from the outside hire of our facilities (both ESMBA and the film company). We also cannot under-estimate the value of the hours of volunteer labour provided freely by our members, which would have otherwise been contracted out at great cost.

It was left to our Chair, Martin Cooke to announce the increased rink fees required to carry us to a better financial position for next year – an increase of 30p to £4.00 for the standard two-hour session – with pro-rata increases on our other rink fee charges. There will be no increase in membership fees or competition/league entry fees this year.

Questions were raised on the ESMBA dates for 2026/27, the proposed amalgamation of Bowls England and the EIBA and finally the future of the arrangements with the restaurant. No firm answers could be given as these questions are due to yet run through the summer before anything becomes clearer.

Club AGM. As our new President was unavailable on the night, the meeting was chaired by Carol Pick, the BMEC Chair. The evening started with the annual reports from the various BMEC officers, delivered with the usual professionalism and no lack of humour, describing the many hours spent and issues dealt with over the year.

The majority of our Officers and Captains were standing unopposed for another year, and were confirmed by a show of hands on the night. Two vacant posts were filled. David Pick was to be stepping down as Competitions Secretary, and Mike Greatorex was nominated and accepted in that post. A vote of thanks to David was awarded to him for his service over the last two years. After the meeting, the other vacant post of Over-60's Double Rink Captain was filled by a late nomination by Martin Cooke, which was accepted by the BMEC in line with the rules for late nominations for vacant posts.

Our thanks go to all of you that attended on the night.

Bowls Stickers

After many years without cost increase, we have been forced by our suppliers to increase the cost of our Bowls stickers to 40p for a strip of 2.

Ladies Summer Drawn Pairs

Following the success of this competition in the last two seasons, we are pleased to announce that we will run another competition this summer. The notice collecting the names of those of you who want to participate should be on the noticeboards by Rink 1 after you finish reading this newsletter.

EIBA National Competitions 2025-6

Jamie Deakin lost his match against Peter Burnell (Barking & District) in the last 16 of the National Finals at Nottingham IBC on 9th April. A great achievement to reach the last 16 of a National competition - well done, Jamie! (Peter Burnell reached the final, which he lost 19-21 to Joel Roebert).

President's Charity – A fantastic total

On the 16 April, President Hazel Armstrong presented a cheque for £3088-68 to Steve Giles, representing the Guide Dogs charity. Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise such a magnificent sum!



Photo on left: Director David Armstrong (with Rusty), Chairman Martin Cooke, President Hazel Armstrong and volunteer Steve Giles (with Cassie).

Photo on right: Hazel Armstrong and Steve Giles with Cassie.

Club Friendlies

We are arranging a couple of Summer galas in the next three months – 27 June and 25 July - please watch the Weekend noticeboard for details of these popular afternoons.

Open Coaching Session

We will put on another session on the afternoon of 11th May starting at 14.30, but only if we get 24+ names – see the Midweek noticeboard for further details.

Junior Section Honours

Congratulations must go to the following Junior players who have won Club Competitions this year;

Under-18 Singles – **Runner-up** Abigail Eaves, **Winner** Zac Stevenson-Wheeler

Under 18 Pairs – **Runners-up** Evan Watson & Vincent Watson, **Winners** Abigail & Naomi Eaves

Most Improved Player – Aiden Gough

EIBA Youth Awards (Silver) – Abigail Eaves

Pegasus Trophy – Abigail & Naomi Eaves

Abigail and Naomi have had a spectacular year and have been regular appearances in the Club Competition finals, represented the Club in the winning Fantastic Fives squad and had invitations to takepart in England Under-18 Trials. We look forward to many more honours in the coming years.

Petanque

What a Great Start. Tuesday, 14th April saw our first competitive game, with a Cup game at home against Greetham Valley Traders, a team from Division 1. It was a very tight match losing 3-2, with the final match being decided by just 1 point. Well done to our team – Nigel May, Kev Birch, Evelyn Underwood, Bridgette Ramsey, Phil Hopkinson and Lara Higgins. (Both Phil and Lara playing their very first competitive game.)



Tuesday, 21st April saw us again at home for our first league game against Saltby Exiles. This again proved to be a very tight game, 1-1 after the first 2 games. The second 2 games were even tighter but we managed to win both, therefore winning our first league match 3-1. Congratulations to our team of Nigel May, Jane May, Phil Hopkinson, Bridgette Ramsey, Steve Wright and Kev Birch.

If you fancy coming along and giving it a try, please check the noticeboards or ring Nigel May on 07859 412620 for more details. *Thanks, Nigel May*

Sad News

We have been informed that **Di Palmer** passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on the 27th March 2026.

At the end of April we were informed of the death of one of our long-time members, **Margaret Cox**, at the grand age of 93. No other details are available.

We have also heard that **Dennis Smith** died at some time earlier last month. No other details are available

Our thoughts and sympathies go to their families.

Events in May



**Our next social event will be:
Saturday, 30th May**

**Almost 60's Band Night – Tickets £15
from 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/>