



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



Newsletter – August 2026



The View from the Chair

Dear Members,



The President's Role for 2027/28: Following the resignation of Sue Fleckney last month, the Board had to decide on the best course of action for filling the role of President after the AGM in April 2027. Next year was always going to present certain increased challenges and workload as it will be the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Club and opening of our

Clubhouse. When the proposals for the many, various celebrations (both Club and those involving local government, businesses and both County & National bodies) were first discussed, some 18 months ago, it had been proposed that we might consider extraordinary action to suspend the normal presidential election process and have the Board take over all of the demanding ceremonial duties for that year.

After a review of all the various options, it has been decided to adopt the previous proposal. At the April 2027 AGM, the Board Chair will take on the role of President. Nigel May will become the Senior Vice President as scheduled in the current process. Nigel and the remaining Board members will support the President's role as required during this busy series of celebrations. There will be no President's Tour in 2027/28.

The BMEC had also asked the Board to consider the future of the role of Junior Vice President (JVP). There had been some suggestion that the three-year pathway was putting some members off putting their names forward. The JVP year is very much a 'watch and learn' year for members who may not have been involved in Club management before. The Board has agreed (given that recent accepted candidates had all had some previous experience within the Club, and other clubs had already removed the role) to remove the role from the structure of the Club from April 2027.

The Green: Date confirmed for carpet stretching on 14th September (6:30am)

Infrastructure: Still waiting for electrical documentation and final invoice which is expected anytime now. A new BT contract is now agreed which should improve our internet service. We are waiting for new quote for the air-con replacements as it is struggling to cope with the excess heat and we may now have another four units to replace. Updating of honours displays is now complete.

Advertising: Signright Creative have agreed to supply a number of new signs both inside and out in exchange for a 3-year advertising board in the arena. Sensetec have agreed to sponsor an advertising board.

Social events:

Bingo afternoon - another date arranged for the 22nd August. (*See advert later*)

The Christmas Fayre on 22nd November has sold out of stall holders.

The Almost 60's band have been booked for a Christmas event on the 19th December.

Coffee Mornings: will recommence on August 6th, and then continue twice monthly on the first and third Thursday of each month starting from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Please come along and have a chat over complimentary tea & biscuits and meet other Club members, members of the community and local support groups.



Regards Martin Cooke

Phoenix Project

The work on the new Phoenix Pavilion had been delayed due to bad weather, but the recent weather change has meant that good progress has been achieved. The builders were back after 13th July to fit guttering, kitchen units and skirting, with plumbers and electricians then arriving the following week. We have decided to delay the final opening to 1st September as we want to level the internal floor before fitting the new carpets. (We were also waiting until after the Lion's 'Picnic in the Park' event on 8th August for that work, as they will need access to the building.) All of our benches are now sponsored.

Rink Fee Tokens

We will stop selling the red rink tokens on Saturday 29th August, so as many as possible outstanding red ones can be returned before we start selling the new blue tokens on 20th September.

Information from your League Manager – Chuck Kershaw

Three items for your information:

Firstly, here are the arrangements resulting from the match postponements during June 16th to 19th.



The matches postponed from Tuesday 16th June and Friday 19th June will not be played as there is no date available for re-arranging them. The Tuesday league will now be of 18 matches and the Friday league 17 matches.

Matches postponed from Wednesday 17th June will be played on Wednesday 16th September and the matches postponed from Thursday 18th June will be played on Thursday 17th September. **In all cases the rinks have been booked.**

Secondly, we recently had a situation where a league player was unable to complete a match as a result of illness. In this case League Rule 4.5 applies. If eight ends have been completed then the score stands and the game is ended at that point, but if fewer than eight ends have been completed the match must be re-arranged for a future date. It is not necessary for the same players to be used at the re-arranged date. We assume that no teams will feign illness after eight ends to secure a positive result!

Lastly, I am having problems with my land line. I can be contacted on 07452 965634.

Club Social Galas



The second Summer Gala was held on Saturday, 25 July – the theme was the colours of the flags and team kits for the Commonwealth Games. The lounge was decorated with large flags from different countries, along with bunting giving a great atmosphere to the green. The Pairs matches featured some very close games. After a count-back on shots scored, the winners were Jamie Deakin with his partner Kerrel Wills on Rink 8 just beating rink 5 who had the same shots difference. Geoff Rayment won the spider. Not many will be able to easily forget the sight of Jamie in a kilt and tam o'shanta, and many thanks to Brandon for climbing up tall ladders to fix the flags. The two-hour game was followed by a much-needed Tea & Biscuits - many thanks to all those who supplied raffle prizes. *Reported by Joan Casey*

Friendly against West Bridgford

Sunday, 5th July saw the return outdoor friendly against West Bridgford, having hosted them in March. The weather was kind, hot but bearable and after a warm welcome and a spider, play got underway, with 4 rinks of triples, playing 14 ends. It is worth mentioning that only two of our bowlers have bowled outside before, so a couple of sessions in the gym would have been beneficial, had we have known how much weight was required to reach the jack. Add into the mix the very narrow line, it took our players a little while to adapt, but after two practice ends and two ends with only one counting, we were getting the hang of things.

As the match progressed, the scores on three rinks were close, with the home team having the upper hand on the other. The match remained like this until the last bowls were played. Our only winning rink was, Laura and Alan Hickin and Phil Hopkinson with a 14 - 9 scoreline. The other results were narrow losses for Bob Jackson, Chris and Sue Fleckney 14 - 15, Mick Lawrence, Steve and Yvonne Kent 12 - 14. The other team of Mike Greateorex, Dave and Hazel Armstrong said they would prefer it if I didn't mention the score, suffices to say, they came second!! Despite an overall loss, we certainly gave the home team a good game.

Afterwards we adjourned to the club house for conversation, refreshments, thanks and presentations. All in all, an excellent afternoon enjoyed by all participants. *Thanks to Phil Hopkinson*

New National Club Team Kit Available

Although these items are intended primarily for use in those National competitions, there is no reason why all Club members should not be able to buy these shirts, trousers and shorts and use them in their Club bowling. We will be retaining the 'traditional' Club shirt for County Interleague and organised Club Friendly use. This is in recognition that so many members have already bought the traditional Club shirt and it would be a great expense for everyone to switch. Cash with order needed, please contact Racheal.



Ladies Dress Code

We have been asked to give an answer to the questions about culottes, cropped (Palazzo) leg trousers and Capri pants. Since the Dress Code was relaxed in 2025, there has not been a problem with such trousers for social bowling. They all fit quite nicely within the allowed 'smart casual' description. The vague area was wearing such trousers in competitive play. The Rules quite simply didn't mention such tailoring as only full-length trousers and shorts were described in both Club and EIBA rules. You might argue that if not specifically banned, then they were allowed. The Club has agreed to allow such cropped leg trousers (in a single dark colour) to be worn in Club competitions. We would advise players to check if there are any specific competition rules on length and colour if they enter any external (National) competitions.

THE PRESIDENT'S CHARITY



Phil invites members to take part in the 'SMARTIES CHALLENGE'. There are still a



quantity of FREE Smarties tubes behind the bar and the idea is that you ask for a tube, they are free, eat the contents and then over time fill the empty tube up with 20p's and then return it to the Club. If that gives you a warm fuzzy feeling inside, feel free to get another tube and repeat the process!! Hopefully, between now and next April, we can accumulate a worthwhile amount for this important charity.

Secondly, Phil has organised a 'Charity Night' at the Club on Saturday, 12 September, commencing with a 3-course meal at 6.30pm, and followed by.... oh yes, it's really happening 'ELVIS' will be in the building. So Don't be Cruel, just feel the Burning Love, it's not at the Heartbreak Hotel, but That's All Right cos you don't want to be Lonesome Tonight..... Well, that night anyway. So put on your Blue Suede Shoes, come along and get in touch with your inner Hound Dog!! Tickets are £30.00 and are available from the bar.



Summer Season Results

Foxes Summer Interleague



Saturday 11th July: Melton won their away match against Charnwood on by 61-42 shots and 10-2 points.

Saturday 25 July: Melton won their home match against Leicester 54 shots to 39, and 10 points to 2 points.

Rink6 Bettine Broadberry, David Pic, Alan Hickin and skip Arthur Broadberry lost 12-16

Rink7 Laura Hickin, Nigel May, Mike Geatorex and skip John Robinson won 19-10

Rink 8 Sheila Tyers, Jenny McConnell, Jim Tyers and skip Max Magee won 23-13.

Fantastic 5's

12 July: Melton Cheesers won their home match against **Charnwood Oaks** by 50-22 shots and 8-0 points, winning in all four disciplines .

12 July: Melton Try Hards lost their away match against **Stamford Saints** by 25-55 shots and 0-8 points.

12 July: Melton Fearless Foxes drew 4-4 at home to **Nottingham Hoods** after winning the singles and pairs.

19 July: Melton Try Hards lost their home match to **Melton Cheesers** by 22-52 shots and 0-8 points after losing all four disciplines

26 July: Melton Fearless Foxes won their home match **vs Gedling/South Forest**. The overall score was 41-31 to Melton, with a 7-1 win on points.

Brandon Giblett won the singles by 13-9 shots,

Laura Hickin and Brandon Giblett won the pairs by 9-6 shots.

Kyle Warrington, Izzy Pymm and Jordan Butcher won the triples by 11-8 shots.

Laura Hickin, Izzy Pymm, Kyle Warrington & Jordan Butcher drew the Fours with 8-8 shots.

EIBA National Competitions: Summer 2026

Open Pairs: 30th June: Max Magee and Brandon Giblett won their match against Simon Bradley (Barwell) by 17-10 shots.

Men's Singles: 3rd July: Paul Lonsdale won his Round 3 match against **Jamie Deakin** by 21-18 shots after 29 ends. He will now play Stu Thomas (Barwell) in the Area Semi-Final.

Open Triples: 8th July: Jamie Deakin, Paul Lonsdale and Max Magee won the Area Semi-Final against Sally Ann Lewis (Barwell) by 16-13 shots. A nerve-wracking final end after a 4-hour match in nearly 30C heat - well done to the team!

Women's Singles: 10th July: Naomi Eaves lost her Area Semi-Final match against Sally Ann Lewis (Barwell) by 6-21 shots.

Open Pairs: 26th July: Max Magee and Brandon Giblett lost their Area Semi-Final match against Jack Till's team (Church Gresley) by 10-21 shots.

Open Triples: 28th July: Jamie Deakin, Paul Lonsdale and Max Magee lost the Area Final against Michael Griffin's team (Nottingham), played at Erewash, by 9-20 shots.

'Bring a Friend'

The Club has been running this scheme for nearly a decade, but some members have been asking questions about it recently, so here is a quick reminder. Whilst the R&R team activities bring in most of our new members, it is not surprising that a good source of new members is our existing members. This scheme rewards those efforts by giving the existing member three rink tokens when the relative/friend/neighbour takes up a full membership.



In the pack given to new players at New & Improver sessions, as their temporary membership comes to an end, is a form for the 'Bring a Friend' scheme. You simply fill in this form so that it is attached to the membership application completed by the new player when they pay the membership fee. If the player has not attended the New & Improvers, then you can find a form in the rack at Reception, but you must make sure the form is attached to their membership application form (again found in the rack at Reception).

Just one rule, the existing member should have been a full member themselves for at least one month. (N.B. This scheme applies to adult full members only.)

Petanque

July 1st - We have continued our run of away games against our top of the table rivals, having beaten them 3-1 at home earlier in the season, Saltby Exciles reversed the score with a 3-1 win.

July 14th – We were away again at Rutland Agric Society, as it turned out the terrain was in a farm yard, with a tractor still parked on it when we arrived. A great team result with a 3-1 win.

July 21st – Again away, this time against the Bob Hopes in Oakham, a team we neat 4- 0 in the home fixture. Unfortunately, we struggled to adapt to their terrain and lost 3-1.

July 28th – As we approach our last 5 games, we at last return to playing on our home terrain with a game against Belton Bees, this was a very tight and long affair. The 2 games were extremely tight and long with lots of measuring, but we eventually came out on top winning 3-1.

We are currently still top of the league by just one point with just 4 games of the season to go.



If you fancy coming along on a Saturday morning and giving it a try, please check the notice boards or ring Nigel May on 07859 412620 for details. *Thanks to Nigel May for this report.*

Open Triples Tournament

The Club is organising an Open Triples Tournament to be held on 27 September. There will be 32 team places available, and each team will play at least 4 matches on the day. The prizes for the winners will be – First Prize - £480, Second Prize £360, Third Prize £240 and 4th Place £120. Entry to the competition will cost £60 per team Entry forms are available from the bar. **Less than 32 entries may result in event cancellation.**

BBC Children In Need



Children in Need Bowlathon arrangements will be coming out soon, from noon on Thursday 12th to noon on Friday 13th November. Look out for our invitation email and the poster on the midweek notice board for more information. Thank you.

Social Events

Our next **BINGO** afternoon will be

14.00, Saturday, 22th August

– 6 books of 5 Tickets/games, includes tea & biscuits.

All for £17 – pay on the day



Sad News

Terry Payne. After the last newsletter had gone to Press, we were informed of Terry Payne's death. Terry was a founder member of our Club and was also known to many of us as a past member of Holwell and as a manager at Pedigree Petfoods. He features on our Honours boards for the 1990's, but had not been a regular visitor for some years. His funeral was held in July. Our thoughts are with the whole family at this sad time.



Peter White. It is with great sadness that we heard of Peter's death on 22 July. Another of our founder members, who we can thank for the creation of the Club and facilities we enjoy today. Peter has not had the best of health for over a year, and his recent stay in hospital became more worrying when he developed a chest infection. Without doubt he was one of our better players, appearing in many Club finals and representative teams throughout the last 40 years. More recently, we cannot forget his great delight winning in the National Fantastic Fives in 2017 and being part of the brilliant team that won the Denny Plate in 2021/22.



Peter will be remembered for his forthright opinions on all matters of rules, team selection, etiquette and behaviour on the rinks. Not afraid to tell you off, but also always greeting you with a smile. He was supportive of newer members, and appreciated the finer skills of the game exhibited by all players. We shall miss him, and our deepest sympathies and support go to Doreen and his whole family.

Peter's funeral arrangements were family only. However, we understand that there will be a celebration of Peter's life held on Wednesday 19th August, at 1pm at Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club, Thorpe Road. No dress code. Donations will go to the Acute Cardiology unit at Glenfield Hospital.

Mary Browne. Just before going to Press we have been informed that, after suffering a major stroke and bleed on the brain, Mary Browne passed away a day later on Thursday, 23rd July. Our thoughts are with Arnold and the whole family at this sad time. **The funeral service will be at St Mary's Church at 12.30, on 14 August.**

Next Open Day

*INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND NEIGHBOURS TO JOIN US
FOR A FUN TASTER AT OUR*



ON SATURDAY, 8TH AUGUST

FROM 12.00 NOON TILL 16.00

*WE WILL PROVIDE SHOES AND BOWLS
– JUST WALK IN, NO NEED TO BOOK.*

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/?>