



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



Newsletter – October 2026



The View from the Chair



Dear Members,

Welcome to the winter season.

Bowling: The green was stretched on the 14th September, prior to the Summer National finals which were a great success with some excellent bowling and lots of positive feedback about the green and Club, and we are delighted to confirm we have agreed to host the event for a further 2 years.

Lounge. Members will have noticed new signage reminding all players to ensure their bowls bags and shoes are NOT left in the lounge or at the rink ends. We appreciate in recent years some members have fallen into the habit of leaving bags in seating areas rather than in the changing rooms, but this practice is not acceptable, as it creates a potential risk and compromises our insurance, so all bags should be left in the locker room or changing rooms.

Jacks. Members will also have noticed that you are required to collect your jacks once payment is made for the rink and then return it afterward to the bar staff. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to introduce this change due to several jacks disappearing over recent months, and I appeal to anyone who may have inadvertently taken a jack or placed it in their locker in error to return it to the bar at the earliest opportunity.

Infrastructure: We still await confirmation of an installation date for the 4 new air-con units but now hope to have most of the work done at nights to keep disruption to a minimum.

Phoenix Project: The new Phoenix pavilion is now operational with several community groups already using it, including U3A groups, Prostaids, Melton Methodist Church & the Melton Learning Hub. If you know of a local community group or charity, looking for a room to use, please let Racheal know in the office.

Although the pavilion is in use, we still have some finishing touches to sort, such as air-con/heating which will be installed early October and some flooring, but overall it is looking very promising.

Over the next few weeks, we will be putting our autumn / winter plan together for the open space area and once again we would appeal to anyone who would like to be part of the working group to let us know as soon as possible.

Coffee Mornings: 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

Membership Renewals



Your membership renewals are now due. If you haven't collected your renewal forms from the bar, please do so as soon as possible.

Remember you will not be able to book rinks at members rates or enter any of the Winter Competitions until your membership has been renewed.

Rink Fees and Tokens

The new rink fees charges are now in place. A two-hour session for members is now £4.00, and the one-hour fee is now £2.50. Packets of blue tokens are now available from the bar. Red tokens will still be accepted as long as you also pay the extra 30p, otherwise please pay for your session by cash or card at the bar.



Other rink fees have changed. Double session Club & County competitions are £6.00. (Singles Semi-finals and 2-wood Pairs will be £4.00.). Please check the posters for the charges for friendlies and galas.

EIBA SUMMER NATIONAL FINALS



A massive thankyou to the many volunteers, staff and restaurant team who helped make the 3-day EIBA Summer National Finals event an absolute success. Some fantastic bowling and a great achievement for the Club to host the event for a second year, and I'm delighted to confirm that we have been chosen to host the event for a further two years.

We should all be very proud. Thankyou. Martin Cooke, Chairman

Winter Competitions

Entry forms are still available. The live draw will take place on **Monday, 19 October**.

There will be several new formats being tried this season. This is possible as we don't have to run the traditional programme following the new entry conditions on County and National competitions. Club Competition entries close on **14 October**.

For the changes to entry eligibility refer to the information on the entry forms. **Please Note: the competition forms are now double-sided – Main competitions on the front, and Novices on the back face.**

County competition entry forms are also available on the reception desk.

Changes Around the Rinks

As our Chair has said in his introduction, it has been necessary to make a few changes about the provision of jacks, and issue a gentle reminder to you about leaving your bowls bags around the Lounge and rinkside tables.

Jacks. All jacks will now be kept behind the bar, and only handed to players once the rink has been paid for. They must be handed back to the bar staff at the end of the game and not left on the rink. Additional jacks for those practising will be moved from their current

storage place, so that people can't just help themselves, and will be logged out and in by the Bar staff.

Bowls Bags: We are seeing more bowls bags left in the lounge and at the rink side, and this has not been permitted by the rules at most, if not all, clubs in the country.

Locker Keys. Please do not leave your keys in the locker doors. We cannot take responsibility for anything that then goes missing if you leave the keys in the lock.

Going to the Rinks. Please do not go to the rink tables, nor put your bowls on the rink-sides, before the teams playing on the rink have completed their game and left the rink-side tables. Please wait in the bar lounge until your rink is free.

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 (next order on 9th October).



THE PRESIDENT'S CHARITY and CHARITY NIGHT



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 Bar.

A message from Phil Hopkinson; My Charity Night took place at the Club on Saturday 12th September, and yes, 'Elvis' was in the building. A significant boost in tickets sales in the two weeks preceding, resulted in seventy tickets being sold. The evening kicked off with an excellent three course meal, followed by 'Elvis's' first set of classic Elvis songs along with a few lesser known numbers. After some initial reluctance, the attendees decided it was time to take to the floor and showcase some of their best dance moves. Whilst 'Elvis' had a well earned break, a raffle was drawn, with prizes being donated by Club members and local businesses. Having recharged his vocal cords 'Elvis' returned for his second set, once again prompting some nifty moves along with a bit of 'Dad dancing'.

The whole point of the evening of course, was to raise funds for my charity, The Air Ambulance Service, and this was achieved to the tune of £715. I would like to thank

everyone who came along and those who donated raffle prizes. I have had lots of positive comments about the evening and sincerely hope that you all enjoyed yourselves.
Phil Hopkinson, President

Potters

As is usual in September, Potters was invaded by a large force from Melton. This time some 90 members. It was very pleasing that we were able to get Stella Warren to Hopton, despite her recent health problems, and the break seemed to revive that Stella smile a little bit more each day. Perhaps it was the results!

Everybody was a bit worried about the news that the carpet in the International Hall was only three weeks old and hadn't been stretched – "it was playing like a muddy field". Perhaps it was that fact the Melton players had got used to playing on any sort of surface (and many were only just coming indoors) that this didn't seem to deter our teams. Despite some very tough opposition teams, and experienced friends (including Great Aycliffe, Darlington, Bromsgrove and Bembridge), and even including the odd face recognised from the EIBA Summer National Finals held at Melton the previous weekend, Melton were to do very well. **Seven** Melton Fours got through to the last sixteen, **six** then got through to the Quarter-finals and then **all four semi-final places** were taken by Melton. There was to be no doubt – we were bringing home the gold (and silver) medals. Not that any quarter was given when facing their friends.

It was two very tired sets of Melton legs that met for the Final on Friday morning. It was a close game to the last end. Bowls can be a cruel sport and results turn on a single shot. In the last end, with a tightly spaced head, the call was made for a No3 to come through a narrow gap to the jack - with an opposition blue bowl close to the line. The line was good, could the weight hold? The Skip called with increasing trepidation, "Don't hit the blue. Don't hit the blue, Don't hit the blue– you've hit the blue!!" With that kiss the hole was blocked, an advantage gained and a good bowl deflected. The game was sealed.



The **Runners-up** were; Laura Hickin, Alistair Wright, Phil Hopkinson and Skip Alan Hickin.

The **winning team** were; Sylvia Donovan, Rose Barton, Alan Barton and Skip Brian Donovan. Congratulations to **ALL** the teams getting through to the Last-16.

The prizes were awarded by Les Gillett, the new Potter's Professional, and it has to be said that Les spent an awful lot of time talking, laughing and joking with all the Melton players during the week.

Summer Season Results

Foxes Summer Interleague

Saturday 12th September. **Melton won this last home match against Charnwood:**

Hazel Armstrong, Neil Eaves, Alan Hickin and Jamie Deakin narrowly lost by 16-19 shots against a strong team.

Laura Hickin, Martin Cooke, Gez Moore and John Robinson won by 31-6 shots, gaining two points.

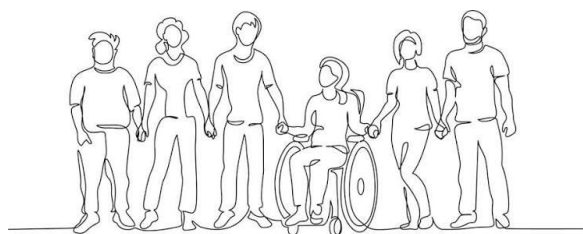
Yvonne Kent, Steve Kent, Mike Greatorex and Arthur Broadberry won by 18-11 shots, also gaining 2 points.

Melton won overall by 65-36 shots, giving them a total of 10-2 points.



Congratulations to Melton on becoming champions of the Foxes Summer Interleague for the third consecutive year.

Memorial Gala



The Memorial Gala will be held on **Sunday, 4th October with play starting at 14.00. Please arrive for 13.45**, when we will read out the list of our friends who have departed in the last year, and hold a minute's silence in their memory. The format will be simpler this year. We hope that enough of you will sign-up so that we can run 16

teams of Triples. Each triple will maintain their own scorecard, but will play two 8-end matches changing opposition (and perhaps rink) at half-time. Each team's combined 'for & against' and then highest score across the 16 ends will determine the overall winners. **Entry, including tea & biscuits £8.00pp, cash on the day please.**



We have been asked to give you a reminder about walking through the head when changing ends. Please stay close to the centre line when walking up the rink, and don't stop mid-distance for a 'conference'. As you approach the head, you should walk around the head and not through the centre. Walking through the head may cause enough disturbance of the carpet that bowls may move.

Secondly, please be considerate when standing behind the head. White shoes sometimes make it difficult to see the jack. Please do not stand directly behind the jack. You should also be well behind the head. We appreciate that this is difficult when playing Rinks/Fours.

Pétanque

Our first season in the Rutland Pétanque league Division 3 with us missing out on promotion by just 3 points and finishing runners up.

This can only be considered a fantastic effort by all the team, some of whom were playing pétanque for the first time.

I would personally like to thank all the team and the club for your support in what has been a great first season. We are already thinking of next season and the possibility of creating a second team, so if you are interested, please contact me on 07859 412620 or email nigelamay@outlook.com.



Thanks to Nigel May for this report.

BBC Children In Need

The Children in Need 24-hour Bowlathon will be from noon on Thursday 12th to noon on Friday 13th November. **Please put your name down on the poster on the midweek notice board by Rink 1 if you wish to join one of the teams.** The arrangements are quite flexible and you can ask to bowl for a team for as long as you wish (or at a certain time).



We will be running our Coffee Morning and cake stall on that Thursday morning, if you can spare any time to help with that stall it would be most appreciated. If you would like to donate a cake, that would also be wonderful (just bring it in on the Thursday morning). Please remember that we now must have to have an allergy ingredients label on the cakes (e.g. Gluten-free, contains eggs or nuts etc.) in order to sell them. Thank you.

Social and Club Events

BINGO. Keep your eyes open for news on the TVs and posters in the bar lounge about the next game – now planned for **31st October at 14.00.**



A Friendly away game at Peterborough on Sunday 11th October at 14.00. We need a few more players please, cost £16 including 2 course meal.

Please contact Joan Casey about travel arrangements. If you can offer a lift to other players this would be most appreciated.

A second away Friendly has been arranged at **Spalding on at 14.00 on Saturday, 17th October**, please see the noticeboard for details.

A third Friendly has been arranged for **Saturday, 24th October**, at **Home starting at 13.30 against Birstall**. This match will be followed by a meal in the restaurant and the cost will be **£13.50 pp** (cash on the day please).

The first Masterfood Triples competition against Grantham away starts on the **Tuesday 27th October** please see notice board for availability sheet.

Triples Tournament, we are still looking for more teams to enter our new MAD Open Triples Tournament planned for **Sunday 17th January 2027**, with over **£1,000 in prize money**, application forms on reception.



Our **Christmas Dinner & Dance** with the “Almost Band” live playing 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, Beatles & Christmas music will be held on **Saturday, 19th December**. Tickets are £40 per person please book direct with the restaurant and keep your eyes open for more information on the Lounge TV screens for this popular event.

Next Open Day

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



ON SATURDAY, 10TH OCTOBER

11.00 TILL 15.00

THEN ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER - 19.00 TILL 21.00

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

Sad News

In the last few weeks we have been informed of the deaths of two of our long-term members.

Dick Bradbury, a regular Tuesday and Sunday leagues player, died on 18th September.

John Evans, husband of Janet, well-known to all outdoor and indoor players at Melton, passed away on 21st September.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go to both families.

A Message from our local Policeman



Our local 'Bobby' is in possession of a set of bowls found in the area. They are marked with Holwell stickers. If you have lost your bowls, and think that they may be the ones, please contact the officer on 07815 720456. He will ask you for a better description!!

Please help to Raise Funds

Members are reminded that we are registered with **easyfundraising**, which means that you, your family and friends can help raise club funds 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 and 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/?>

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.