



Volume 1 |

Issue 1

August 2024

Welcome to Denby

The Newsletter of Denby Bowls Club.

“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success”

*Alexander
Graham Bell*

Before the 2024 season got underway, the Club Committee put together a Club Development Plan to set out our overall strategy and the specific actions we would take in 2024 to take the Club forward.

This work is already bearing fruit, and several changes have already been made this year including:

- Our new club logo;
- A Membership Pack, to give new members all the information they need when they join the Club;
- A new membership database so that all members details are held together in one secure place;
- Our new club clothing range;
- A grant of £5000 via Amber Valley Borough Council (some of which has already been spent to repair a second path and give better access to the green from the overflow car park via the double gates);
- The addition of Ripley u3a to our previous Belper u3a bowling group;
- Our most successful Big Bowls Weekend event to date;
- Our first Bowls Taster Sessions (run for Smalley Road Runners and Kilburn & Horsley Cub Scouts) to help generate interest in our sport.
- Work around the green to improve the feel of the Club for members and visitors alike.

Much more work is still in progress. The paragraphs below give further information on some of the other things we have planned.

Access to Bowls



As a committee we passionately believe that bowls is a sport for all, irrespective of age, ability, or level of physical fitness. We are therefore working to make our club fully accessible to everyone in the community and this was a particular feature of our AVBC grant application.

The remainder of the grant is earmarked for the repair of the 3rd path at the Bottle Brook end of the green, repair of the disabled toilet in the Institute, a portable ramp to improve access to the green, and the purchase of a wheelchair and other bowling aids for those who are less physically able. Work is progressing on these further improvements.

Ultimately, we hope to register with Disability Bowls England and become their first outdoor member club in the region.

August Family Sessions

We will be running family bowling sessions at 11 o'clock and 12 o'clock every Friday during August. Sessions cost just £2 per adult and £1 per child per session. Please tell your family and friends about their chance to come along and do something different during the school summer holidays. Bowls Buddies (soft, lightweight bowls) will be available for those with younger children, along with free use of equipment and tips on how to play the game. All they need is a pair of flat shoes or trainers.

New Club Sponsors

In the next few days, we will be signing off a new sponsorship deal between the Club and Radfield Home Care.

Radfield Home Care cover Derby, Ashbourne & South Derbyshire and provide tailor made care plans to enable people with a variety of specialist health conditions to remain in their own homes, or to provide much needed respite for full time carers.



We will be entering into a long-term agreement whereby Radfield Home Care will sponsor the Club each year in return for us helping to promote their brand. We will do this by adding the Radfield logo to our signage and club clothing range and by displaying a banner and literature around our green.

The benefits we receive will help us to continue to develop the Club now and in years to come.

We are delighted to welcome Radfield Home Care aboard as our principal sponsors and look forward to working with them.

Improving Our Green

The wet, relatively warm summer has encouraged the green to grow with no need to water. Nevertheless, independent advice has confirmed our view that we have too much thatch (dead organic material) below the surface of the green and that we need to take action to remove this, encourage healthy growth, and reduce the likelihood of disease.

A programme of work, including aeration, scarification, top dressing and over-seeding has been recommended and we have approached several companies to get quotes for this work, which will cost almost £3000. A grant application has been submitted to cover these costs and we are awaiting the outcome of that application. If we are successful work on the green will be undertaken in October in readiness for the 2025 season.

Have Your Say

It has been suggested that some of you feel uninformed about what the committee is doing and that you would not be happy to approach and talk to a committee member with suggestions, queries or comments.

This has concerned us greatly and in order to investigate this we are taking 2 actions:

1. We will be publishing a quarterly, members only newsletter, like this one, bringing you news of what we are working on and what new plans and goals we have for the future.

2. We are also asking you to fill in a feedback form to let us know what opinions, suggestions or comments you may have on what we are doing.

The feedback form is at the back of this newsletter and can be sent to us online, by email, or you can complete a printed form and post it in the box in the field shelter – whatever you're most comfortable with. The form is anonymous, so tell us what you think and let us have your feedback by the closing date of Monday, 19th August.

On the Way Up

A review of our league season to date

As we approach the end of the season, we are pleased to report the progress made by our teams competing in the Belper & mid-Derbyshire Leagues. To summarise:

Saturday Singles

With only a handful of games left to play the team has again achieved a solid, mid-table position in Division 4 and, with some promising new players coming through, can look forward to 2025 with some optimism.

Wednesday Doubles

Having finished in bottom spot last year, we are pleased to report an improved showing this time around. A highlight of the season was taking 8 points from top of the table Holbrook in May, and the team has improved in confidence and skill as the season has progressed.

Over 55's

With 5 of the 18 matches remaining, we sit top of the Division 3 table in one of the 2 promotion spots! It is tight at the top, with 3 other teams Chellaston A, Codnor A and Wirksworth in hot pursuit. Come on Denby!!

Ladies

The season ended with a remarkable 8 - 2 win against Rykneld, who had won all their previous matches and had already finished top of the league. We won 3 games by 21 points to 20 and won the aggregate by 2. It was a very tense & enjoyable evening, and a fitting end to our season.

2 years ago, the newly formed Ladies team came last by a long way. In 2023 we were still last but had improved our score, and this time around we finished with 2 teams below us. Onwards and upwards!

Well done to all those who have represented the Club with such credit in 2024. A season we can be proud of.

End of Season Celebration

Our end of season buffet/awards/quiz will take place on Friday 11 October at Alfreton Golf Club.

The awards will include a “Player’s Player of the Year” award which will be decided by club members. Watch out for nominations at the end of August, and we will be asking you to vote during September.

Members and spouses/partners are welcome. Please book your place with Ronda if you have not done so already

Follow us on Facebook



Please follow us on Facebook and like our page. We will use Facebook to keep you and the community informed about what we are doing and the latest news from the club. Please share our Facebook posts with your Facebook friends so that we can spread the news.

Your Committee Members:

Ian Mosley (Chair), Janice Atkinson (Vice Chair), Richard Noble (Treasurer), Ronda Sims (Secretary), Trevor Atkinson (Doubles Captain), Clive Buxton (Saturday Captain), Glenys Sims (Committee Member).

We would welcome your feedback on the questionnaire attached to this newsletter.

CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE

Please tick the answer that best represents your views.

1. **Q: Do you know who the Club Committee members are?**
A1: I don't know who is on the Committee
A2: I know who most Committee members are
A3: I know who all our Committee members are
2. **Q: Do you know who the Club Safeguarding Officer is?**
A1: I don't know who it is or understand their role
A2: I know who it is but don't understand their role
A3: I know who it is and what they are there for
3. **Q: Would feel comfortable raising any queries or concerns about the Club with a member of the Committee?**
A1: Yes – I could raise any issues with any of our Committee members
A2: Maybe – I would be comfortable speaking to some but not all
A3: No – I would not feel able to raise my concerns with anyone
4. **Do you feel that the Committee tell you enough about what is happening within the Club?**
A1: No, I would like much more information
A2: I feel that the amount of information given to members is about right
A3: I am not interested in what the Committee are up to, I just want to play bowls
5. **Should the Committee ask for more input from members before taking decisions that affect them?**
A1: Yes, the Committee should ask members what they think about before taking decisions on any major issues
A2: I feel that members are consulted when the need arises
A3: No, we elect a Committee to run the Club on our behalf and we should trust them to get on with it
6. **Do you feel that you are involved enough in the day to day running of the club and the changes that are being made?**
A1: No, I am not given enough information about how I can get involved
A2: No, I would like to be on the Club Committee!
A3: Yes, I help when I can
7. **How do you feel about your Club?**
A1: Nothing much has changed
A2: Things are going downhill
A3: The Club is changing for the better

Thank you for your time. We welcome your feedback. Please add any comments you wish to make about these or any other issues on the back of your questionnaire and return it by 19 August 2024.

There is a box in the field shelter where you can post your completed questionnaire, or you can send it by email or hand it to any member of the Committee if you would prefer.