



Welcome to Denby

Volume 2, Issue 1

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The Newsletter of Denby Bowls Club.

As February passes so excitement and anticipation for the new bowling season begins to grow.

Surveys were carried out last month to ask full members for their team preferences for the coming season. This exercise showed that we have enough players to support a new team playing on Tuesday evenings so, after a few years absence, 2025 will see the Club return to the South Derbyshire League to play in Division 3 of the Bridge Inn Tuesday League. We wish team captain Wayne Birch and his new Tuesday team the best of luck .



Wayne Birch

Our Over 55's, Wednesday Doubles, Ladies and Saturday Singles teams will all be returning to action in the Belper and Mid Derbyshire League and, hopefully, will all be able to consolidate the improved performance they achieved last season.

In the meantime... there is much to be done to get us ready! Some work has already begun, for example the overgrown area at the back of the shelter has gradually been cleared for planting, and Lorraine has started to prepare the outside of the shelter for repainting.

We have put together a list of the things we would like to get done to improve the green, the gullies, the field shelter and the grounds for the new season. You can see the list and how and when you can get involved in the pages that follow.



The overgrown area at the back of the shelter has gradually been cleared for planting.



Breaking News

Members are advised that due to other commitments Trevor Atkinson has decided to stand down from the Club Committee and relinquish the captaincy of our Doubles team after a successful 2-year spell. The Committee would like to thank Trevor for his contribution to the Club and I am sure that all Doubles players would also want to thank him for his leadership, good humour and encouragement.

Allison Bentley will be stepping up as Doubles captain for 2025 and joining the Club Committee. Lorraine Wright will be taking on Allison's former role as Vice-Captain. We wish them the best of luck for the upcoming season.

Getting Ready

Here is the current list of things we would like to get done for the new season. It is an ambitious list, and we may not get it all done, but we can have a good go...

SHELTER

1. Prepare and re-paint the front, sides and rear of the shelter and wall near gate
2. Prepare and re-paint the fascia board on the front and sides of the shelter
3. Empty shelter, clean everything – especially chairs- and replace.
4. Repair the trolley in the shelter
5. Fit missing fascia board at the rear of the shelter, add additional guttering and fit additional water butt.
6. Build a bowls storage cupboard to replace metal chest.
7. Build a recycling bin
8. Fit club bell

GREEN

1. Free up overgrown sprinklers on the surface of the green (shelter and Institute sides ready for repair of sprinkler system)
2. Treat weeds
3. Spring granular feed
4. Cut 2-3 times before the end of March starting at 10mm and gradually reducing height of cut

GULLIES

1. Strip out the gully on the Shelter side of the green. Fit weed control membrane, re-position wood and peg into place, replace protective rubber strip.
2. Trim edges of green and ensure all gullies are clean and sound, repairing as necessary.

PAINTING

1. Prepare and repaint wooden bowls rack
2. Prepare and repaint bottom section of floodlight towers
3. Prime and paint metal water tank
4. Re-paint bench at entrance to the green

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Sweep all paths around the green and weed if necessary.
2. Move Tractor Tyre into position (at the rear of the shelter) for planting up
3. Cut back Brambles on the lane at entrance to the Institute and clear undergrowth from around the Institute/Bowls Club Sign
4. Fit new Bowls Club signs on Derby Road
5. Cut back overflow carpark beyond double gates
6. Fill ruts at entrance to overflow car park
7. Display Radfield Home Care Banner at Bottle Brook end of the green as per sponsorship agreement.

And here is how you can get involved...

Ways to get involved

Here are some ways that you can get involved in the work that needs to be done to keep our Bowls Club running and improve our facilities.

1. Volunteer Days

As in previous years, we are proposing to have 2 volunteer days on Tuesday 11th March from 10am to 4pm, and Sunday 16 March (which is also Signing On Day) from 10am to 1pm. If you can spare some time to help us get ready for the new season please let Ian know when you can come and if you have any preferences about what you would like to help with (phone/text 07711 337113, email mosleyian1@gmail.com or WhatsApp).

2. Adopt a Border

If you pardon the pun, the number of flowerbeds around the green is continuing to grow! This means that the cultivated area that needs to be planted and kept weed free is bigger than ever and any help that any experienced or budding gardeners can give would be greatly appreciated.

One way you can help is to “Adopt” a border – a specific area of garden that would be allocated to you and you can take care of it on behalf of the Club. Your area can be as big or small as you like – every bit helps - just get in touch with Ian or Lesley and they will help you pick your patch so that you can get started.

3. Watch out for Volunteer Corner

During the season there are sometimes tasks that crop up that we could use some help with. These will be featured in “Volunteer Corner” in future newsletters and we will advertise on the shelter noticeboards too.

4. Support Our Teams

Finally, if you are not playing, then why not come and support our teams at our Home league matches? Just come along and give some encouragement or help with scoring or teas & coffees if you want to. We would love to see you.

The Denby Bell

So, who spotted “Fit Club Bell” on the previous page? I can explain. We are now the proud owners of the Denby Bell, a brass bell that will be fitted on the outside of the Shelter. The idea is that the player who wins their game, be it a home or away player or even after a social bowling success, gets to ring the bell.

As well as providing a way of celebrating a success, this is intended to be another way of differentiating our Club from all the rest and making Denby Bowls Club stand out from the crowd. I hope you all get the chance to ring the bell soon. Ding Dong!



It's All Happening At The Institute!!

When we return to bowling you will see that there has been a huge amount of work done at the Institute in a determined effort to change its fortunes.

There have been some significant changes to the landscape. This arose primarily due to the situation at the rear of the building. As you can see from the picture below, mounds of earth were not only causing damp to get in but also preventing access to the main sewer. Several days effort by man and machine have transformed the area, and contractors have now been booked to break out a channel to plumb in the disabled toilet. This means that the existing (and unreliable) macerator can be removed. The team went on to fill in the ditch that previously ran around the outside of the car park. This has helped stabilise the wall at bottom of the railway embankment and will give us more room to manoeuvre in the car park.



Before....



... and After



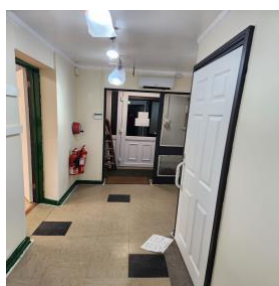
Work in progress in the car park

The inside of the building is also undergoing a major make-over. In the main hall:

- The wiring has been renewed and all redundant cabling removed;
- The wall heaters have been fully serviced and refurbished;
- The ceiling has been insulated and new replacement ceiling tiles fitted;
- The floor has been given a clean and make-over;
- The room has been redecorated.



The main hall



Wet paint



Exit stage right!



Ladies toilet W.I.P

As ever there have been unanticipated problems as the picture of the ceiling above the stage shows! The Bowls Club has contributed towards the costs of refurbishing the main toilets and we hope to have new water heaters, hand driers and soap dispensers fitted, and a makeover of the Ladies toilets done for this season. The leaking toilet in the Gents has been fixed, the urinals are now flushed at regular intervals, and we have hot & cold running water. More work in the Gents area will follow later.

We owe a sincere vote of thanks to the volunteers who are making all this possible. Simon and his family continue to work tirelessly, Allison & Paul Bentley have spent countless hours there, supported by Glenys, Lorraine & others from the Club. Much still to do, but Rome wasn't built in a day! Their efforts are helping transform the Institute into a building that Denby can be proud of and an asset for the wider community.