

Volume 3, Issue 1
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Welcome to Denby

The Newsletter of Denby Bowls Club.

Getting Ready for the Off!

The 2026 season is coming over the horizon and will be upon us before we know it. In this issue of “Welcome to Denby” we will give some information on things to be done between now and the end of March and also focus on some changes that will be taking place in 2026.

Team Preference Survey

The 2026 Team Preference Survey has been carried out this month.

The survey is very important to us because it lets us know who wishes to be considered for regular selection for each of our league teams, and who is prepared to help out “if needed” on an occasional basis.

Preferences can be changed at a later stage if players so wish, but this initial information is used in a variety of ways:

- To check that each of the teams is viable, with a sufficient pool of players to call on throughout the season.
- Based on the above, to confirm what teams should be entered in the Belper and the South Derbyshire Leagues.
- To make sure that everyone who wishes to play competitive bowls is registered with the appropriate league(s).

Other than the Ladies team, which is female only, there are no restrictions on what team(s) individuals can opt to be considered for.



Here's hoping it stops raining in time for the new season!

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The results of the Team Preference Survey are shown at the back of this Newsletter. Thanks to all for your co-operation.

It's that time again



"Mum always told me that I would end up in the gutter"



"I don't know why everyone else isn't in shorts"

In a couple of weeks' time Paul (Collins) and I will be visiting the Club to assess the state of the facilities and the extent of the damage caused by the autumn and winter weather.

The purpose of the visit will primarily be to draw up a list of the tasks that need to be undertaken before the start of the season to get the Club shipshape again.

As in previous years, we will be asking Club members to lend a hand in March to get the list of jobs done so that we are good and ready for the start of the new season. The dates for this year's volunteer days are:

**Sunday, 8th March
and
Thursday, 12th March**

We hope there will be a good turn out – after all, many hands make light work.

After that it will be Members sign on day on **Sunday 22 March** and, weather permitting, the first Monday social bowling session will be on **Monday 23rd of March 2026**.
Not long to go!



"I'm sure I buried it here somewhere"



"You can slap it on quicker with both hands"

Do you like to party?

The Club Committee recently talked about non-bowling related social events. There were a number of questions in our minds, such as:

- Should we have them or not?
- Should we programme them into the bowling season, or should they be in the autumn and winter months when we are not playing bowls (or both)?
- What kind of non-bowling related social events would members like?
- Is there anyone who would be interested in helping to plan and/or organise an event or lend a hand on the day?

Now that the Institute have the main hall available for hire, we have a ready-made venue for social events. This gives us the opportunity to hold non-bowling activities where members can get to know each other better in a relaxed, social atmosphere. It also gives us the potential to raise funds to invest in the Club and thereby to continue to improve the Club facilities.

We would like to know what members think about these issues and will be creating a discussion group on WhatsApp in February so that you can tell us what you think.

Watch WhatsApp for details.

CLUB COMPETITION UPDATE

1. Club Singles Tournament 2026

Last Year was the inaugural year for our two singles competitions, the Radfield Home Care Cup and the John Pinnington Trophy, with Martin Smith and Clive Buxton becoming the first players to get their names engraved on the respective trophies.

We will be using the same format again in 2026, with an initial group stage to decide who competes in which competition. Entries will open in **June**, with the Semi-finals and Finals to be played on *Finals Day* on **Sunday 27th September 2026**.

Please put the Finals Day in your diary – we hope that as many members as possible will come along on the day to watch and cheer on the players as the two competitions reach their climax and the trophies are presented.



2025 Radfield Cup Winner
Martin Smith



Clive won the JP Trophy
last year



Doubles Champs – 2025 winners
John Pinnington & Chris Moriarty

2. Club Doubles Tournament

Another date to remember is **Sunday 23rd August 2026** when this year's Club Doubles event will take place. We have decided to avoid the August Bank Holiday this year and have moved to the Sunday so that those members who work on weekdays can still take part.

Once again, Doubles pairings will be drawn from two pots at random on the day, with the objective of pairing more experienced bowlers with a less experienced partner. The competition will begin with a "Round Robin" format, with each pair playing several opponents. Those with the highest Aggregate Points scored will progress to the semi-finals and final.

Please come along and enjoy a fun day bowling – you never know you might even go home with some silverware!!

Belper League Rule Changes for 2026

Clubs competing in the Belper League met in November 2025 to vote on proposed rule changes for the 2026 season. A number of the changes that Clubs had put forward were carried, the most significant being a change to the points awarded to the team winning the aggregate score in matches.

Up until now, two match points have been awarded to the team with the highest overall match score. When the total overall match scores were equal each team received one point. The new rule for the 2026 season is that if the home team wins the aggregate match score, they receive 2 points but, should the away team win, they receive 4 points. If the total overall match scores are equal, 1 point will be awarded to the home team, and the away team will receive 2 points.

Other rule changes that will apply this season are:

- Ladies and Wednesday Doubles - Clubs with floodlights to start at 7:00pm throughout the season. Clubs with no floodlights, current rules to apply. Fixture list to highlight clubs with no lights).
- Players must have played at least two league games for a team in the Wednesday Doubles, Over 55's or Ladies League to be eligible to play for that team in a cup semi-final or final.
- Matches in the Ladies and Wednesday Doubles league Cup will be scheduled at intervals throughout the regular season (similar to the 055's Handicap/Charity Cups). Ladies' matches shall be played over two legs on a home and away basis and Doubles over 1 leg as at present.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- A new Code of Conduct has been agreed by the Committee based on the British Crown Green Bowls Association Model. We will tell you more about this in the next Newsletter and copies of the new Code will be on the Club website and available in hard copy in the shelter.
- A new Complaints Handling Policy has also been agreed to ensure that member complaints are dealt with in a uniform, transparent and fair way. This will also be available via the website and in hard copy together with the rest of the Club Policies and Procedures.
- We have begun to look at the feasibility of adding a second shelter and storage facilities within the bowls compound. A significant amount of groundworks may be required to put down a base and retaining wall for the new structure and we will be looking for external funding opportunities to help us finance this at some point in the future.
- The provision of a concave mirror or a camera & monitor to improve pedestrian safety has been raised with the Institute Trustees.

Team Preferences 2026

Available for Selection				
Tuesday	Over 55's	Doubles	Ladies	Saturday
Wayne Birch	Rita Barlow	Trevor Atkinson	Janice Atkinson	Trevor Atkinson
David Foster	Allison Bentley	Rita Barlow	Rita Barlow	Wayne Birch
Karen Leatt	Wayne Birch	Paul Bentley	Allison Bentley	John Bunting
Nick Mingins	John Bunting	Margaret Berrisford	Margaret Berrisford	Clive Buxton
Chris Moriarty	Clive Buxton	Clive Buxton	Kirstie Henderson	David Foster
Ian Mosley	Paul Collins	Paul Collins	Jenny Parker	Kirstie Henderson
Christina Petraitis	Nick Mingins	David Foster	Christina Petraitis	Karen Leatt
Chris Redfern	Chris Moriarty	Kirstie Henderson	Chris Redfern	Nick Mingins
Natasha Romaine	Ian Mosley	Karen Leatt	Natasha Romaine	Chris Moriarty
Martin Smith	Richard Noble	Jenny Parker	Ronda Sims	Ian Mosley
David Wilding	John Pinnington	Christina Petraitis	Serena Todd	Christina Petraitis
	Glenys Sims	Natasha Romaine	Lorraine Wright	John Pinnington
		Ronda Sims		Natasha Romaine
		Martin Smith		Glenys Sims
		Serena Todd		Serena Todd
		Lorraine Wright		David Wilding
Available if Required				
Tuesday	Over 55's	Doubles	Ladies	Saturday
Janice Atkinson	Trevor Atkinson	Janice Atkinson	Karen Leatt	Janice Atkinson
Rita Barlow	Paul Bentley	Nick Mingins		Paul Collins
Margaret Berrisford	David Foster			Chris Redfern
John Bunting	Christina Petraitis			Ronda Sims
Paul Collins	Chris Redfern			Martin Smith
Jenny Parker	Martin Smith			Lorraine Wright
Lorraine Wright	Lorraine Wright			