

Volume 3, Issue 2
March 2026



Welcome to Denby

The Newsletter of Denby Bowls Club.

2026 Season is Good to Go

There is a buzz of excitement around now that the 2026 season has finally arrived. In this issue of “Welcome to Denby” we look forward to the challenges that the Club will be facing in 2026.

For the past 3 years, during the dark days of winter, the Club Committee have put together a Development Plan setting out their hopes and aspirations for the coming season.

An important component of the plan is the SWOT analysis – an assessment of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats facing the Club going forwards.

Our view of the challenges that the Club will be facing in 2026 and beyond are set out in the “Threats” section of this analysis which is reproduced below:

In This Issue:

- Development Plan
- Volunteer Days Report
- New Award for 2026
- Team Aspirations for 2026
- Farewell Herbert
- News in Brief

Threats

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| 1. Impact of new users of the Institute (availability of facilities such as kitchens, car parking spaces, etc.) |
| 2. Tight timescale for the construction & fitting out of the planned Bowls kitchen facility before the start of the league season. |
| 3. Potential loss of members to neighbouring clubs |
| 4. Potentially for decreasing Club membership numbers due to worsening age profile of club members. |
| 5. Club becomes uneconomic due to falling revenues and/or increasing costs |
| 6. Club finances could potentially be exhausted if we must replace essential equipment (mower). |
| 7. Flooding damage becomes a recurring cost (to the Institute & to the Club). |
| 8. Lack of volunteers to undertake the roles necessary for the running of the Club |

Some of these factors, such as flooding, are largely outside our control but, for the majority of them we can plan and take action to decrease their likelihood and potential impact. What is more, we can also focus on the Opportunities section of the SWOT analysis to make sure that we capitalise on these and try to maximise the benefit to the Club.

The National Governing Body and County organisation are pushing all Clubs to write Development Plans this year. Our plan is already in place and the actions within it have already begun to be implemented. **Whilst there are undoubtedly challenges, it is good to know that Denby is ahead of the game.**



“I came, I saw, I’m bonkers”.....



“Hard work this volunteering lark”

Thank you team.

This year’s volunteer days went ahead as planned on 8th & 12th March 2026 and a small but perfectly formed bunch of volunteers began the task of getting us ready for the new season.

Although both days were too damp to do any painting, much was achieved, including:

- Repairs to the gully in front of the shelter;
- Cleaning the shelter and its contents, including the chairs;
- Trimming the edges of the green;
- Cutting back the undergrowth at the Bottle Brook end;
- Building a flat packed storage box so that we can keep the shelter free from clutter throughout the season.

Thanks to the improved weather Ronda was able to hastily organise a further work party for 19th March to do the whitewashing and painting work that was needed.

Sincere thanks to all who volunteered. Well done.



“WANTED 6 more companions for Snow White”



“Ouch! My knee’s gone again”

New Award for 2026

One of the objectives in this year’s Development Plan is to introduce a new Player’s Player of the year award in 2026.

The award might, for example, be awarded to someone who has had an exceptional league season, to a player who has significantly improved their game, or to someone who has provided unrivalled support and encouragement to other players around them.

The concept is that it will be the Club members who decide who they wish to nominate for the award and Club members who decide – by virtue of a vote – who the winner should be.

The nomination and voting phases will take place in September 2026 and the trophy, shown on the right, will be presented at the end of season awards after the AGM.

Look out for nominations opening towards the end of the season.



“The Herbert Fryer Award”
Players’ Player of the Year Trophy.

Farewell to Herbert

This month we say Farewell to Herbert Fryer, an inaugural member of our Club who - over the years – has fulfilled every role, from greenkeeper to Chairman. Herbert loved his bowling but was also an avid golfer and was a past Chairman of Derby Golf Club.

Herbert also contributed to the community of Denby, serving as a parish councillor for several years, playing his part in the design and construction of John Flamsteed Memorial Park in Denby Village and also running the Denby Institute for a time.

He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him, both in the bowling community and beyond. Our condolences go to his family. R.I.P Herbert.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- The deliberate mistake in the 2026 Membership Pack has been spotted! Wayne's vice-captain for the Tuesday team in 2026 is of course Martin Smith, and the error is being corrected on our website & in future issues of the pack to new members.
- The reconfiguration of the Institute building is proceeding at pace with a new, larger café area, bowls kitchen, small meeting room and football changing rooms now beginning to take shape. The bowls kitchen will be small but will be a perfectly adequate space for us to make teas and coffees for our league games. It will not be available for the first few matches in April but will become operational in May. Teams will continue to use the ballroom kitchen until then, with the exception of the Doubles team who will be making separate arrangements.
- Agreement has now been reached on a new configuration for the Institute car park and the planned nature reserve. The objective is to increase the area available for car parking, whilst still keeping an area that can be planted for the benefit of wildlife, including pollinator friendly plants and wildflowers. Lesley will continue to look after our gardens and will also lead on the nature reserve.
- 20 members re-joined at the signing on day on 22 February. If you missed it, please see either Ronda or Ian when you are next at the Club.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and successful season in 2026