



# **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CROWN GREEN**

## **BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

President: [C.Robinson](#). Chairman: [C.Jackson](#). Secretary: [J.McNeilly](#). Treasurer: [N.Desmond](#). Fixture Sec: [P.Harper](#).

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### **SECRETARY & COMPETITION SECRETARY REPORT 2018**

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I recall sitting here last year and listening to Graham present his 21<sup>st</sup> and final report to you as Secretary of our Association. Filling his shoes for the past 12 months has been an interesting journey to say the least and until taking on the role this time last year, I for one had no idea of the time and commitment required to fulfil the role. How you managed to do it for that length of time Graham, I have no idea. If I am still stood before you in 2040, you have my permission to shoot me.

Having said that, I have enjoyed the role for the vast majority of last 12 months and hopefully this coming season will run smoother now that I have got through my probationary period, unless of course anyone out there would like to take over !!

The past season has, on the whole, been a success. The introduction of the new leagues on a Monday and Tuesday have significantly increased bowling options, particularly for those who are not able to play Vets bowls. As a committee we acknowledge there is some work to do to get the new leagues more balanced, but work is currently ongoing to achieve this. The mixed format in both these leagues has been well received and I know many lady bowlers have supported and enjoyed the opportunity to support the new format. There was a total of 1268 players playing in our three midweek leagues this year, a significant increase from 2017. Jim Slater of Rolls Royce had a very busy season, playing more games than any other player with 54.

On another positive note, entries into our competitions were all up on 2017 figures and thanks to all those that took part. The online entry payment facility was used for the first time and this went well, and I hope it will be used even more this coming season. Communication of events through club secretaries together with the Mb website and social media also contributed to the increase in entries.

As we all know, bowls is a sport generally in decline, not just in our area, but also nationally. Looking back through some of the history which Graham entrusted into my care last January, it is sad to see that in the last 20 years, we have lost around 15 clubs in our association alone, and already this year we have had notice that Swadlincote Catholics will not be entering the leagues this year and closing as a club. This is very sad to see. As an association we are committed to try and bring people into the game through our Development Group which we hope will grow in the next 12 months. We have recently spent quite a bit of money on equipment which is available to all clubs, and we hope to have several 'hubs' up and running this year together with coaches qualified to run training events. If anyone would like to get involved, please speak to one of us either tonight or in the future.



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It was disappointing that 8 teams withdrew from various leagues either after the fixtures were drawn up or during the season itself. Other clubs found fulfilling fixtures a real struggle but managed to make it to the end of the season, and for that I sincerely thank you. This year we have extended our entry date to 15<sup>th</sup> February so that you all have the best chance of getting your entries correct. Can I please stress the importance of making myself or Peter Harper aware of any changes you wish to make before this date.

Moving on to events on the green. The summer certainly was one we won't forget in a hurry. Many greens became a real test, and some almost unplayable due to the prolonged dry spell. Some greens suffered, and I just hope that you all have a decent surface to play on in April.

The Dean Burton Friday Leagues saw Belvedere win the Premier League title, losing just one match all season with Alvaston & Boulton giving them a good run for their money. This was Belvedere's first title since 2004 and it was good to see a fresh name on the trophy. Newhall won a very tight Division 1, where any of the top 5 could make a claim that it could have been their year, with just 10 points covering first to fifth. The defining game was when Newhall pulled off a magnificent 13-1 win away at Brackens, who were top themselves going into the match. Henhurst finished as runners up. Belvedere had the unusual honour of winning back to back Division 2 titles after having their 'promotion' denied because of a league restructure. Kings Newton won a tight battle with Rykneld to gain the runners up spot. Belper Pottery edged out Washlands A by three points to take Division 3, whilst it was good to see Chaddesden Park back in the winners enclosure after they dominated Division 4, ahead of Chellaston and Breadsall.

Our new Monday and Tuesday leagues ran well and will continue next season. I have already received interest from clubs wishing to add teams to these leagues which is encouraging. As I have already mentioned, there will be some need for restructuring once we have all the teams confirmed, but I ask that you bear with us as we try and achieve the best balance for everyone and increase your enjoyment. On the green, the inaugural winners of the Harold Fellows Monday League were fittingly Alvaston & Boulton in Division 1 and thanks to them for sponsoring the league. The other league winners were Horsley, Derby Coop, South Wingfield and Chellaston. The Tuesday League again saw Alvaston & Boulton take honours in Division 1, with Belper Pottery claiming Division 2 and Spondon pipping Rowditch to win Division 3 by winning more matches after they finished level on points.

The Dickie Cup saw some very close fixtures, again showing that the handicapping changes introduced a couple of years ago are generally working well. In the preliminary round, Belvedere got the better of Netherseal A by a single point and Washlands A defeated Littleover by the same margin. In the first round, both Winshill and Stretton were defeated by lower league opposition in Eureka Park and Etwall respectively. The tie of the second round saw a heavyweight clash between Alvaston & Boulton and the holders Rolls Royce, which Alvaston & Boulton took by just 9 points. Newhall defeated Belvedere and Netherseal took care of Stretton Anglesey which saw another two fancied teams go out at this stage. The quarter finals saw victories for Belvedere A, Newhall, Derby Coop and Netherseal. The semi finals were held at Littleover. Newhall defeated Belvedere A 231-216 and Netherseal dropped just one game to comfortably defeat Derby Coop



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214-169. The final at Kings Newton was a tense affair. Lee Barnett got Newhall off to a great start with a 21-14 victory over Dan Petcher, but good wins for Andy Fearn and Terry Bosworth kept Netherseal in touch. Netherseal then took 3 out of the middle 4 games, with Matt Milsom winning his game 21-7 and they looked to be heading for victory. Martin Hicks had other ideas though and he bowled brilliantly to beat Darren Staley 21-9. With the last game on the green between Alex Wain (Newhall) and Dave Garner (Netherseal) our Chariman was sweating a little as it looked at one point as though the final could be decided on what is now referred to as 'Calvins Law' where, in the event of a tie, the higher handicapped team is declared the winner. This would not have been the best place for it to be used for the first time!! Fortunately for Calvin, Alex managed to break the deadlock with some great bowling in front of the clubhouse and despite losing 21-20, it was enough to win the match for Newhall 196-193. Our thanks must go to Kings Newton for sponsoring the Dickie Cup this year. It was a fitting venue and evening for such a great final.

The South Derbyshire Merit saw a pleasing and increased entry of 43. The four heats produced a good quality last eight, including the defending champion Ben Ryder from Rowditch. The final was fittingly held at Rykneld who were celebrating their Centenary year. In the quarter final, Gareth Nash easily saw off Nigel Iloff 21-5. Nigel was never allowed to get going and clearly didn't find the green to his liking. Adam Hartley defeated Phil May 21-12 in an all Alvaston and Boulton clash and Jeff Tatem (Brackens) put pay to Ben Ryder's hopes of defending his title by the same scoreline. Martin Hicks (Newhall) looked to be on his way to victory and probably still feels like he missed an opportunity to defeat Richard Gill (A&B) who eventually fell over the line 21-20. In the semi finals, Adam Hartley defeated Gareth Nash 21-11 and Richard Gill was now getting into his stride, beating Jeff Tatem 21-16. This set up an all Alvaston & Boulton and family affair final between Richard and Adam. Those that were there were treated to a bowls master class by both players. Some fabulous bowling throughout with no bowls wasted. It could have gone either way, but eventually Richard prevailed 21-18 in a game befitting of any final to lift the trophy for the second time. All eight went on to represent the association in the County Final held at Arkwright Town, together with Craig Pearson who won a play off for the final place.

The county final itself saw Ed Furniss from Rowditch successfully defend his title on what can only be described as a treacherous green and become only the fourth player in the history of the event stretching back to 1911 to achieve this.

The Charity Cup was held at Allestree on a baking Bank Holiday Monday and a fantastic entry of 52 players took part. Ladies were able to enter for the first time and it was good that seven ladies were in the field. The stand out result of the early rounds saw Hannah McDonald defeat Brian Smith 21-6 (not for the first time I have to add). She took the prize for best lady bowler on the day but had bigger fish to fry later in the season (more on that later). In the final four, Keith Widdowson (Littleover) defeated Dan Petcher (Netherseal) 21-16 and Adam Dickerson (Coop) defeated William Marshall (Belper Pottery) 21-14. It was a good day for William though as he also picked up the prize for the best bowler from division two and below. The final was a close game but Keith just had the edge, winning 21-18 to lift the trophy for the third time in its' history.



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The Ray Hanson Doubles was held at Horsley and the green was an absolute delight to bowl on, especially considering the summer we had. Another good entry of 24 pairs which again included ladies for the first time. More encouraging though was that there were a good number of juniors in the field. Defending champions Ben Ryder and Ed Furniss went out in the first round this time, defeated by Colin Whitworth and Felix Abba 21-18. The semi finals saw Colin Riley and Tony Batchelder defeat the home pair of James Throw and Dean Sherwin 21-13 and Richard Gill and his son Blake comfortably defeated Matthew Fearn and Elliott Laboure 21-6. In the final, the Marehay pairing of Colin and Tony just had the edge winning 21-15.

This year the association resurrected the Gordon Ellis Trophy which over the years was played for by people under various ages, ranging from Under 30 to Under 18. This year was the first time the trophy had been played for since 2005 and the competition was hosted by Kings Newton and was for under 18's. The eventual winner was Owen Sherriff (Washlands) who defeated Aiden Richardson (Coop) 21-16 in the final. Sophie Oxtoby (A&B) won the supplementary competition. After some discussion we are pleased to announce that this coming season, the trophy is actually going to be re-named and a new trophy will be purchased. Next year the competition will be played for the Darren Smith Memorial Trophy in honour of one of the best bowlers to come out of this area. Sadly, as you know, Darren's dad Roy very recently passed away, but he was aware of our proposal and was delighted that Darren would be remembered in this way. Fittingly, we hope to hold the first competition here at Rolls Royce.

The Champion of Champions was held at Spondon, which provided a stern test at the end of the dry summer. Newhall had defeated Belvedere A in the one preliminary match by 25 shots, helped by Alex Wain's 21-1 victory. In the semis final, Newhall took on Chaddesden Park and found the running greens to their liking, dropping just one game to win 228-177. In the other semi final, Belvedere overcame Belper Pottery for whom Ken Fox and Granville Curzon recorded notable wins. The final score there was 205-181 in favour of the Premier Division winners. The final was always in favour of Newhall who simply bowled the green better on the day. Good wins by Steve Laud, Dean Laud and captain Matt Bullock always had them in charge and they ran out winners by 219-172 to complete a fantastic season for the club.

The Floodlit League this year rightly drew some criticism due to fixture congestion, and as a committee, we hold our hands up and say we got it wrong. However, it provides some good end of season competition. This year Burton clubs went their own way, and whilst initially that was disappointing, the main positive feedback was that the reduction in travelling was welcomed. Marehay took the spoils in Division 1 and did the double by winning the Floodlit Cup, beating Littleover 3 in the final at Horsley. Derby Coop won Division 2, Littleover 2 triumphed in Division 3 and Chaddesden Park added another trophy to their cabinet by taking Division 4.

Finally on the playing front, some notable performances from players and teams from our area over the last year. Congratulations to David May on winning the British Parks Merit. Joshua Furniss on winning the Derbyshire Junior Merit. David Redfern on winning the Derbyshire Vets Merit. Stretton Anglesey on winning the Derbyshire County Cup and Belvedere on winning the Derbyshire County Repechage. Louie Furniss on reaching the semi final of the All Britain Junior



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Merit held at Netherseal and to Conor Chamberlain on being runner up in the Midland Masters held at Stretton. And finally, huge congratulations to Hannah McDonald on winning the prestigious Ladies Waterloo – a magnificent achievement. We really do have some great bowlers in this area.

This year we look forward to the All Britain Senior Merit at Rolls Royce on 27<sup>th</sup> July, one of the highlights of the bowling calendar, which coincides with Graham now being President of the BCGBA. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing him well during his tenure.

Finally from me, a few thank yous. To Russ Mosley for refereeing both the South Derbyshire Merit and Dickie Cup Finals. To Graham Jackson, firstly for pointing me in the right direction and also for refereeing the Champion of Champions along with Peter Wheeldon. To our Chairman who works incredibly hard and is passionate about promoting the game in this area and to the rest of the committee that give up their time to help make things work.