

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

(A Member of Bowls England and English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd)

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Date: August 2024

Dear Member

I am writing to all members summarizing the Club's performance over the last 12 months, together with an update as to the Club's plans for the forthcoming year, 2024/25.

A. THE YEAR TO DATE.

Last year was a full year of operations with a continued increase in our membership following the disruptions caused by the pandemic in previous years. We have welcomed over 50 new members over the last 12 months.

All the Indoor League Fixtures and Club Competitions for 2023/24 commenced in October 2023 and were duly completed on schedule in April 2024.

The 2024 Outdoor Season is nearing completion and, whilst support for the friendly match program has been difficult at times, we have completed most of the matches programmed – a big thank you to our club captains, Steve and Angie Isaac for the immense effort they have made over the year in arranging teams for all the fixtures.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: -

All our KLV and KL teams and the KL "A" squad on winning the KENNET LEAGUE, the first time in many years!

Our Ladies who have had a fantastic season, winning both the THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE and the COUNTY TOP CLUB, a trophy Desborough has never won before.

Our members who qualified to play in the National Finals at Leamington Spa – 10 members, 6 men and 4 Ladies in different playing formats. This number of members playing in the National Finals is the best achievement in over 10 years – well done to all!

We are hoping to retain our excellent relationships with both Bowls England and EIBA, and hopefully help us to attract more of the major National and International Bowls events in the future.

During the year we have been raising money for the Thames Hospice. Once again, many thanks to our members and sponsors for their generosity.

Anna's Catering was appointed as Club caterers, as from the 1st of June 2023 and we are continuing to ensure improvements are being made going forward with the quality of service, availability, and the choice of menus.

Ellora Ltd continue as our bookkeepers and accountants with Jasbir Notay as the Club Treasurer. Many thanks to Jasbir and her team for their continued support.

These last 12 months have been a very busy time with everyone working tirelessly to provide, not only excellent facilities for our members bowling activities, but also to encourage both new and our existing business and charitable organizations to use our facilities. The commercial income derived from these commercial lettings is an essential part of the Club's overall finances.

President: John Davis

General Secretary: Stephen McAlister

Treasurer: Jasbir Notay

VAT Registration No: 207 7898 26. **Affiliated to:** Royal County of Berkshire B.A. Berkshire County Women' B.A. and London and Southern Counties B.A

We are very grateful to all committee members, management and staff who have helped continue the Club operations and maintain the club premises and grounds over the last 12 months.

Many thanks to all our sponsors for their ongoing support, namely: Shanly Foundation, Mortgage Required, Howden Insurance and Seema Goyal.

B. THE FUTURE

1) GENERALLY

With the increases in our bowling and commercial activities over the last 12 months, we have now had to recruit several new management and staff members to ensure, we can, not only provide an excellent service to our existing membership and commercial clients, but also market the Club facilities to attract new members/clients.

The management changes to date are: -

Farewell to **Roger Wyatt** (retired) and a warm welcome to: -

Stephen McAlister – General Secretary

Ellie Walsh – Facilities Manager,

Club Bowls Operations Manager- With our current Club Manager, Mark Peachey, due to relinquish his post later this year, we are now currently seeking to recruit a new part time role to take over from Mark with the planning and ongoing management of all the Club's bowling activities.

A new 5 - year Business Plan with financial projections has been approved and thanks to our management team and the support of our Finance and Management Committees we have now agreed a new budget going forward, which we believe is achievable and will allow us to reach a break-even point (cash) in 2025/26.

2) MEMBERSHIP

With the after-effects of the Pandemic, we saw an initial reduction in our membership, however over the last months we have managed to attract new members from the surrounding areas and would now summarize our current position as: -

Membership Category	2024 Members (Current)	2025 Members (Projected)	2026 Members (Projected)
Full Member	117	139	149
Indoor Full Year	121	105	120
Indoor Season	275	279	279
Outdoor Season	17	9	11
Junior	12	4	6
Social	124	146	156
Life	8	8	8
Total	674	690	729

3) SUBSCRIPTIONS AND GREEN FEES 2024/2025:

We are still being affected by the market economy, with many basic costs continuing to rise. Due to these increased costs, it is essential that we continue to budget accordingly to minimize any potential losses and ensure that we break even, in cash terms by the year 2025/26.

To help address the future financial challenges, our Treasurer, Jabir Notay, has prepared various financial scenarios, within a 5-year budget framework, considering the current and potential future increases in operational costs. Various options were then presented to both the Finance and the Management Committees for discussion and final approval.

The Committees concluded that we had no alternative but to effect price increases overall to ensure our financial position remains stable over the next 5 years, with sufficient cash reserves maintained for future essential expenditure. It was therefore agreed that the increase in costs overall should be met primarily by increases in annual subscriptions and green fees, the latter having remained unchanged over the last 2 years. *(the green fee changes also include a wider availability of rinks for 1-hour sessions at a lower rate).* The fees payable for the year 2024/25 are outlined below: -

THE NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND GREEN FEES PAYABLE, AS FROM OCTOBER 1ST 2024.

CATEGORY	2023/24 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE	2024/25 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE	NOTES
FULL MEMBERSHIP	£340	£350.00	+£10.00 If paid in 2 instalments: £360.00 1) Oct 1 st 2024 - £180 2) May1 st 2025 - £180
OUTDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£170.00	£180.00	+£10.00
INDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£170.00	£180.00	+£10.00
12 MONTH INDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£220.00	£230.00	+£10.00
SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP	£50.00	£50.00	No change
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP	£40.00	£40.00	Under 18's No Change
GREEN FEES INDOORS	£4.00 – up to 2 hours	£5.00 – up to 3 hours £4.50 – up to 2 hours £3.00 – up to 1 hour (subject to available 1-hour slots only)	<u>Match</u> Triples (3) - £15.00 Rinks (4) - £20.00
MATCH FEES (INDOORS)	£13.00	£13.00	No Change
MATCH FEES (OUTDOORS)	£8.00	£8.00	No change
NATIONAL COMPETITION FEES	£5.00	£5.00	No change
KENNET LEAGUE & KLV TEAMS	£3.00	£4.00	+ £1.00
LOCKERS	£10.00	£12.00	+ £2.00

(N.B. locker rental is NOT included in membership fees above)

Payment Methods

Full Members may pay either, in full - £350.00 or £360 in two instalments: -
£180:00 on **October 1st, 2024**,
and
£180.00 on **May 1st, 2025**.

All payments can be made by either: -

- Cash or Cheque
- Credit Card or Debit Card
- BACS transfer to:
Lloyds Bank
A/C Name: Desborough Bowling Club
Sort Code: 30-95-36
Account No: 34331168
- Monthly Standing Order (S.O. Form available from Office).

4) KEY DATES

SEPTEMBER 14th & 15th – Desborough Outdoor Finals Weekend
SEPTEMBER 15th – End of Outdoor Season
SEPTEMBER 16th –Indoor bowling will start – Roll-ups
SEPTEMBER 23rd – Start of 2024/25 Indoor Bowling Season

5) SOCIAL EVENTS

I would give a big vote of thanks to our Social Committee and Social Chairman, Brian Harris and his team who, between them, have completed a very successful number of social functions over the year.

6) MARKETING

The next Open Day (Indoors) is scheduled for Saturday, 28th September and further marketing initiatives will be carried out during September/October to promote the Club overall.

Our website is now available (www.desboroughbc.com) and you may also follow the Club's activities through its Facebook page. (www.facebook.com/Desborough-Bowling-Club)

7) CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS.

(i) CLUB OPENING HOURS:		
The Club Indoor Opening hours remain unchanged as follows: -		
Monday to Friday	-	0830 to 2200 hours.
Saturday	-	0830 to 2200 hours (unless league game or other prearranged event when closing time will be extended)
Sunday	-	0930 to 2000 hours (or earlier if no events taking place)
<i>(Bar opening hours are scheduled as 10:30 am to 10:30pm however times will vary to reflect activities within the Club and compliment times of matches and other events)</i>		

(ii) INDOOR PROGRAMME 2024/25
<i>ROLL-UPS, PRIOR TO THE START OF THE INDOOR SEASON WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2024 -</i>
<i>THE "NEW" INDOOR SEASON 2024/25 WILL COMMENCE ON 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024</i>

(iii) INDOOR LEAGUE PROGRAMME 2024/25
The league fixtures are being programmed for the forthcoming indoor season.
If you wish to play or wish to enter a new team, this would be most welcome. Please contact Mark Peachey.
(iv) COMPETITIONS
Club competition entry forms will be available from the office for both men and women, and I would encourage all to enter.
Entry fees for competitions should be paid, either, by cheque / cash/credit or debit card and NOT as part of any on-line payment for membership subscription fees.

THE OUTDOOR SEASON FOR 2024 WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 15TH APRIL

8) CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I would advise that the date for the Desborough Bowling Club Annual General meeting (Full Members only) has now been scheduled for **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH 2024, AT 7:00PM**. To be held in the Club Lounge.

I hope you are well and look forward to your continued support.

Kind Regards

Roger Wyatt (Outgoing) and Stephen McAlister (Incoming)
General Secretary

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