



# SIBC NEWS

February 2025

Welcome to the second edition of the SIBC newsletter for the 2024/25 season.

If there is anything you would like to see included in future newsletters, or news items for the website or local press, please contact me (Martin Spencer) either via e-mail: [martinspencer1988@gmail.com](mailto:martinspencer1988@gmail.com) or mobile telephone: 07540 066241.

## **A Message From Your Chairman, Simon Lilley, on the Sports Complex Re-Generation Work**

Graham Hicks, Bowls Co-Ordinator, and I have met with Gary Taylor (Spalding Castle Ward Councillor and Portfolio Holder for Community Development), Mark Humphreys (SHDC Head of Special Projects - Leisure) and Lex Leisure representatives monthly since August 2023. This was to understand and establish the impact to our members in terms of what, if anything, was to happen in the bowls area. As you will have seen from the press and on their website ([www.southhollandlevellingup.co.uk](http://www.southhollandlevellingup.co.uk)) other than cosmetic works, nothing much is planned that would hopefully impact us. We have though made our case, on your behalf, and continue to do so. We met with Mark only last week and Mark and Gary attended our February committee meeting.

In attending the committee meeting, Gary and Mark, have provided the below information:

*"The Council can confirm that there will be no disruption to the current 2024/25 season, with the Sports Centre likely remaining open until the end of July 2025.*

*The Sports Centre building will however need to close in full to enable the works to be undertaken, meaning that it will not be possible for SIBC to use the facility until the beginning of the 2026/27 season to around October 2026. Whilst it may seem straightforward to allow the bowls hall to remain open, there are technical, safety, liability and affordability considerations that mean it is not feasible for the Council to enable the bowls hall to continue to be used during the works.*

*The Council recognises the inconvenience and temporary disruption that the investment works have for all Sports Centre users, including the SIBC members, and remains committed to supporting the Club to return to full strength once the new centre is opened.*

*The Council thanks the Club members for their understanding and patience whilst this hugely important development project is undertaken for the benefit of the whole of the South Holland community."*

As a committee, we are aware that the temporary closure of the building is not the outcome we had hoped, but we will be doing our utmost over the forthcoming months to try and provide an alternative to our members to ensure that the wellbeing of our members remain healthy.

We are well aware that the "rumour mill" has been in overdrive and hope that whilst not good news, this clarifies what is happening in the near future.



## World Championship Semi-Final Heartache for Chelsea

After qualifying earlier in the season, Chelsea Spencer travelled to Potters Leisure Resort in Norfolk to play in the World Indoor Bowls Championships, which could be viewed live on YouTube and BBC. Chelsea won an event back in October which ensured qualification into the Ladies World Matchplay and automatically put her in the World Mixed Pairs event which would see her partner one of the world's top eight ranked men. When the draw was done, Chelsea was partnered with a familiar face in England's Mark Dawes, who was once a member of Spalding Indoor Bowls Club.

Chelsea's first match on the famous blue portable rink would be in the mixed pairs where they faced off against England's Nicole Rogers and Les Gillett. Despite taking an early 6-1 lead in the first set, Nicole and Les won the remaining ends to win the set 9-6. Although all four players played their part in the match, it has to be said that Gillett was the difference playing the big bowls at the right time as Nicole and Les won in straight sets, 9-6, 9-3.

Chelsea's focus then moved over to the Ladies World Matchplay where she played England's Lucy Smith who qualified into the event as the highest ranked lady in the Professional Bowling Association. Chelsea showed her class in this match as she won in straight sets, 9-5, 11-3.

Chelsea booked her place in the semi-final which has been described as one of the matches of the championships against Scotland's 21-year-old, Beth Riva who is the niece of six-time men's indoor singles champion, Alex Marshall MBE. Beth was clearly in top form as only the day before had won the World Mixed Pairs with Jason Banks and she showed this form as she raced into an 8-1 first set lead. Chelsea fought back well as the score was 9 all playing the last end of the set. Chelsea played a fantastic bowl to run the jack into the ditch with her last bowl but Beth held her nerve to draw within inches of the ditch to win the set 10-9. Chelsea did not let the disappointment of the first set phase her as she won the second set 7-2 and force a match tie break. Chelsea could not have played the first end of the tie break much better, but whilst in the area with her last bowl, Beth got maximum result to get shot and win the end. Similarly on the second end, Chelsea hit the head with her last bowl, but the jack was respotted and gave Beth four feet to win the game. To Beth's credit, she held her nerve to draw shot, win the tie break 2-0 and book her place in the final where she eventually lost on a tie break to Scotland's Julie Forrest.

Speaking with Chelsea about the experience, she said *"I had such an enjoyable experience at Potters competing in the World Championships and I am really proud of what I have achieved. Thank you to everyone who made their way over to support, watched online and sent messages. I was really touched with all the support I received, including people that have offered and let me borrow bowls."*

Well done Chelsea on such an amazing run!



## Cheque Payments

Due to the introduction of bank charges in January, it is no longer financially viable for the club to accept or make payment by cheque. Therefore, cheques will no longer be accepted with effect from 1st January 2025.

## World Indoor Junior Championships Silver Medal for Ruby

Back in December, Ruby Hill represented England at the World Indoor Junior Championships in Hong Kong, China. Ruby earned her place at the championships when she won the national under 25 singles title earlier in 2024. Ruby took part in the singles event and partnered the men's champion, Aaron Johnson in the mixed pairs.

In the singles, Ruby finished third in her group and booked her place in the quarter finals. She beat eventual finalist Rebecca Rixon from Malta (5-4, 5-5), Haley Langenstrassen from Namibia (7-6, 8-8) Ng Pui Tin from Hong Kong (0-15, 15-1, 3-1) and Adilyn Zeino from USA (11-2, 7-7) but lost against Sophie McGrouther from Scotland (6-7, 1-12) and Ho Shu En from Singapore (8-6, 6-8, 0-5). Ruby's run in the singles came to an end at the quarter final stage as she lost against Emma Boyd from Canada (8-3, 4-6, 1-2). In the mixed pairs, Ruby partnered Aaron Johnson from Norfolk who had only recently lost in the Scottish Open final on the World Bowls Tour. Ruby and Aaron topped their group as they beat Lauren Gowen and Cory Davies from Wales (4-7, 10-8, 2-1), Emily Chan and Adoni Samuela Henry Stivyon Wichman Rairoa from Hong Kong and the Cook Islands respectively (7-3, 8-7), Adilyn Zeino and Angle Gomez from USA (13-2, 13-2) but lost against Luk Man Hei and Man Pok Chung from Hong Kong (2-10, 9-6, 1-3).



In the quarter finals, Ruby and Aaron beat Emma Boyd and Owen Kirby from Canada in straight sets (8-2, 6-4) and beat Sophie McGrouther and Paul Innes from Scotland in a nail biter of a semi-final which was decided on the last end of the tie break (5-7, 9-2, 2-1). In the final, they faced Kira Bourke and Kane Nelson from Australia. It was the English pair who won the first set, but Australia struck back to take the second set and the tie break to win the mixed pairs title (9-6, 3-7, 1-5). Ruby and Aaron still came away with a silver medal which ended an action-packed week in Hong Kong.

Congratulations to you both!



## Under 18 International Series

Congratulations to Ollie Jeapes who won silver in the singles event at the under 18 international series in Falkirk, Scotland last month. Ollie impressed the selectors at the series last season as he came away with triples gold and was selected again, this time to play in the singles and triples. Whilst the triples didn't go as well as he had hoped, he had a fantastic run in the singles where he lost out in the gold medal match to the representative from Wales (6-6, 4-12). A special mention also to Owen Aspinall who played well for the British Lions team.

Well done to you both - getting selected to play is an amazing achievement in itself!

## Dates For Your Diary

Charity Open Drive - Tuesday 18th February 2025  
Quiz Night - Friday 21st February 2025  
Mens -v- Ladies Presidents Match - Tuesday 11th March 2025  
Quintet - Week Commencing Monday 24th March 2025  
Club Finals Week - Tuesday 22nd to Thursday 24th April 2025  
Presentation Night - Friday 25th April 2025  
AGM - Monday 28th April 2025



## Message From Roger Perkins

Friends and bowling colleagues,

I wish you and yours a very healthy and happy 2025. My most fervent wish is that the world may live in better harmony in the year to come.

I am writing at this time to express my concerns about the unsettling element running through the club whereby our wonderful club is not working smoothly as one unit. This is not new, but if we are to succeed, we must all work together in harmony. I personally experienced this many years ago as Chairman and even though I improved the situation, I believe it was to the detriment of the competitive side of the club and would hate for this to be affected now. Our club is performing fantastically well nowadays and long may it continue to do so as it brings us not only outstanding recognition but financial rewards like the £3,000 prize money of last year.

That said, there is a distinct lack of community spirit within the club which must be attended to and the committee members are unsure how to direct their efforts to remedy the situation. The efforts and success of Maisie and Jan running the drives during the summer emphasises the need for bowling in a relaxed environment and the £1,200 money raised will benefit a number of good causes. My thanks to the committee for agreeing to the money distribution. But please do remember, the club is yours and the committee (as nominated by you to guide the club) can only do so much and they need your assistance to bring the club together. If you have views beneficial to the club, please do make them know.

Many thanks for your attention.



### National Team Competitions

Whilst the national team competitions haven't gone to plan this year for our men's and mixed teams, our ladies and under 30s teams are flying the flag for Spalding Lightning as our ladies are in the quarter final of the Yetton Plate and our under 30s are still in contention to make it a hat trick in the under 30s inter-club double triples competition.

In the quarter final of the Yetton Plate, our ladies will play Colchester on Saturday 15th February 2025 at Riverain IBC, whilst our under 30s will play Hartlepool in their quarter final match on Saturday 22nd February 2025.

Please come and show your support - good luck to you all!

### Quintet

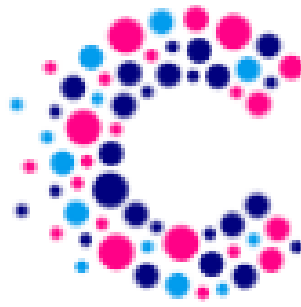
The week commencing 24th March 2025 will see the return of the Quintet competition which has been a huge success over the last couple of seasons. This is a drawn competition which sees one seeded player teamed up with four unseeded players. There will be three qualifying nights and a finals night for the three night winners and the best runner up.

The first session of the evening will see the team play singles or fours and the second session will consist of pairs and triples. Your seeded player will not be able to play singles.

For those of you who have not played in this competition, it is a great way to bring our club together therefore, please do keep an eye out on the club competition notice board for further details of how to enter.

## Charity Open Drive

On Tuesday 18th February 2025, our ladies charity fundraising committee are holding an open drive where all profits will go to cancer research who are the SIBC charity of the year for the 2024/25 season.



**CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK**

Everyone welcome - please arrive by 1.45pm for a 2.10pm start.

Fundraising events being run on the day consist of a football card, a guess the amount in the jar competition and a raffle where prize donations are welcome.

The drive entry fee is yet to be confirmed however, please express your interest on the sheet on the ladies notice board at the club.

## Charity Cheque Presentation

On Friday 10th January 2025, Spalding Indoor Bowls Club presented cheques to five charities. The club raised funds after Maisie Belding and Jan Sinclair ran two drives per week throughout the summer months. The events raised £1,250 which was split between five charities.

These organisations were the St Barnabas Hospice, the league of friends of Johnson Hospital, Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Tulip Ward at Johnson Hospital and SIBC junior bowlers.

Thank you to everyone for raising money to such worthy causes.



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

**QUIZ  
NIGHT**

6.45pm

In Bowls Lounge

Teams of 6

**\*\*FREE ENTRY\*\***

**Everyone welcome!!**

PLEASE ADD NAMES ON THE BOARD