



SIBC NEWS

February 2024

Welcome to the second edition of the SIBC newsletter for the 2023/24 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 or mobile telephone: 07540 066241.

National and International Successes

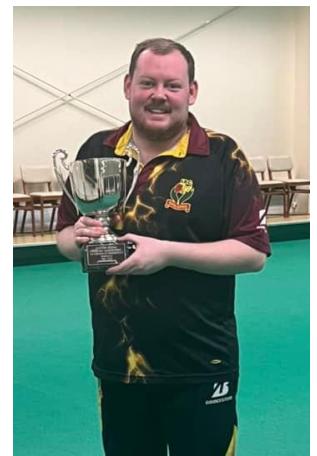
In January, Ollie Jeapes represented England in the British Isles Under 18 International Series in Wales. It was a series to remember for Ollie as he came away with the gold medal in the triples and England secured team silver behind Scotland who won the series. In the triples, Ollie was joined by Sam Brugnoli from Huntingdon and Charlie Beeton from Ipswich who dominated the field with wins against Ireland (6-5, 13-0), Wales (10-3, 14-1) and they continued their impressive form in the gold medal match against Scotland (8-1, 5-1). Well done to Ollie and the rest of Team England. You should be very proud, and we are sure that you will have more opportunities to represent your country in the future.



We are also proud to announce that we have two newly crowned national champions at the club. Ruby Hill won the national under 25 singles for the second time and Dominic McVittie won the national champion of champions.

The under 25 singles finals were held at Solihull IBC in January and Ruby qualified with wins earlier in the season against Alice Atkin from Church Gresley and Amica Fordy from Hartlepool. At the finals, Ruby secured straight sets wins against Yasmina Hasan from Egham and Hannah Smith from Malvern Hills before booking her place in the final against fellow under 25 international, Imogen Jenner from Swale. Ruby made light work of winning the first set 12-3 and scored a timely full house of four shots on the penultimate end of the second set to go 8-5 up. Ruby held her nerve to score one shot on the last end and win the set 9-5. Ruby won the under 25 singles for the second time and will represent England at the British Isles Championships in March and the Junior World Championships next season.

The champion of champions finals were held at Dolphin IBC in Dorset. Dominic was joined by Chelsea Spencer who also qualified in the ladies' event, but she lost in the last 16 against eventual runner up Morgan Merryweather from Whiteknights. Dominic came through a strong field, beating Dex Weyand from Thanet 21-8 in the last 16 before overcoming a 14-6 deficit in the quarter final to beat John McGuinness from Desborough 21-20. In the semi-final, Dominic continued his excellent form to beat Darren Griffith from Isle of Wight 21-8 to book his place in the final where he played fellow international and former winner of the event, Martin Puckett from Dorchester. Dominic showed his class in winning the final 21-7. Although winning the national under 25 singles title back in 2016, this is the first time that Dominic has won an individual indoor senior national title, so it was a special moment when he was presented with the champion of champions trophy.



Congratulations to Ruby and Dominic – enjoy your celebrations!

Did You Know Bowls....

- Burns roughly 240 calories an hour
- Improves heart and respiratory fitness
- Strengthens and conditions your arm, shoulder, chest and leg muscles
- Increases endurance while maintaining bone density
- Speeds up your metabolism
- Is a lifetime sport - it is one of the few sports that allows you to compete at a high level at any age
- The social aspect helps improve your mental outlook
- Provides an exercise option for those with physical implications



Do you know anyone who would be interested in taking up our sport?

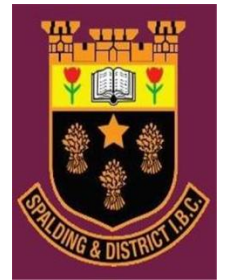
SPALDING INDOOR BOWLS CLUB FREE TASTER DAY

Come and try indoor bowls. Sessions are free and all equipment will be provided. Please come along and support our club and bring a friend.



**Saturday 24th February 2024
10.30am to 1.30pm**

**Sunday 25th February 2024
10am to 1pm**



Join us at Castle Sports Complex, Albion Street, Spalding

www.spaldingindoorbowls.co.uk



National Inter-Club Knockout Updates

Over the last couple of months, Spalding Lightning have been progressing nicely in national inter-club competitions and are through to the final of the Denny Cup and the semi-final of the Egham Trophy, Top Club and the "David Cornwell" Under 30 Double Triples. This is an exciting time of the season, and we hope that you will help get behind our players to bring more national success back to the club.

Starting with the Denny Cup, we have beaten Stamford (95-58), Grantham (100-43), Boston (85-67) and Huntingdon (81-65) before two nail biting finishes against Nottingham (69-68) and a very strong Cumbria side (77-76). In the semi-final, we were dominant in beating Falcon (88-54) and will play Torquay in the final at Nottingham IBC on Saturday 13th April 2024. Thank you also to all of our travelling supporters. In the Egham Trophy, we will be looking to improve on our semi-final defeat from last season. So far, we have beaten Stamford (88-46), Boston (93-64), Grantham (104-50), Huntingdon (68-67) and Barwell (76-26) before an impressive quarter-final fightback against Norfolk Bowling Club to win by four shots (84-80). In the semi-final, we will play Wellingborough on Sunday 3rd March 2024 at a neutral venue yet to be confirmed. In the Top Club, we have beaten Sleaford (16-0), Peterborough (12-4), Huntingdon (12-4), Nottingham (14-2) and Acle (14-2). In the semi-final, we will play Hartlepool on Saturday 23rd March 2024 at the national championships at Nottingham IBC. It will hopefully prove to be a busy weekend as if we are successful in the semi-final of both the Top Club and Egham Trophy, the finals will be played on Sunday 24th March 2024 in the morning and afternoon respectively. Certainly not forgetting our under 30s who are defending champions of the competition and this season have so far beaten Boston (41-31) and Hartlepool (33-9). In the semi-final, we will play Wellingborough on Saturday 6th April 2024, also at the national championships at Nottingham IBC, with the final to hopefully follow later that day.

Please do come and show your support to the club!

Unfortunately, our ladies in the Yetton Trophy lost out to a strong St. Neots team (81-94) and on an extra end in the Mason Trophy against Lincoln (31-32). In the men's over 60s double rink, we lost in the second round against Louth (35-40).

Charity Cheque Presentation to Tulip Suite

Back in November, a cheque for £1,000 was presented to Alison Morant, Deputy CTL of the Tulip Suite at the Johnson Hospital. The money was raised by the ladies sub-committee with events like the cake stall, President's charity day, summer drives, Australian pairs games and the penny jar competition. Well done to everyone for raising money for such a worthy cause!



Dates For Your Diary

Friday 16th February 2024
Quiz Night – 7pm in the Bowlers Lounge

Saturday 17th February 2024
Yetton Trophy Semi-Final – Norfolk BC -v- St. Neots IBC – 11am

Saturday 24th (10.30am to 1.30pm) and Sunday 25th February 2024 (10am to 1pm)
Free Taster Weekend

Week Commencing Monday 15th April 2024

Quintet - This is a great competition, and it really does not matter what level you play at – please give this a try!

Week Commencing Monday 22nd April 2024

Finals **Week** - Weekend closing times have forced us to make the decision to scrap finals weekend and we will now have a club finals week.

Friday 26th April 2024
Presentation Night

AGM
Monday 29th April 2024 – 7pm



County League Update

Spalding have been successful in recent county south league fixtures and have ambitions of qualifying to the county finals against the north league winners. The men's league is closely contested but we are currently top of the table, four points clear of Stamford "A". It's looking good for our mixed team who are 18 points clear at the top of the table with a game in hand. Our Trudy Bates ladies are also in a strong position and still on course to defend their title as they are 17 points clear at the top of the table with only two games left to play. Our over 60s team are finding it tough going this season in a division which is topped by a strong Lincoln squad. New to the county calendar this season is an under 18 county league and have three teams entered. Spalding Hurricane are currently top of group one whilst Spalding Whirlwind and Spalding Tornado are finding it tough in group two which is topped by Lincoln Spitfires.

Good luck in the remaining fixtures and ongoing push for places in the county finals and thank you to all our players and captains!

League Review

As the end of the 2023/24 season is fast approaching and we will soon be opening entries for next season, we are currently undergoing a review of our league formats. If there are any potential changes that you would like to see in the 2024/25 programme, please contact our league secretary David Nunney to discuss.

International Call Ups

Although we have already reported on Ollie's success at international level, congratulations also to six of our members who have received call ups to play for England later this season.

It was a special moment especially for Dominic McVittie who has been selected to play for the men's senior team for the first time whilst Stephen Harris and Graham Smith retain their places. Dominic will play number three to Jamie Walker, with Shaun Jones and Andrew Walters as a front end, Stephen will lead a rink with Martin Puckett, Les Gillett and Greg Harlow and Graham will play number two in a rink skipped by Robert Paxton, with Paul Hartley and Joe Dawson.

Ruby Hill, Annie Dunham and Chelsea Spencer have retained their places in the ladies' senior team. Ruby and Annie will play in the same rink at lead and skip respectively with Kylie Jenkins and team captain Sandy Hazell. Chelsea will also skip her own rink with Cassidy Hampton, Chloe Brett and Anna Noble. Ruby was also called up to play in the ladies under 25 team where she will skip a rink for the first time with Hannah Smith, Jasmine Wilson and Imogen Cracknell.

Good luck to you all and the rest of Team England!



**Friday 16th February 2024
7pm in the Bowlers Lounge**



**QUIZ
NIGHT**



Free entry

Please feel free to bring your own drinks and nibbles

To enter a team, please add your name to the list on the notice board

A raffle will also be done on the night so prize donations are always much appreciated!

Potential Umpire/Marking Course

It has been raised at a recent Lincolnshire Indoor Bowling Association meeting that there is potential interest for the county to host an umpires/markers course. The county are looking for this to take place at Boston IBC in September. If you are interested, please contact Graham Smith for further details.

Social Events

As a club, we are keen to bring everyone together with our social events. So far this season, we have successfully run a crown green and bowls cricket evening (photos below) which were enjoyed by those in attendance. Coming up, we have a quiz night in the bowlers lounge on Friday 16th February 2024 and we would welcome any suggestions for potential social events in the future. Please do keep an eye out for forthcoming events on social media and on the notice boards/advertising TVs at the club.

