



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Affiliated to BCGBA





## **WALTER SMITH**

23RD JANUARY 1937 – 7TH JULY 2025

Manor Park Bowling Club

It was with great sadness that we reported in July of Walter Smith, our Club President who passed away after a short illness.

Walter had been a member of Manor Park Bowling club for over twenty years and was club captain of the Longdendale team for most of that time.

In recognition of his service to the club and his popularity with club members, he was elected Club President in 2019.

Walter played in various leagues including Londendale, Stockport and District, Tameside Vets and North Derbyshire Vets, and was well known to members of other clubs. He was also an excellent bowler and ambassador for the club.

His passing was a great loss to both the club and bowls in general and our thoughts were with Walter's family as we offered them our condolences.

The funeral took place on Thursday 24th July in St James Church Whitfield followed by committal at Glossop Cemetery. Donations in Walter's memory were requested to The Christie Charity or Willow Wood Hospice and can still be made directly online.

## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

*Dear Members*

**Without wishing to be melodramatic, the club has been facing an existential crisis since the AGM in November 2024.**

At the close of that meeting the club had one Executive Officer – the Treasurer, Dewi Howell. This meant that, constitutionally, nobody could even call a committee meeting to discuss the situation as that requires any two of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

To resolve the impasse Joyce Godfrey and I offered to fill the posts of Secretary and Vice Chair respectively and we were able to hold a meeting in early January, agree our “election” and also add Rob Burns (Minutes) and Luke Jones (Teams) to the committee which, up until that meeting, had consisted of Jeff Favell (Greens), Bryan Buckland (Greens), Paul Marsh (Communications) and Dewi.

Without a Chair in post the club has operated with an Acting Chair ever since. With a small committee we had to “cut our coat to suit our cloth” and, despite people doubling and tripling up on roles, things were left undone.

The situation was made worse in April when Secretary, Membership Secretary, Premises Coordinator and Social Bowling Coordinator, Joyce Godfrey was



Joyce and her team of volunteers on “opening day” for the refurbished and burnished clubhouse



Joyce with an “Unsung Hero” award presented to her with thanks in February to acknowledge her hard work and support

hospitalised with a heart condition which in August meant she had to resign all roles.

We struggled and will continue to struggle if more people like Lauren Diskin, John Billing, Sophie Briddon and Neal Linksy do not step up and take some of the burden.

There's no need to attend committee meetings for anyone other than the Executive Officers (and the Minutes Secretary, of course), we just need you to do whichever job you choose. Or even part of that job.

Despite "all of the above" the club has delivered a great many positive outcomes this year and these are covered by my committee colleagues in the remainder of this report. There are many causes for optimism.

However, as Acting Chair, I would not be doing my job – well, someone else's job – if I didn't invite you first to face the fact that things will not get done if nobody steps up to do them.

### **Mick Owen**

*Acting Chair*



Sunday Socials '7-Up'



The Harriet Jackson Competition

## DEVELOPMENT

The club continues to strive to make the joys of Crown Green Bowling accessible to the communities of Glossop and beyond with a continuing programme of Tuesday and Sunday social sessions, our extremely successful and enjoyable Primary Schools programme and, this year, three Open competitions.

### *Social Sessions*



Very much the bailiwick of Joyce Godfrey, her absence since April has meant the two weekly sessions have struggled at times this season. However, thanks to the commitment of a determined core of people who see their value, both sessions have survived and thrived with Sunday sessions continuing into the Autumn.

We have been less successful when it comes to social competitions with only the Individual Knockout actually taking place and the Pairs, Triples and Away Day competitions all falling victim to the fact that “If nobody will do things they won’t get done”.

It should be noted that the Individual competition was won by a social bowler, Lee Coffey who defeated four regular league players on his way to the trophy and that this season saw 12 graduates of our social programme being registered for league teams with nine of them playing regularly. That’s a full team on a Tuesday evening - and a sub!



It should also be noted that the Be Well session which the CIC host every Thursday morning recruited three of those league players as well as putting over £200 into the club’s coffers. That’s the power of treating “social” players as a valuable resource rather than an inconvenience.

### *The Opens*

With the success of the Harriet Jackson Open last season, it was a no brainer that we would run it again this year and, again, we saw a full house of entries, largely from the High Peak although bowlers from the south of Derbyshire and Greater Manchester also tried their hand.

The Harriet Jackson was preceded in the calendar by the Longdendale League’s individual trophy which set the tone for the summer with the visitors saying that they enjoyed our green not just because it is both quick and consistent but also because it is “tricky”.



Unfortunately, the Women's Open was less well supported but was played for and did bring in a surplus thanks to the efforts of the organizing team. And their mums!

The final event, the Pairs Open, was fully subscribed well before the date with so many family-based combinations on view we could probably get an inter-generational grant for the competition next year!

As alluded to above, the organizing and delivery of the Open events is a family affair with Luke Jones and Sophie Briddon roping in their parents, grandparents and siblings to ensure all three competitions' success. This year saw more club members volunteering to do their bit, and it only has to be a small bit if enough people step up, to lighten Luke and Sophie's load and help us establish our credentials as a well-organised, welcoming venue – with two greens, hopefully – and develop what is a surplus generating element of our competitive programme.

### ***Primary School Programme***

Thanks to our partners, the High Peak School and Sports Partnership (HPS&SP), our Primary Schools Programme – a series of coaching sessions rounded off with a competitive event for local primaries - is also a surplus generator with the final bill to HPS&SP coming to four figures.



Starting with two schools last year, the programme added two more this year with each school being given two one hour slots led by, at best, four volunteers including one of the club's newly qualified Level 1 coaches.

The Finals Day saw eight volunteers each working with two teams of three children at one time to deliver a complicated, timed competition which used the aggregate score of all a schools' four teams. Both greens were in constant use with 48 children competing (plus substitutes) and Duke of Norfolk school came out the victors taking home the newly minted Dave Collier Schools Trophy.



However, it is not who won the competition which is important but what the outcomes were for the children and the schools. Every adult who spoke to us or our partners praised the programme and the club and, when asked to feedback formally all four schools reported that the children who attended – mostly recruited from the ranks of children “not usually picked for sports” - experienced an “increase in confidence in all aspects of their school life” including how they behaved in the

classroom and the playground, how they related to teachers and their peers and how engaged they were in their own learning.



The 10 volunteers who were involved – including the Mayor of High Peak who got roped in to do the timing of the Finals event – all said how rewarding they found it and what a joy it was to see the children visibly learning, improving and enjoying themselves.

### Coaching

This year the club not only saw two volunteers – Rob Burns and Mick Owen – achieve the Level 1 coaching qualification but we also saw the club used as a base for the two practical days of the course.

Their places were subsidized by a grant from Foundation Derbyshire matched by a BCGBA bursary which meant that their qualifications cost the club nothing and, with the contribution that Coach Bowls made for the use of our facilities an unlooked for bonus, we actually saw a surplus on the project.

In 2026 at least one of our coaches hopes to take – and pass – the Level 2 qualification and develop his coaching both at the club and further afield.

### Miscellaneous

Also of note this year, as part of our commitment to developing bowls, we:

- Facilitated two Saturday morning taster sessions on behalf of North Derbyshire CGBA (NDCGBA) as part of their development plan,
- Delivered our own Saturday morning summer intergenerational kids club “Bring your Grandma to Bowls” in July, and . . .
- Aligned our club plans with both the BCGBA and NDCGBA development strategy documents.
- Along the way helped increase club membership by 15%



Level 1 Course Assessment Day



## TEAMS REPORTS



### ***Stockport Vets Pairs (Monday Afternoon)***

The team plays in Division C of the Stockport and District Bowling League. 20 players were registered at the start of season and all but 3 players took part in at least 1 game. It was a fairly disappointing season as we won only 6 of our 22 games, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams. We lost 5 experienced players throughout the season most noticeably Walter Smith who sadly passed away. Fred Winder and Martin Cooper also had to withdraw due to ill health. On a positive note, we were joined by a number of new players including Val Wolstenholme, Elizabeth Greenaway, Pam Taylor, Anne Runagall and David Twigg who all performed admirably.

I've already sounded out a few new players for next season and hope the team will improve sufficiently to finish higher up the table.

*Neal Linsky*



### ***High Peak Mixed Pairs – A Team (Tuesday Evening)***

The A team's season this year can be summed up with one word, Outstanding! The team have won Division One for the first time in the club's history, winning 22 of 24 games on the way to the title. Since the end of July, the team played 11 matches and only dropped 28 chalks combined showing fantastic consistency against all opposition. Congratulations to Sophie Briddon who has also won the Ladies' average for the division. Thanks are due to the additional players who helped out this year where required to ensure that the team continued the title pursuit.

All in all, a pretty much perfect season, in which all players contributed greatly both on and around the green at every match. On another note, the team spirit and camaraderie throughout the season has made this team a joy to captain.

*Luke Jones*



### ***High Peak Mixed Pairs – B Team (Tuesday Evening)***

Out of the 24 matches played the team won 10 matches and finished in 10<sup>th</sup> position in the league. We have 11 regular players on the team and have a healthy number of players who are happy to play when needed. In my opinion Robert Burns for the



gentlemen and Rebecca Silcock for the ladies were the star players this year. The team are looking forward to the 2026 season.

*Jane Ingerson*



### **North Derbyshire National (Wednesday Evening)**

The Wednesday night team have had another successful season in the league. As it's only our third year now I think we are doing well and have improved from last year. We finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league, an improvement from last year's 4th place. We played 16 games this season and won an impressive 10 games, the highlights of that being beating Burbage B (who finished 2nd) comfortably home and away, and beating Chapel Park B - who won the league – on their green.

The team has grown once again this season, with our three new additions taking us up to 14 regular players with everyone getting plenty of games, it's been an enjoyable season for us all and we look forward to starting again next year. Special mention of the season goes out to Luke Jones who came runner up in the league averages only just missing out on the top spot (0.13 in it). He's had a fantastic season, playing every game and only losing one match where he came up against a superb performance from Chris Brothwell on a very tricky Tideswell green.

More congratulations go out to Jon Matthews and Sam Rayson who only joined the team this year and only lost one game each, which is very impressive as most of the greens were brand new to them. Once again, well done team and here's to the new season next year!

*Sophie Briddon*



### **North Derbyshire Vets (Thursday Afternoon)**

As the season approached, our Thursday team didn't have a captain until Fred Winder stood up and said he would do it – with the help of a committed Vice-Captain. Cometh the hour, cometh the man in the shape of Dave Overall who, when Fred was taken ill early in the season, has born the burden of captaincy with positivity and a never-ending fund of pithy advice.

Overall, the team have slipped down the table this year, winning 8 of the 18 games played. There were 9 regular players, with a further 5 helping out where needed. Neal Linksy and Dave Overall himself both had strong seasons, both winning 12 games. The team could do with a few more players for next season to bolster the squad.



### **Longdendale – A Team (Saturday Afternoon)**

This season, was the first season where we have had two teams in the Longdendale league, and the A team have managed to bounce back from relegation last season with a 2nd place finish. The team have had very strong performances throughout the year, winning all but one game. Jack Harrison, Luke Jones, Jason Adshead and Sophie Briddon all finished within the top 5 of the averages for the entire division, with Jack going the whole season unbeaten. The team will try to bolster its ranks with a few more additions ahead of the new campaign in Division Two next year.

*Luke Jones*



### **Longdendale – B Team (Saturday Afternoon)**

The inaugural season for the team and, whilst the match results and ultimate final standing in the league were not as strong as I had hoped, we did achieve the key goal of expanding the participation of members in league competition. We ended the season having selected 20 different players and, more importantly, that number included 5 members who had never previously played in a league match for the club.

Finishing bottom of the league and only one match victory doesn't tell the whole story as there were some very strong and consistent performances from a number of players and certainly some matches that could have easily fallen in our favour. With the experience gained from this season under our belt I am confident that next season will provide stronger results.

A key issue for the team going forward is to ensure we have a large enough pool of players for team selection as, whilst we always managed to get a full team out for the league matches, we did have to default on the cup match as we had insufficient numbers of players available.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Rob Burns for his sterling work as co-captain on those occasions when I was unavailable and to Luke Jones for his guidance on league rules and managing the captain's role.

*Peter McMahon*

## Green Maintenance Team Report 2025

THE GREEN TEAM are responsible for the mowing and maintenance of both the top and bottom greens. The priority is always the top green as this is the green used for league matches. Mowing of the top green normally takes place on both Monday and Thursday

each week between the beginning of April until the end of September. The bottom green is mowed each Thursday during the same period. This is always weather dependant and we tend to avoid mowing on a wet surface. In 2025 the weather was very unpredictable. There were weeks when there was little or no rain, and weeks when it rained every day, meaning we were unable to mow on the specified days. Due to the lack of rain, there were periods where we suspended mowing completely and watered the top green instead. We believe the top green held up well compared to other greens in the area, some of which suffered considerably compared to ours.



In addition to mowing we also treated both greens with moss killer and fertiliser to promote a healthy dense turf. The top green was also treated with a Hydro compound to prevent water building up on the surface causing “puddling”.

Both greens were scarified on a regular basis to help with removing thatch beneath the surface and aerated to help with drainage. These actions helped to speed up the playing surface with bowlers from other clubs stating the top green in particular was running faster than they had ever known. The bottom green has been scarified on numerous occasions and we are pleased the green is now running much faster. Cleaning and weeding of the gulleys occurred throughout the season, ensuring the top green in particular was neat and tidy.

We have commissioned an expert to vertidrain and put an autumn fertiliser on the top green which will eliminate the issues of both puddling and the small brown spots all over.

Both greens will be monitored and maintained throughout the autumn/winter period. The bottom green will remain open and the green team will assist with leaf clearance to ensure the surface is playable.

The green team raised concern that the bottom green is not being used as much as it could be with social bowlers using the top green, rather than the bottom green. This calls into question whether the club needs two greens and we are therefore encouraging the committee to promote more usage of the bottom green.

I am indebted to the following members of the team who have helped with keeping both greens in good condition over the last 12 months. Jeff Favell, Simon Turner, Barrie Clayton, Val Wolsteholme, Luke Jones, Mick Owen, Rob Burns, Anne and Ed Donnoghue, Steve Tinson.

**Neal Linsky**

*Green Co-ordinator*





## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Current Year

**Manor Park Bowling Club**  
**Income & Expenditure from October 1st 2024 to October 1st 2025**  
 Treasurer: Dewi Howell

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership	1,995.43	Annual Fees etc.	1,282.23
Match Fees	2,101.04	Maintenance	495.72
Events	1,319.52	Expenses	
Grants	1,778.00	Equipment	3,287.71
Other	2,013.52	Events	583.99
		Other	578.76
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,207.51</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>6,228.41</b>
<b>Net surplus of income over expenditure for year -</b>			<b>2,979.10</b>

### Bank Reconciliation

Current Account Balance brought forward	5739.00
Total Income	9207.51
Total Expenditure	6228.41
Current Account balance to carry forward	8718.10

N.B. There will be some Match Fees carried on to next Season's Accounts because they will be paid into the bank after the 1st October 2025

### Auditor's Certificate

I have examined the above accounts with the relevant books, receipts and invoices produced and hereby certify them to be a true and accurate record of the financial position of the Club.

*Previous Year***Manor Park Bowling Club****Income & Expenditure from October 1st 2023 to September 30th 2024**

Treasurer: Dewi Howell

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Membership	1,658.00	Annual Fees etc.	863.81
Match Fees	1,727.24	Maintenance	1761.37
Events	874.45	Expenses	136.12
Sold items	0.00	Equipment	6737.87
Other	4,982.76	Events	975.75
		Other	91.98
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,242.45</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>10546.90</b>
<b>Net surplus of income over expenditure for year -</b>			<b>-1,304.45</b>

**Bank Reconciliation**

Current Account Balance brought forward	7043.45
Current Account balance to carry forward	5739.00

N.B. There will be some Match Fees carried on to next Season's Accounts because they will be paid into the bank after the 1st October 2024

**Auditor's Certificate**

I have examined the above accounts with the relevant books, receipts and invoices produced and hereby certify them to be a true and accurate record of the financial position of the Club.

# Primary kids bowled over

Local park users were bowled over last week when roughly 50 children from local primary schools descended on Manor Park Bowling Club to take part in the second annual Crown Green Bowling Festival.

A team of the club's volunteers worked alongside the High Peak School and Sport Partnership's Children and Young People's Officer, Scott Thompson, to encourage the students from St James, Duke of Norfolk, All Saints and St Mary's to get involved with the sport.

Each taking twelve students each plus reserves, the children played in teams of three and competed in one of four mini-leagues, all squeezed into an hour.

The bowling club's acting chair, Mick Owen, said: "Crown green bowls is one of the most accessible games available, and we asked the Partnership to invite children who don't usually get picked to represent their school at sport to take part.

"We worked with each school separately in the weeks leading up to the event and introduced the children to the basics of crown green bowling, and today we saw the outcome of that hard work. 50 children achieving at sport in a friendly, supportive environment, and 8 very happy volunteers. And, better yet, it was great fun!"

Among the adults taking part in the event was High Peak mayor Dom Elliott-Starkey. Alongside consort



Jean Wharmby, the two handed out certificates of achievement and medals for all of the children, and awarded the winning team, Duke of Norfolk, a handsome trophy.

Dawn Richardson, High Peak School and Sport Partnership Man-

ager, said: "This event is a perfect example of what we aim to achieve at the Partnership - creating inclusive, enjoyable opportunities for all children to be active and feel successful through sport.

"It was inspiring to see so many

young people engaging with a new activity, building confidence, and having fun in such a welcoming community setting. We're incredibly grateful to Manor Park Bowling Club and their volunteers for their enthusiasm and support."





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## **MANOR PARK BOWLING CLUB**

**Manor Park, Manor Park Road, Glossop SK13 7SH**

***Email* [bowlingmanorpark@yahoo.com](mailto:bowlingmanorpark@yahoo.com)**

***Website* [bowlingmanorpark.co.uk](http://bowlingmanorpark.co.uk)**