



Etherow
Indoor
Bowling
Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

OVERVIEW

Steve Roberts, Club Captain

What a fantastic first year! Who could have guessed how busy and successful we would be, when looking back just 13 months ago. The bowling centre was due to close on September 3rd 2023, which would have had serious negative effects on the 200 existing bowlers. There was simply no indoor replacement sport available to satisfy their social and physical needs; it would have been life changing for them, and not for the better.

Back in July 2023 the bowling centre was given two months' notice of closure. It had to close, and no hope of any other outcome was possible, or so it seemed. A meeting of bowlers, councillors and Etherow Trustees was hastily arranged. The meeting was held with about 100 people in attendance. Out of the gloom, hope appeared and from that hope came passion and determination. To save the bowling, the only way forward was to simultaneously save the building, the two things had to go hand in hand. A passionate vision of bowling expansion was delivered, the impossible now seemed possible, and the room began to buzz. Trustees and the bowlers were on board and seven bowlers and two trustees stepped forward to set the wheels in motion. Discussions were held, plans were put in place and actions were taken.

Roll forward to September 3rd 2023. The doors were opened on a new era for bowlers and the Etherow Centre Charitable Trust. Together the dream had become a reality.

Since opening these doors, we now have approximately 400 Etherow members and roughly 500 bowlers in total have played here. To achieve this, we have successfully

introduced Short Mat bowling and eight brand new sets of world class playing equipment. This has attracted some of the world's best bowlers to Etherow. We have also managed to fill every existing Long Mat league plus introduced two additional Long Mat leagues. It is pleasing to see how so many of the Short Mat bowlers have now taken to Long Mat bowling. In time we expect that many more of the Long Mat bowlers will have a go and come to appreciate the technicalities of the Short Mat game that is so popular with roughly 100,000 players around the world.

Our growth in numbers has been fantastic and I anticipate that our membership numbers will continue to grow to maybe 500 in 2025. The most amazing thing though is that I anticipate that the number of bowlers that will play at our venue in the next 12 months will double to 1,000 in total. That new total has been made possible mainly due to the introduction and adoption of Etherow IBC by both the Greater Manchester SMBA and the Stockport IBL as their home venue for county matches. In total there will be 13 county matches played at Etherow with each visiting team bringing roughly 24 players, which is about 300 new bowlers in total. Both Greater Manchester and Stockport will also be holding various National qualifier and championship events here.

Etherow IBC itself has also entered two teams in the local Stockport Short Mat bowling league. That will mean roughly 16 local team matches and knockouts will be held here at Etherow, mostly on nights throughout the winter season. Maybe a

further 100 visitors in total, meaning that my estimate of 1,000 bowlers in the next 12 months could easily be achieved.

To manage this growth, a great deal of time, effort and money has been invested into our building. The whole building and playing facilities have vastly improved in appearance and cleanliness. This is just the start for the Etherow Centre, and improvements will continue over the next few years. Ideas and plans are many and varied. We are aiming high, and our intention is to make the Etherow Centre an attraction that not just bowlers, but the whole of Broadbottom and the surrounding areas can be proud of.

What we have achieved so far is being talked about nationally and throughout Europe in bowling communities. I am proud to say that in January our Etherow Centre will be hosting two friendly Short Mat matches. The first will be the England Under 21's team vs Etherow / Greater Manchester on January 25th. The second game will be England Ladies vs Etherow / Greater Manchester on January 26th. Everyone can be sure that there will be high quality bowling on display and a very warm welcome will be extended to both visiting England teams.

Helping to raise our profile further, we will be hosting the "Short Mat players Tour" in March 2025. This event will see 32 of the world's best bowlers playing for the title of "Champion of Champions" in the inaugural "Tournament Players Championship". This event will be held on 15th & 16th March and streamed live by a TV company on YouTube for the whole two days. These top-class players from around Europe will also be playing for a total SMPT prize fund in excess of £10,000. As I said, Etherow is becoming well known and talked about by bowlers throughout England and Europe.

Closer to home, we are very proud that we have also held two of our own Charity Long Mat events. In January 2024 we held our own event in support of "NHS Charities Together" and in March 2024 we held another of our own events in support of the "MacMillan Cancer Charity". With the support of the bowlers and the Etherow Centre, these events raised £500 for each of these worthy causes. Our thanks go to Gerry Thackrey for sponsoring both of these charity days.

Other events last year included a two day triples event we called the "High Peak Cup", which saw many players visiting from Essex, Cambridge and the midlands. It was a great success and virtually all of the visitors are looking forward to returning again for the same event this year. We also had a Christmas Long Mat knockout competition. This was the first Long Mat knockout event held at Etherow which proved very successful and was played with a great Christmas spirit. To prove that bowls is for all, this event was won by two players with an age difference of 50 years. Young or old, we all enjoy our bowls.

Another competitive and fun improvement we made last year was to introduce an end of season knockout for all of our Long Mat leagues. This was another great set of games enjoyed by all who took part and these knockouts will continue every year.

Here we are then, 13 months after almost certain closure. We have not allowed that to happen and will continue to improve all the time. Etherow is now one of the most successful and happy places to be, evidenced by a room full of smiles at all times with plenty of friends playing bowls and socialising together. I personally feel that I have hundreds of new friends, and I look forward to my games with you all. Together we have turned Etherow into a wonderful place to be, we can all be very proud of who and what we are.

Next, I want to mention our fantastic team of office volunteers. Each day the office is manned by friendly volunteers that make day to day bowls run smoothly. These people are also your bowling friends. If you feel you would like to assist these friends in helping Etherow IBC flourish, just speak any one of the office volunteers.

I would like to personally thank our wonderful Etherow Team that form part of the bowls committee. Working with these people for 15 months now has been an honour. It is a privilege to class these people as personal close friends now. Their time, effort and diligence has been magnificent. All have had the same goal, which has simply been to make Etherow the best place it can be. The team act as one and never for personal gain, all as volunteers

with Etherow in their hearts. It's a great team and if you ever feel that you would like to contribute to the Etherow success story, please stand tall.

To each and every one of you that are now members of the Etherow Charitable Trust, thank you very much from myself and on behalf of everyone involved.

Keep bowling and smiling, the two go hand in hand.

See you all soon.

Best regards

Your friend and Club Captain

Steve Roberts



FINANCE

Gwyn Davies, Director & Trustee Treasurer

Some background about the Trust.

The Trust since its establishment in 1985 has acted solely as landlord to provide recreational and therapeutic riding classes and furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through the provision of facilities hosting a range of sports and leisure activities available to able bodied and disabled people, covering a wide age range and geographical area.

Our primary tenant is Tameside MBC and they have previously provided the sports leisure activities latterly via Active Tameside. The riding classes were first provided by Kingfisher and following its dissolution then Haywill Animal Rescue. That organisation has since ceased to operate in March 2024. A situation which the Trust have now to address.

The Trust accounting year is 1st December to 30th November. In the last audited accounts to 30 Nov 2023 I can report the following extract:

Financial review

Income totalled £56,592 (2022: £32,614) and total expenditure was £61,456 (2022: £46,920)

Leaving a deficit of £4,864(including a deprecation charge of £15,462). New sources of funds to cover future maintenance projects continue to be explored. Restricted reserves at the year end were £37,233.

The increases in figures reflects the impact of the Trust involvement with the Indoor Bowling centre from 2/09 providing income of £22,813 for the 3 month period to 30/11 with costs of £13,680 excluding utility costs of £11,875 and maintenance costs.

The Committee considers the outlook for the Indoor Bowling Centre remains optimistic with an increased income in the first 12 months of operation of over 100%.

The increase comes primarily from two streams:

1) the introduction of a membership scheme

and

2) diversification with the introduction of the short mat game which utilizes the first-class level bowling surface used by our members and other short mat bowling clubs who can hire our facility for a reasonable hourly charge.

But is also the result of increased usage of the improved facility with the support of our growing membership.

Unaudited figures are as follows:

From the Square financial reporting system we have an income for the period 2/09/23 to 31/09/24 of £60,694.14 supplemented by Room hire fees of £1,640 Totalling £62,334.

Costs amount to £ 57,949 and include:

Unaudited Costs: 2 September 2023 – 31 September 2024

Active Tameside contract until 31/03/24		£21,983.47
Utility costs for the period to 30/03 /24 <i>(after 50% contribution by TMBC)</i>		£10,550.58
Maintenance Costs for the period to 30/03/24 <i>(after 50% contribution by TMBC)</i>		£4,354.95
Specific maintenance carried out includes:		
New heating controls	£3,000	
Inhibitor system on heating (xpot) + dosing	£4,110	
Car park clean up	£4,150	
		£11,260
Annual Running Costs includes:		
Cleaning	£3,100	
Office costs		
Security and alarm monitoring	£1,350	
Telephone and broadband	£ 480	
Supplies	£3,700	
Beverages	£ 700	
Business Rates	£ 500	
		£9,800
	Total:	£ 57,949

There are other costs shared with the Trust such as bank charges which are not included.

For accounting purposes our accounting year will be the same as the Trust and the accounts will be prepared by Community Accountancy Services based in Beswick Manchester.

Please note that much work has been carried out by volunteers. Some has been organised by the Trust such as the

dilapidations which were reimbursed by Tameside MBC or dealt with by our sponsors who have made significant contributions to refurbish the Centre.

The lease is still held by Tameside MBC and meaningful negotiations have yet to take place. The Trust have now appointed Chartered Surveyors to carry out a rent review. Their report we hope will act as a catalyst to promote discussion and resolution of this matter. Legal advice is being obtained.



SECRETARY / MEMBERSHIP

Maureen Meek, Membership Officer

I have been very proud to have been the initial secretary for our club over the last year. However, due to circumstances I have taken a sideways step and therefore there is a vacancy for a club secretary on our committee. I am still a committee member however, and my role is now Membership Office administrator.

I find looking after all our members and the administration of our long Mat bowling leagues very rewarding and I would like to thank all our members for their support.

Thank you also to all members that have taken the time to renew their membership

before we start the winter season. Those that have renewed will be aware of the gift aid statement and our shoe policy.

I wish all our members an enjoyable 2024/25 winter bowling season and don't forget that our office team is always on the lookout for new volunteers.

Finally, a reminder that, in order to keep up with rising external costs and ensure we are able to keep on investing in improving our centre, our membership and activity fees will increase as we presented at the members meeting on 11th August. Here's a summary of the new pricing structure:

	Price to 29/09/24	Price from 30/09/24
Membership*		
Full annual Membership	£20	£24
Short Mat Only Membership	£10	£12
Short Mat Full (with registrations)	-	£24
Family Membership	-	£48
Bowling Sessions*		
Social Long Mat Bowling	£6	£6
Daytime Fours	£5	£5.50
Daytime Triples	£6	£6.60
Evening Triples	-	£6
Evening Fours	£5	£5.50
Daytime Pairs	£7.50	£8.50
Short Mat Club Nights	£4	£4.50
Refreshments		
Tea/Coffee	50p	60p

* Junior Bowlers under 18 years of age receive a 50% discount on membership and bowling sessions

IT & SOCIAL MEDIA

Dave Almond, IT Officer

This year has focussed on establishing new systems, electronic communication channels and ensuring stability and supportability. Whilst many digital initiatives are still planned including self-service payments and website linked social lane availability, these are larger, long term projects. Here are the highlights from this year:

- Secured continuation of fast business grade internet connection.
- Secured free of charge transition of core office IT equipment.
- Secured free of charge business hours support from Myson Pages IT support company.
- Transitioned phone line and established email linked voicemail service.
- Established website and Facebook pages for digital marketing and information sharing with members.
- Established link between website news feed and Facebook page to keep existing members informed and attract new members.
- Established email addresses for key EIBC functions.
- Established and developed payment system and financial reporting.
- Established lane and centre availability calendar.
- Designed stationary and incorporated new logo into digital and physical branding assets.
- Designed and developed easy to use fixtures and score tracking systems alongside pre-printed score cards for long mat leagues.
- Designed and developed fixtures, score tracking and player statistics systems for short mat league.
- Designed membership tracking systems plus membership and renewal forms and processing systems.
- Made fixtures, rules, scores and league tables easily accessible via our website and the majority of these real-time updated from office records.
- Installed and configured CCTV cameras and central recording system to help protect EIBC and our members.
- Secured free of charge donations of wireless internet infrastructure from Myson Pages and installed and configured this to increase wireless internet access across the whole bowling area and provide additional capacity for upcoming events.

Any ideas for improvements are always welcome, please feel free to share these in person or by using the contact link on our website.



SAFEGUARDING

Charlie Cooper, Safeguarding Officer

I would like to remind members that inappropriate behaviour is not acceptable, and the committee will monitor the behaviour of members and take appropriate action should a member transgress the ETIQUETTE considered required of them when playing at the Centre as outlined below.

The Importance of Etiquette

Indoor bowls is a game that requires concentration, precision, and respect for your fellow players. Observing proper etiquette is crucial as it sets the tone for a friendly and fair competition. Etiquette ensures that everyone has an equal opportunity to play their best and enjoy the game without unnecessary distractions or disruptions. By adhering to the etiquette guidelines, you demonstrate good sportsmanship and create a positive environment that encourages camaraderie and healthy competition. Understanding and practicing indoor bowls etiquette is not only essential for gameplay but also contributes to the overall reputation and integrity of the sport.

Greet your opponents and fellow players

A simple act of greeting goes a long way in creating a friendly and welcoming atmosphere on the greens. Before the game begins, take the time to introduce yourself and shake hands with your opponents and fellow players. This small gesture shows respect, sportsmanship, and a willingness to engage in a fair and enjoyable competition.

When greeting your opponents, it is customary to address them by their names and offer a warm smile. This helps to

establish a personal connection and foster a sense of camaraderie among players. Remember, indoor bowls is not just about the competition, but also about building relationships and forming lasting friendships

Observe silence when players are on the mat

One of the fundamental aspects of indoor bowls etiquette is maintaining silence when a player is on the mat and about to deliver their bowl. The mat is the designated area where a player stands to deliver their shot, and it requires utmost concentration and focus.

When a player is on the mat, it is crucial to avoid any unnecessary noise or distractions that could disrupt their concentration. This includes refraining from talking, moving around, or engaging in any activities that may divert their attention. By observing silence, you create an environment that allows the player to perform at their best and execute their shot effectively.

It is also important to note that silence should be observed not only by players but also by spectators and other individuals present on the greens. Everyone should respect the intensity of the moment and do their part in ensuring a quiet and focused atmosphere.

Be courteous and polite

Courtesy and politeness are at the core of indoor bowls etiquette. Treating your opponents and fellow players with respect creates a positive and enjoyable environment for everyone involved. During the game, it is essential to demonstrate good sportsmanship by acknowledging your opponent's successes and showing

empathy towards their challenges. Celebrate their good shots and offer words of encouragement when they face difficulties. Remember, indoor bowls is a game that requires skill and strategy and supporting each other is crucial for maintaining a positive atmosphere. Politeness extends beyond the game itself. Be mindful of your language and tone when communicating with others on and

off the greens. Avoid using offensive or derogatory language and ensure that your interactions are respectful and inclusive. By embodying courtesy and politeness, you contribute to a culture of respect and create an environment that encourages fair play and sportsmanship.

Please refer to the Bowls Etiquette leaflet available on Notice boards in the Centre.

FACILITIES

Ted Bussell, Chair of House

In our first year, the committee has had much to tackle, and we have been able to do so with the backing of our sponsors underwriting expenditure to maintain and upgrade the facilities.

Essential repairs and cleaning

Cleaning of the internal fabric at low and high level.

Cleaning of the bowling mat.

Appointment of a cleaner to carrying out a weekly clean.

Refurbishment and improvement of the toilet facilities inc decoration.

Repair of floor finishes inc re staining timber flooring.

Provision of barrier matting.

Redecoration of the access ramp and balustrade.

Provision of curtains to window and opaque film to high level roof windows to control glare and sunlight.

Energy reduction

Replacement of high level light fittings with LED 's to reduce energy consumption.

Relocation of high-level fans from above ends to reduce draught while driving war air down.

Insulating primary heating pipework between plant rooms.

Installing a new boiler control system to allow local modification and adjustment.

Ongoing maintenance and improvements

Annual boiler service and legionella testing by TPS and fire extinguisher inspection.

Appointment of Panoramic Fire and Security to maintain alarm systems.

Appointment of Leon Murray for general gardening services which he does conscientiously and to a high standard.

The addition of a CCTV system to provide crime prevention safety and security.

New signage.

Provision of lockers.

Future planned projects

Replacing the large arched central window.

Refurbishing mezzanine level rooms for members use.

Repairing boundary fencing.



ROLL OF HONOUR

We're very proud of all our member's achievements but we believe that the members and teams below deserve a special mention for outstanding achievements in our leagues and competitions this year.

	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Long Mat Winter Leagues			
Monday Fours	Hyde Tigers	Grapes	Mighty Ducks
Wednesday Fours	Manor Park B	Mighty Ducks	Minden
Thursday Daytime Fours	Woodley	Badgers	Spring Gardens
Thursday Evening Fours	Mighty Ducks	A-Men / Techniheat	
Friday Pairs	Old Millers	Techniheat	Spindles
Long Mat Summer Leagues			
Friday Triples – First Half	Techniheat	Old Millers	Gerrymanders
Friday Triples – Second Half	Happy Hatters	Gerrymanders	Techniheat
Long Mat Competitions			
End of Season Pairs Knockout	Techniheat	United	
End of Season Fours Knockout	Techniheat	Hyde Tigers	
Christmas Knockout	Steve Roberts George Almond	Sue Banfield Chris Banfield	
NHS Charity Triples	Mike Anderson Gerry Thackery Charlie Cooper	George Richards Jamie Evans Bill Fawley	
Macmillan Charity Triples	The Blue Moffetts	Badgers	Almond Nuts
Short Mat League			
Short Mat Summer League	Haz Beans	Woodley Beamers	Peaky Bowlers
Short Mat Merit			
Winter 2023	Garry Williamson	John Cunningham	Steve Roberts
Spring 2024	Garry Williamson	Dave Almond	Dave Heatley
Summer 2024	Dave Almond	Dave Heatley	Garry Williamson

PROPOSALS

The following proposals will be voted on during our AGM:

Election of Officers:

Position	Officer	Proposed	Seconded
Chairperson	George Richards		
Club Captain	Steve Roberts		
Finance	Gwyn Davies		
Secretary	Vacant		
Membership	Maureen Meek		
IT/Social Media	Dave Almond		
Safeguarding	Charlie Cooper		
Chair of House / Facilities	Ted Bussell		
Grants and Fundraising	Edwin Mountfield		
Trust Representatives : Nominated by the Trust			
Trust Representative	Gwyn Davies		
Trust Representative	Ted Bussell		

Rule Changes:

Modification of Rule C1 from:

Clean, flat-soled indoor footwear must be worn whilst on the green. Ideally, footwear produced by recognised bowls manufacturers should be worn, centre management can provide a list of retailers that sell such footwear.

To:

Clean, flat-soled indoor footwear produced by recognised bowls manufacturers must be worn whilst on the green.

Modification of Rule J3a from:

Game Win: 3 Points To: Game Win: 2 Points

Addition of Rule I8:

Electronic devices e.g., mobile phones, pagers, smart watches etc, in active mode are not allowed on the rink and calls must not be taken during a game without prior agreement from both team captains.

Removal of Rule D1 & D2:

D1: *Daytime league games are to be played over a maximum of 16 ends or as many as can be completed within two hours, if this is less than 16.*

D2: *Evening league games are to be played over a maximum of 13 ends or as many as can be completed within one and half hours, if this is less than 13.*

Modification of Rule H1 from:

In a game of fours, a game may still take place with a player missing, in this case, the following rules apply:

To:

In a game of triples or a game of fours, a game may still take place with a player missing, in this case, the following rules apply:



Bowling at its best...