



Etherow
Indoor
Bowling
Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

OVERVIEW

Steve Roberts, Club Captain

This season has been our second full year and what a fantastic time we have had. There have been two new long mat leagues, the summer Tuesday singles and the Monday night triples. Both have proved very popular and successful. We have had many new members join the club which include a few locals from Broadbottom. It's really pleasing that the local community are now beginning to embrace the Etherow Bowling Centre.

We now have two short mat teams in the Stockport Metro Indoor Bowling League. The "A" team won the fifth division earning them a promotion to the fourth division, and the "B" team were runners up. Both teams played in our new club shirts, looking and playing fantastic. Well done to all our players and good luck in the upcoming season.

Last winter's short mat season saw many county teams visit the Etherow Centre. There were a total of 13 county matches played here against our local county players, representing both the Greater Manchester county team and the Stockport Metro county team.

We also held friendly matches at Etherow against the England Under 21s team and the England Ladies team. We were honoured to host their visits, and two great matches were played out with everyone in good spirits.

Lastly, regarding short mat - we hosted our biggest event so far; the Short Mat Players Tour were here for their first ever Champion of Champions tournament. It lasted three days and was fully televised and streamed for two full days on YouTube. What a fantastic showcase for both short mat bowls and our lovely Etherow Centre.

Our web site has grown considerably and is now very automated with team scores and league tables. We also have a new promotional video narrated by TV's Paul Krone. It's on our home page for all our web site visitors to see. Many thanks go to Dave Almond for his time and providing the IT skills to make things like this happen.

We held two long mat charity days which raised about £1,250, split between the NHS Charities Together and the Macmillan Cancer charities. There was no one prouder of these days than our instigator of the events, Gerry Thackrey.

The last 12 months have seen massive improvements to our bowling facilities and to our brilliant 158-year-old building. Briefly, the largest of these projects being solar panels, roof repairs, ramp side improvements, plus repointing the huge southerly & westerly external walls. We have also had a generous gift of all new windows to the bowling arena which will improve our insulation but more pleasingly, provide clear and wonderful views of the High Peak District for all our members and visitors to admire. These windows are a gift from Steven Roberts in loving memory of his parents, David and Barbara Roberts.

The Etherow Centre just keeps getting better and we should all be so proud of what we have achieved so far.

I would personally like to thank all our hard working volunteers and committee members for everything they have done in the last 12 months. If you would like to contribute or help the Etherow Centre in any way, please step forward and you will be made most welcome.

Generally, a brilliant 2024 / 2025 and here's
to more of the same in 2026.

Thanks to all of you for being Etherow
Charity members.

Yours sincerely

Steve Roberts

Club Captain



FINANCE

Gwyn Davies, Director & Trustee Treasurer

Annual Accounts

The accounts for the financial year ending 30th November 2024 were prepared and subjected to independent examination by Community Accountancy Service Ltd (CAS) and signed off by them on 19th March 2025. These have been submitted as required to the Charity Commission and Companies House.

On the 1st May this year, CAS merged with Hilton Jones Chartered Accountants, their approval as accountants for the accounts with year ending 30th November 2025 is required.

Banking

The Trust continues to bank with HSBC using their internet banking platform which provides improved access. Bank charges have reduced, although charges are incurred when banking cash transactions from the Bowling Centre, HSBC has now removed the £5 monthly fee for maintaining the account since we are a charity.

Income from the bowling centre provides an opportunity to earn interest on our cash reserves. It is the intention to open an easy access account with Charity Bank.

Utilities

We changed provider to Octopus on 1st January this year for the supply of both gas and electricity following the end of our contract with British Gas Lite for gas on the 10th December 2024 (Our fixed term deal with EDF for the supply of electricity ended on the 30th September 2024). The transfer did not go well but Octopus compensated us for the additional costs we incurred.

While the contract with our water utility provider, Everflow, ended on 31st December

2024, we have yet to move to another provider.

Insurance

We remain with the same provider, Ansvar, a specialist commercial insurer provider which supports charities and was sourced through Access Insurance brokers. This is due for renewal at the end of the month.

Tameside MBC

Our tenant TMBC backtracked on their intent to surrender the lease, and they continue to honour it and its terms which will continue until the end of March 2029.

We explored a rent review but the chartered surveyors advising the Trust concluded that rent increases to reflect inflation were not a given and concluded that the arrangement for TMBC to honour their lease until the planned end date was a reasonable compromise.

Main Building: The Etherow Indoor Bowling Centre

Running the facility continues to demand significant time and effort. Steve Roberts, Chairman of TPS (Techniheat Plant Services Limited) and the Club Captain continues to be the driving force providing enthusiasm, business vision and financial backing.

Keeping the facility running would not be possible without the contributions and support of the management committee, formed to establish the organisation, and all the volunteers who help on a daily basis. As a result of the effort and support of these people, the centre has had a successful year and income has exceeded expenditure.

Surplus income has permitted investment in the building and its setting, which I hope all can appreciate and will enjoy the more pleasant environment created. Our

neighbours have noted and commented positively on the changes taking place. The Trust has benefitted specifically by an improvement to its setting with an improved car park and grounds landscaping to entrance areas.

We have all worked together with the shared aim of establishing systems to create a basis for the business to be run viably in the long term.

Two rooms remain in use by bands for practice, one on the ground floor east end, and one on the west end mezzanine.

The ground floor arena had partial use for a short time as a dog training venue but now is underused again. The stables tenant may make use of its facilities.

Stables

We have had no income from the stables since March 24. We suffered lost revenue and incurred additional expenditure because of the actions of Haywill Animal Rescue which is no longer in business.

We are delighted to have reached agreement with Inspired Animal Therapy CIC to become a tenant from 29th August. We will work with them to bring the building back into use and IAT have agreed to undertake repairs including the to the arena fencing. The costs of this latter item will be shared.

Their presence ensures that the Trust continues to meet its charitable objectives.

Income

The Etherow Indoor bowling centre is our primary source of income. The Trust are the ultimate trustees for the centre The Trust is grateful to be the beneficiary of the income generated and is indebted to all the volunteers and sponsors. The bowling

centre is appreciated by the bowling community and the Etherow Centre provides a unique venue.

We welcome and endeavour to cater for members with disabilities and the income will help us to support our new stables tenant and our charitable status.

Tameside MBC continues to honour the lease and its terms. Rent is paid quarterly in arrears, a total of £15,000 per annum. They also contribute 50% of the annual cost of utilities and certain maintenance items. The amount received is claimed annually after the end of the financial year in which it occurred and varies. For the year ending 31st March 2025, we received £12,554.94 for utilities costs and £6,135.44 towards maintenance costs.

The Hire of the two band rooms provides a total of £4,160 pa.

Haywill Animal Rescue, previous tenant of the stables, were in arrears with rent when they ceased trading earlier this year In March 2024.

Supplementary income such as donations are welcomed, and grant aid is sought wherever possible. We were very pleased to be the beneficiary of £20,000 from the Community Lottery Fund. This has been spent on the refurbishment of the mezzanine level to create a locker room, a meeting room, plus the refurbishment of the kitchen. On the first floor the accessible WCs are in the process of being upgraded. On completion, the meeting room will be available for hire and will be advertised.

An extract from last audited accounts to 30th November 2024 is available and I can report the following figures:

Audited Accounts to 30 November 2024 Extract

	2023	2024
Total Income	£56,592	£132,034
Total Expenditure	£61,456	£101,875
Surplus Generated		£30,159
Restricted Reserves at Year End	£32,729	£37,233

Expenditure

The surplus income has allowed the Trust to undertake works to improve the building fabric. Approximate costs to date are:

Scaffolding	£20,000
Solar panels	£21,560
Roof repairs	£6,290
Replacement glazing & Velux windows repairs	£3,540
Repointing	£26,000
Total:	£77,390

Windows have been funded by the kind donation of Steve Roberts in memory of his late parents.

The solar panels will provide resilience to increasing electrical energy costs. Surplus electricity is diverted to the National Grid and will provide a modest income.



SECRETARY / MEMBERSHIP

Maureen Meek, Club Secretary & Membership Officer

The committee have been working hard all year on your behalf and I'm sure you will be pleased with our new look with views of the countryside.

I still find volunteering at the Etherow Indoor Bowling Centre a pleasure. Our team is always on the lookout for new volunteers.

Thank you to our team of office volunteers and to Maureen Douglas who has joined the committee and taken on the role of Volunteer Coordinator.

The bowling centre will be open Monday - Friday 9am- 3pm all week commencing Monday 22nd September for bookable long mat practice sessions, please contact the

office for further information. Membership renewal and long mat fixtures can be collected during this week.

May I wish all our members an enjoyable 2025/26 winter bowling season and don't forget that our office team is always on the lookout for new volunteers.

Our membership fees remain unchanged, and activity fees are the same as last year, except for long mat triples and short mat club nights, which are both increasing by 50p.

Refreshments will also increase by 10p. Here is a summary of the new prices:

	Price to 14/09/25	Price from 15/09/25
Membership*		
Full annual Membership	£24	£24
Short Mat Only Membership	£12	£12
Short Mat Full (with registrations)	£24	£24
Family Membership	£48	£48
Bowling Sessions*		
Social Long Mat Bowling	£6	£6
Daytime Fours	£5.50	£5.50
Daytime Triples	£6	£6.50
Evening Triples	£6	£6.50
Evening Fours	£5.50	£5.50
Daytime Pairs	£8.50	£8.50
Short Mat Club Nights	£4.50	£5.00
Refreshments		
Tea/Coffee	60p	70p
Soft Drinks Can	80p	90p
Chocolate bar	30p	40p

* 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 been another incredibly busy one for me, but due to increasing demands on my time, I anticipate that this will likely be my final year contributing my services to Etherow IBC. My main focus for the coming year will be to ensure that the systems and processes I have built and currently manage can be smoothly handed over to a successor. Below is a summary of the major achievements over the past year:

Major Achievements:

CCTV System Management

I have fine-tuned and successfully managed the day-to-day operations of our CCTV system. This system has already proven invaluable, notably assisting the police in identifying and deterring vandals earlier this year.

Website Improvements

Several enhancements were made to the Centre's website, aimed at promoting the venue, raising awareness of our sport, and helping our members stay informed with the latest news and updates.

Social Media & Content Publication

I managed the publication of news stories across social media platforms and our website, helping to keep the community engaged and informed.

Pricing and Membership Systems

I developed and maintained back-end systems for pricing and membership processes, ensuring a streamlined experience for members and volunteers alike.

Leagues and Fixtures Management

I enhanced the systems for tracking scores, entering fixtures, and publishing league tables for both long mat and short mat leagues, improving the overall efficiency and user experience.

Financial Reporting and Gift Aid

I provided critical financial and membership data to support accurate financial reporting and facilitate Gift Aid recovery.

Heating Management System

I collaborated with heating contractors to provide IT infrastructure and fine-tune the new heating management system, ensuring its smooth operation.

Champion of Champions Event Streaming

I worked alongside the TV streaming company to ensure the infrastructure and connectivity were in place for the successful streaming of the Champion of Champions event.

Website & Email Migration

I successfully migrated the website and email systems to a new hosting provider, improving performance and keeping costs low enough for me to continue to donate this to Etherow.

AGM Report Production

I took the lead in producing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) report, ensuring that all relevant information was clearly communicated to our members.



SHORT MAT

Dave Quinn, Short Mat Club Secretary

Short mat bowling at Etherow Centre has only been part of our offering for a couple of years, but the progress we've made in the past year has been nothing short of extraordinary. We've had some truly remarkable events and successes, which highlight just how far we've come.

Major Events and Highlights

1. Champion of Champions Competition

One of the standout moments was hosting the Champion of Champions competition, which brought together 28 of the world's top bowlers. The event was a huge success, with the filming of the competition being praised as the best-ever coverage of a short mat event. The atmosphere was electric, and it was a true testament to the growing reputation of short mat bowling at Etherow.

2. England Teams Visit

We were also privileged to welcome the England Ladies and England Under-21 teams for matches against our own Greater Manchester team. This was a fantastic opportunity to witness top-tier bowling and to see how our local players stacked up against some of the best in the country.

3. Stockport Metro & Greater Manchester Matches

The Centre hosted Stockport Metro's two teams for their home county matches, as well as the Greater Manchester team. These were exciting events, and we were thrilled to support our local teams on home turf.

League Success

4. Stockport Metro Indoor Bowling League

This year, we entered two teams into the Stockport Metro Indoor Bowling League. As new teams, we started in the bottom division, but that didn't hold us back.

Among our 24 players, eleven were new to short mat bowling, and some had to travel from outside the area.

Our A team had a near-perfect season, winning every match and only losing a single game – and that was to a pair from our B team. Both teams performed exceptionally well, with the A team finishing top of their division and the B team coming in second. In the knockout cup, both teams faced off against stronger opponents, starting from scratch and having to give up a 21-point start out of a possible 60. Despite this challenge, both teams reached the semifinals, with the B team narrowly beaten and the A team going on to win the cup!

5. League & Cup Prizes

The combined prize money for our league and cup triumphs was £247.50, which was a fantastic boost for the club.

6. League Averages

The league publishes an averages table for each division, and we're proud to report that all 8 players who qualified in our division were from Etherow – including two of our new players. The top pair in the league were Kevin and Sue Lawley, who finished joint top with an impressive average of 12.18. This means they won almost every match, both home and away, with a match score better than 15-3.

What an incredible year it's been for short mat bowling at Etherow! From world-class events and national team visits to outstanding league performances, our club is making its mark in the short mat bowling community. We couldn't have achieved any of this without the dedication of our players and the support of our members. Let's continue this momentum into the coming year!

FACILITIES

Ted Bussell, Director & Chair of House

The committee has had another busy and productive year, with significant strides made in improving the Etherow Centre, with support from our generous sponsors. We are pleased to report that a number of important upgrades have been successfully completed, ensuring that the Centre remains a safe, modern, and comfortable space for all.

Key Achievements:

1. Building Maintenance and Upgrades

Our ongoing commitment to maintaining the Centre's core infrastructure has resulted in the successful upkeep of boilers, fire and security alarms, and water safety systems. Day-to-day building operations continue to be smoothly managed, ensuring a safe environment for all users. Additionally, we are pleased to announce the installation of a fully operational CCTV system, further enhancing security on the premises.

2. Energy Efficiency Improvements

A major project this year was the installation of new double-glazed windows. This not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the building, offering clearer views of the beautiful surrounding countryside, but it will also provide improved insulation. As a result, we anticipate lower energy costs, particularly during the colder winter months.

3. Facility Upgrades

The ladies' and gents' toilets have been fully refurbished, now featuring modern, accessible facilities for disabled users. This important upgrade ensures that the Centre remains inclusive and welcoming to all.

4. Exterior Repairs and Roofing

The south and west-facing exterior walls have been repaired and repointed, addressing the effects of weather erosion over the years. This vital work will help preserve the integrity of the Centre's structure for years to come. Additionally, while scaffolding was in place, we took the opportunity to address a leaky roof and install solar panels. These panels will not only reduce our energy costs but also contribute to our sustainability efforts. The Committee very much appreciate the help of Mr David Twigg for his work on the improvement to the landscaping of the ramped access area.

5. New Spaces and Future Plans

The east-end mezzanine floor has been transformed into a versatile space that now includes a locker and changing room, as well as a newly designated conference and meeting room. Looking ahead, we plan to complete a much-needed kitchen refurbishment to further improve the Centre's amenities.

Thanks to the continued support of our sponsors and the hard work of the committee, the Etherow Centre continues to evolve into a first-class venue for indoor bowling, whether long mat or short mat. We remain committed to further enhancing the Centre's facilities and appearance to meet the needs of all our users.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing encouragement and support. Together, we can look forward to another year of progress and success.



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
Long Mat Winter Leagues		
Monday Daytime Fours	Hyde Tigers	Northaners
Monday Evening Fours	Hitmen & Her	Gerry & the Playmakers
Wednesday Fours	Hadfield Hillmen	Mighty Ducks
Thursday Daytime Fours	Jack The Lad	Woodley
Thursday Evening Fours	Techniheat	A-Men
Friday Pairs	Short 'n' narrow	Old Millers
Long Mat Summer Leagues		
Friday Triples – First Half	Old Millers	Tinsel Tigers
Friday Triples – Second Half	Techniheat	Gerrymanders
Tuesday Singles	Blue Millers	Greyter Marple
Tuesday Singles – Player Averages	S Roberts	D Bailey
Long Mat Competitions		
End of Season Pairs Knockout	Techniheat	
End of Season Fours Knockout	A-Men	
Christmas Knockout	Steve Roberts Gerry Thackrey	
NHS Charity Fours	Doddy & the Diddy Men	Four Tops
Short Mat League		
Short Mat Summer League	Haz Beans	Mixed Nuts
Short Mat Merit		
Autumn 2024	Dave Heatley	Garry Williamson
Winter 2024	Steve Roberts	Haz Carter
April-June 2025	Haz Carter	Dave Heatley

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	Maureen Meek		
Membership	Maureen Meek		
IT/Social Media	Dave Almond		
Safeguarding	Edwin Mountfield		
Chair of House / Facilities	Ted Bussell		
Grants and Fundraising	Edwin Mountfield		
Volunteer Coordinator	Maureen Douglas		
Short Mat Club Secretary	Dave Quinn		
Maintenance Team Lead	David Twigg		
Trust Representatives : Nominated by the Trust			
Trust Representative	Gwyn Davies		
Trust Representative	Ted Bussell		



Bowling at its best...