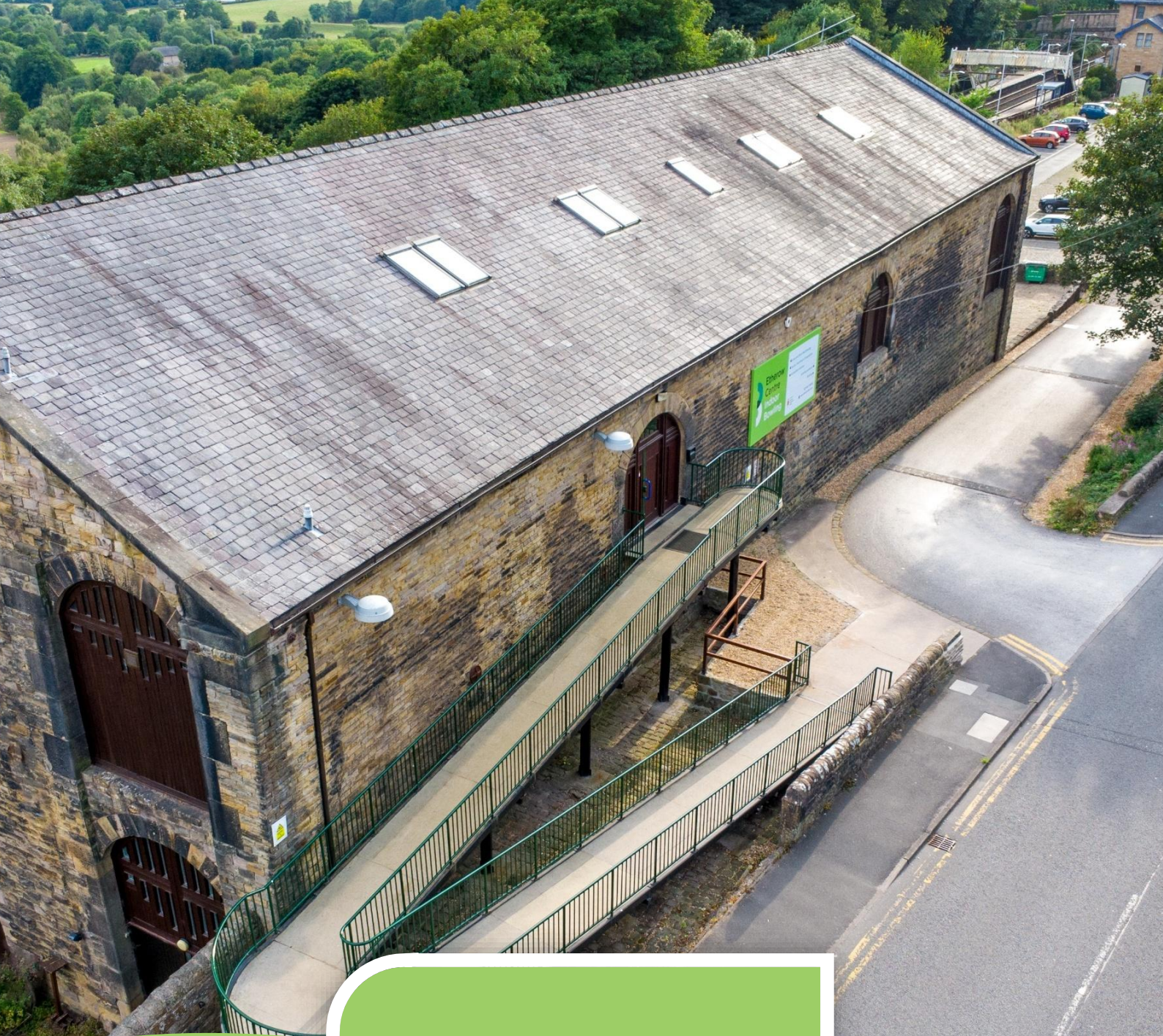




Etherow
Indoor
Bowling
Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

OVERVIEW

Steve Roberts, Club Captain

Well here we are again, three full years in and each year proving to be more successful than the last. As your proud Club Captain, I would like to mention some of our high points and thank those people who have helped us be such the fantastic bowling centre and charity that we are.

We have had many new members again this year from far and wide but also more members from the local community.

Broadbottom locals had their first go in the leagues with teams in the Friday winter pairs and the summer Friday triples. They have also entered the upcoming Monday night triples league. All six winter leagues are full for the upcoming season which is always great news. There are also now three Etherow Short Mat teams entered in the Stockport Metro winter leagues. Our short mat and long mat club night is always on throughout the year, every Friday 4pm to 8.30pm and is superbly run by David Quinn. David is also our club representative for all three of our teams in the SMIBL. A big thanks to David for all his diligent work.

Stockport Metro's A & B county teams continue to support the Etherow Centre in the Northern Counties Leagues. Without exception all visiting county teams comment on how wonderful our venue is and the warm welcome they always receive from Etherow and Stockport. Both county teams were successful last season with the A team finishing runners up and the B team winning their league. Well done to all those involved. We also thank SMIBL for continuing to hold many of their annual knockouts here at Etherow IBC.

The Etherow web site has improved once again and it is wonderful how all the results and league tables can be viewed soon after

each match is played. Thanks to all those that update the system and in particular to Dave Almond who makes sure it runs so smoothly with the correct software programs. Good luck and thanks also to our new web site updater Harrison for the more recent news items and assisting us less skilled members with his I.T. knowledge.

We held two long mat charity days again this year in support of the NHS charities together and Macmillan. Both events were well supported by our members and raised appropriately £1000 again. Thank you for all those involved and to Gerry Thackery for sponsoring the events. In fact, Gerry also kindly sponsored some of the summer long mat leagues. Thanks again Gerry.

We have installed a new brew station which I'm sure that you can all see is a massive improvement. The car parks have been refreshed and improved. Most of these works have been done by David Twigg and his team of volunteer helpers. Another lovely touch has been the new garden areas adjacent to the car park entrance. Again done by our volunteer team members but in particular thanks to Maureen Meek for the design and planting. We can all be so proud to have such a brilliant building to work with and wonderful volunteers in every aspect.

The office has again been run diligently by our office team led by Mo Douglas. I personally thank all our volunteers and members of the Management Committee and applaud you all for being so generous with your time and efforts. I would also like to thank the trustees of the Etherow Centre Charitable Trust for all their time and efforts including their full support to our bowling facilities including, the ever-helpful Ted

Bussell and our treasurer, Gwyn Davies the Trust's representatives

Lastly, but not least, thanks to each and every one of you that helped raise the monies to purchase and have installed our new playing surface, underfloor and equipment. Our members raised over £7,000 to exceed the Crowd Funding target of £6350 set by Sport England. Mention should be made of Ed Mountfield who applied for the grant from them on our behalf. The whole job was completed by Dale Sports who are the world leaders in this field. If we respect and look after our new flooring, it could well last twenty years or more. It looks superb and plays just as good. No excuses now, we should all improve or at least hope we will, fingers crossed.

Once again, thank you for having me as your Club Captain. It really is a privilege to be part of the Etherow Indoor Bowling Centre team. Please continue smiling, bowling and socialising at the best bowls club in the North.

Best regards,

Steve Roberts
Club Captain



FINANCE

Gwyn Davies, Director & Trustee Treasurer

The Current Year

The Trust's purpose is to maintain the building for the 'provision of recreational and therapeutic activities for the disabled'. We provide space and facilities for organisations and groups which have a focus on the provision of sport and leisure activities for people with physical or mental health disabilities of all ages.

When Active Tameside determined they would close the Bowling Centre, the Trust agreed to manage the EIBC to ensure this popular facility remained in existence. The decision made with the advice and support of Steve Roberts and the volunteers has proven to be the right one.

The Etherow Indoor Bowling Centre remains the Trust's primary source of income. The Trust is grateful to be the beneficiary of the income generated. The surplus of income over expenditure ensures that the Trust can meet its charitable objectives. The Trust is indebted to all its volunteers and Sponsors as without them there would be no surplus income.

Last year we carried out essential repairs to the fabric: repointing the south elevation, installing new windows and installing solar panels on the roof. Work which will maintain the building as a venue for Bowling for years to come. The cost identified in the accounts is £75,283.00 (£77,000).

This year our attention focused on the inside of the bowling centre and the installation of the new bowling mat at a cost of £25,107.60: Members Donations were £7,556.91 exceeding the Crowd funding target set by Sport England of £6,350.00 to provide the grant. The Trust contributed £11,200.69 to meet the contract sum due of £25,107.60. Ed Mountfield was instrumental

in securing the grant from Sport England for us.

We have also refurbished the brew station with new flooring, used donated cupboards and doors (repainted) but relied upon the skills of David Twigg and Martin Beard for the installation at a cost of £2,000.

Future Works

The Trust are planning to carry out further fabric repairs as necessary in the coming years to maintain the building but would like to hear from you if you are aware of any improvements that can be made to the facilities. Please contact me if you have a suggestion.

Annual Accounts: 1st December 2024 – 30th November 2025

The accounts for the financial year ending 30th November 2025 were prepared and subject to independent examination by Hilton Jones Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants. They were signed off by them on 1st May 2026 and then submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House to meet our legal obligations.

The approval of Hilton Jones Ltd as accountants for the accounts for our current financial year ending 30th November 2026 is required.

Banking

The Trust continues to bank with HSBC using their internet banking platform. Bank charges are incurred when banking cash transactions from the Bowling Centre and card transactions attract a fee of 1.75%.

A deposit account has been opened with HSBC and we are in the process of opening a one-year fixed rate interest account with the Charity Bank creating a sinking fund for future contingencies.

Utilities

Our energy provider, for the supply of both gas and electricity, remains Octopus and to date we have received income of £911.74 for exporting electricity to 31st August (from 12th Sept last year) and our net energy bill for July/August is a credit of £10.64.

We have returned to Water Plus as our water utility provider and established a direct meter to the stables so we can monitor consumption.

Our costs for the year to 30 March 2026 were £8663 for energy and £2500 for water.

Insurance

We remain with the same provider, Ansvar, a specialist commercial insurer which supports charities and was sourced through Access Insurance Brokers. Our current premium is £7300, and this is due for renewal at the end of September.

Tenants

Main Building First Floor – The Etherow Indoor Bowling Centre

Keeping EIBC running would not have been possible without the contributions and support of the management committee formed to run the Centre, and all the volunteers who help on a daily basis give their time freely. As a result of the effort and support, the centre has had a successful year and income has exceeded expenditure.

Surplus income has permitted continued investment in the building, its fabric, fixtures, fittings, 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 Centre has benefitted specifically by an improvement to its setting with improved car parking and landscaping.

We have all worked together with the shared aim of establishing systems and a basis for the business to be run viably in the long term for the benefit of membership. With that in mind it was agreed by the Management Committee that there should be no increases in charges for the coming year.

Main Building Ground Floor

Riding arena

Aside from the band room east end, this area remains underutilised. The stables tenant, IAT, do make use of its toilet facilities. The Trust continue to explore options to let the ground floor.

Stables

Inspired Animal Therapy CIC have now been in occupation for over 12 months. They have worked hard to adapt the premises, with our consent, to accommodate the animals and provide their therapeutic service to the local community. This has included replacement external fencing to the menage, at a shared cost of £8000, and the whole site now looks well cared for.

The Trust agreed a rental income from IAT of £200 per month for the first 6 months of their tenancy which will increase to £500 per month thereafter, which covers overheads for utility services etc.

Band Rooms

Our two band rooms on the ground east end and first floors west end remain tenanted by local musicians. This currently provides an annual income of £4160 pa.

Income and expenditure: 1 Dec 2024 - 30 Nov 2025

An extract from last audited accounts to 30th November 2025 is available and I can report the following figures:

Audited Accounts to 30 November 2025 Extract

	2025	2024
Total Income	£141,875	£132,034
Total Expenditure	£138,125	£101,875
Net Income	£3,750	£30,159

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 31 March 2026, we received to following contributions:

	2026	2025
Utilities Costs	£9,452.52	£12,554.94
Maintenance Costs	£5,908.72	£6,135.44

Supplementary income such as donations are welcomed, and grant aid is sought wherever possible.



SECRETARY / MEMBERSHIP

Maureen Meek, Club Secretary & Membership Officer

Our Etherow Indoor Bowling Club, the EIBC, continues to build a community.

Each Autumn as we go into the colder months, our EIBC welcomes back existing and new members to partake in our winter bowling leagues.

It is with your support, you our members, that we have been able to continue providing the sport we all enjoy.

This year we have the added pleasure of bowling on our new mat. I would ask all members to please wear the appropriate shoes on the mat.

We also have a newly refurbished refreshment area. A big thankyou to our volunteers who built it.

This year I am pleased to announce that all our teams from 2025/26 have confirmed they will be entering their teams again this year 2026/27. I wish them all an enjoyable season.

We are always asking for volunteers to help run the office, providing the support needed to keep the EIBC running whilst keeping costs down. If you can help, we offer an incentive of a free bowling session as a thank you.

This year all the information for dates and times have been posted on our web site and on our Facebook page.

We have been able to maintain all our prices at last year's levels:

	Price to 14/09/26	Price from 15/09/26
Membership*		
Full annual Membership	£24	£24
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	£6.50	£6.50
Evening Triples	£6.50	£6.50
Evening Fours	£5.50	£5.50
Daytime Pairs	£8.50	£8.50
Short Mat Club Nights	£5.00	£5.00
Refreshments		
Tea/Coffee	70p	70p
Soft Drinks Can	90p	90p
Chocolate bar	40p	40p

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



SHORT MAT

Dave Quinn, Short Mat Club Secretary

Short mat bowling at Etherow is going from strength to strength.

Our first season was unbelievable, but this season has eclipsed that.

Our A team, having been promoted, stormed through the higher division topping the table with two matches to spare. They also won the knock-out cup for the second time.

The B team topped their division with one match to spare.

Our winnings for league and cup successes were £290 which, of course, went to the club.

We are entering a third team into the league for the coming season.

League Averages

In the averages published by the league for each division, the A team took the top 8 positions. Sue Lawley, who last year shared top spot with husband Kevin, took the top place this year, knocking Kevin down to second place with the last match of the season.

The B team had 3 of the top 4 places with the top spot being taken by our youngest player, 17-year-old Haz Carter, in only his second year of bowling.

County Matches

Etherow is the home venue for the two Stockport Metro teams.

There are 2 divisions playing in the NESMBA, the A team finished second in division 1 and the B team were top of division 2 and so have been promoted to the top division.

Nine of our players have played for Stockport Metro in their county matches.

National and International Matches

Several of our players qualified to represent Greater Manchester at the England national championships.

Haz Carter was selected to play his first international match for the England Under 21s against the Wales Under 21s team in Carmarthen.



FACILITIES

Ted Bussell, Director & Chair of House

Another year has passed. With the help and backing of our members and sponsors we have been able to upgrade and maintain all facilities.

Essential Repairs and Cleaning

The Trust have engaged local companies to ensure the services required by the Centre are properly maintained:

TPS: Boiler Maintenance, Gas Safety Checks and Tap Water Quality;

Panoramic: Monitoring Fire and Intruder Alarms;

Myson: Broadband and Telephony.

The two accessible WC's have been well received and that in the female WC also has a baby change.

Thanks to David Twigg and Martin Beard the "Brew Station" has been completely refurbished and the flow or sequence of brewing adjusted which we hope you will find makes it easier and quicker to make your favourite brew.

The General Office has been redecorated.

Cleaning of the premises is now in the capable hands of Ashleigh Simpson.

New Bowling Carpet

At the beginning of July, Dales Sports Surfaces Ltd, replaced our worn original bowling carpet which had seen action for over 16 years. A major expense, but a major improvement. Obviously welcomed by the members and now ready for the new season. Let's get bowling!!

External Improvements

The car park access road has been widened and the retaining earth bank tidied up. This has created more space for parked cars. Leon Murray is keeping the Centre's outside clean and tidy. We must thank David Twigg for constructing some gentle ramps around the carpark to redirect the surface water.

The new season approaches and I must sincerely thank the Bowling Committee and our members for their help and guidance over the past year.



VOLUNTEERING

Maureen Douglass, Volunteer Coordinator

Almost all the bowling sessions here at the EIBC are run by volunteers.

As volunteer co-ordinator I would like to thank them all for their hard work and input into making the centre run successfully. They are a great bunch of people and we support each other covering sessions which fall vacant due to sickness and holidays.

In addition, there are also volunteers who mend or make things which saves the EIBC paying out for tradesmen. I am sure we will all admire the new brew station which was installed by volunteers.

We really need a few more people to help. The computer system for taking the money is simple and straightforward, and in return for covering a session you would be entitled to a free bowling session.

Volunteering can be a rewarding experience and necessary training and support will be provided.

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	Playmakers
Monday Evening Fours	Gerry & the Playmakers	Old Millers
Wednesday Fours	Mighty Ducks	Laners
Thursday Daytime Fours	Mystery Men	Woodley
Thursday Evening Fours	Techniheat	A-Men
Friday Pairs	Techniheat	United
Long Mat Summer Leagues		
Friday Triples – First Half	Gerrymanders	Globe Trotters
Friday Triples – Second Half	Astronauts	Old Millers
Tuesday Singles	Blue Millers	Greyter Marple
Tuesday Singles – Player Averages	S Roberts	J Pajak
Long Mat Competitions		
End of Season Pairs Knockout	Techniheat	
End of Season Fours Knockout	Techniheat	
Christmas Knockout	Maureen Meek Nick Hooley	
Charity Bowls Day NHS Winners	John Archibald, David Bailey & Martin Bailey	
Charity Bowls Day Macmillan Winners	Gerry Thackery, Mike Anderson & Pete Charnock	

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...