



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION



Website: nsmba.co.uk



December 2024

Chairman's Message

It's great to welcome Adam Hawkings onto the committee and in the short time he has started and managed the 5 A side league which seems to be popular, with 11 teams participating this season. He has also resurrected the Over 60's competition.

We have also had competitions to raise monies for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice and Alzheimer's Association in Northampton, where all monies from entry fees and raffles were donated to the charities.

It has been a busy time for the NSMBA Committee with National and Inter County (ICC) but to me the highlight was the Presentation Day activities on 23rd November

Return of the Over 60's Fours

Nine teams gathered at Harpole Bowls Club. Teams were drawn into three groups for a place in the semi final. The battle for the semi final was between Harpole, Cranfield, Old Stratford and Pytchley. Eventually the final was between Pytchley and Harpole with Harpole coming out the winner.

Well done Harpole and a big thank you to Harpole for hosting the event.



League Report

There are a pleasing number of clubs participating in Daytime 8 A side matches. Divided into two groups, these clubs are enjoying our usual friendly, yet competitive matches. It would be good to have more teams enter the league next year.

County Report

Our County team have represented our Association in three matches so far this season, with more games to come. Firstly, a spirited performance away to Suffolk, despite our efforts, saw us go down to a strong home side. However, we have fared better against our old rivals Cambridgeshire, winning home and away.

The date and time for the next AGM is
13th May 2025 @ 8.00pm

Venue: Old Stratford Community Hall,

May 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Venue

Our home venue is at Bridgman Bowls Club, Eagle Way, Harrold, Bedford MK43 7EW. There is space for 8 mats for competitions. It has very good facilities and a bar!

5 A-Side

The new league format which is four disciplines, Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours, is up and running with every team playing at least once. The early leaders in the day league are Sherington followed by Harpole. The early leaders in the evening league are Pytchley Foxes with Old Stratford B in close pursuit. A lot more bowls to be bowled, so all can change!

National Championships

Northamptonshire entered two Pairs for the Over 55's Steve McAllister and Chris Hopkins plus Dave Ekins and Chris Weston. Steve McAllister and Chris Hopkins won their group but lost in the last eight.

Dave Ekins and Chris Weston won their group and went on to win the championship, which was televised! Congratulations Dave and Chris on winning the **Over 55's National Championship**



Chris & Dave wearing the new County Shirts

Presentation Day

The cups and shields for season 2023/24 were awarded to winners and runners up at our Presentation Day on the 23rd November at Bridgman Bowls Club. The event started with a friendly pairs match, followed by an excellent Ploughman's lunch, prepared by the volunteer staff at Bridgman Bowls. The awards followed and all agreed it was an excellent day.



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| Chairman: | Brian Nelson |
| Secretary: | Robin Patching |
| Treasurer: | Brenda Hart |
| County Manager: | Chris Weston |
| Captain & League Coordinator | Dave Ekins |
| Committee Member | Adam Hawkings |