

Bowls Leicestershire Ladies' Section
Championship Secretary's Report 2022

I was very pleased that we were able to complete a full programme of championship competitions, albeit with quite a few date changes. It is much to the credit of our clubs and players that this was possible.

Here are the results of the championship competitions:

Competition	Winner(s)	Runner(s) up
4 wood singles	Jamie- Lea Winch, Kingscroft	Pa Walker, Birstall
2 wood singles	Jan Elliott, New Lount	Helen Lewis-Wall, Kingscroft
Pairs	Carol Dixon, Jan Elliott, New Lount	Alison Johnson, Anneyce Johnson, Knighton Victoria
Triples	Carol Burton, Jacquie Watson, Kate Kyle, Shepshed	Jamie-Lea Winch, Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall, Helen-Lewis-Wall, Kingscroft
Open fours	Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall, Jamie-Lea Winch, Louise Delahay, Helen-Lewis-Wall, Kingscroft	Lorraine Hibbins, Ann Jones, Jeanette Smith, Belinda Chantler, Market Bosworth
Senior Fours	Lorraine Hibbins, Ann Jones, Jeanette Smith, Belinda Chantler, Market Bosworth	Jan Elliott, Sharon Cobb, Lynn Green, Carol Dixon, New Lount
Under 25 singles	Kat Bowman, Birstall	Alice Atkin, New Lount
Under 25 pairs	Beth Ward, Whitwick Park, Kat Bowman, Birstall	Alice Atkin, Molly Smith, New Lount

It was pleasing that we had enough entries for Leicestershire to have two representatives at the Leamington Finals in all competitions where 2 are allowed. We only ever have 1 entry in the senior fours and the junior pairs. We were allowed 2 entries in the other competitions because we were in the top 12 for numbers of entries. Let's hope we can do that again, so get your entries in, girls!

Leicestershire was represented at Leamington in the Senior Singles by Carol Dixon of New Lount and by Kate Kyle in the Champion of Champions.

The County winners of Top Club were Birstall. Well done to them.

The results at Leamington were mixed but again Jamie-Lea did well in the 4 wood singles reaching the semi-final and Pa Walker of Birstall also reached the quarter-final in the same competition. Of course we must also give our congratulations to Kat Bowman of Birstall and Beth Ward of Whitwick Park who reached the final of the Junior pairs only to lose narrowly. The Kingscroft triple of Sally-Ann Lewis-Wall, Jamie-Lea Winch and Helen Lewis-Wall were runners-up, an excellent performance. Other players got through several rounds but whether you lost in the first round or got through several rounds, you all represented Leicestershire well so congratulations, everybody.

The Amy Rose team deserve a special mention, reaching the semi-final before losing to a very strong Kent team.

Organising the championships this year was something of a challenge. Quite a lot of re-arranging had to take place, some because of Jamie-Lea Winch being on Commonwealth Games preparation duty with England. What a worthwhile cause that turned out to be, Jamie winning a brilliant gold medal in the triples with her partners, Natalie Chestney and Sian Honnor. Also, as we did not know the dates of some of the Bowls England competitions in advance, we had to change the singles quarter-finals completely.

I would like to place on record my thanks to all of the players who were so easy to work with. It could have been almost impossible,

but they were fantastic. I know it causes disruption for them but they could not have been more helpful.

No sooner have those competitions ended than the 2023 competitions come into focus.

Last year we decided to revert to the old forms for the entries and it worked so much better so this year we will be using the same ones. Please make sure you make it clear who is the named player for each entry.

I hope next year that no date changes will be needed but of course it can't be completely ruled out.

The other change is that, after quite a lot of comments from players, the committee has decided to make all the draws open so there will not be four areas but 4 groups. The Open fours is already an open draw so hopefully it will not cause any problems. The two wood singles will still be played on one day, but a draw will take place with all of the other draws and we will mix up clubs in the draw, deciding on the number of venues when we know how many entries there are.

The formats have not changed from this year. I felt that they were better this year, 15 ends did not seem to be much of a game for fours.

2 wood singles – 21 ends

4 wood singles – 21 shots (including juniors)

Pairs – 4 bowls, 18 ends (including juniors)

Triples – 3 bowls, 18 ends

Fours – 2 bowls, 18 ends

You have until 30th November to get your entries in but I am happy to make a start any time you want to send them to me. If you want to pay by BACS, please send all forms to me but contact treasurer Elaine who will give you the information you need.

We will not need to hold our Finals Day before Leamington in 2023 unless we get only 1 entry.

I would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to the clubs who offered their facilities for us to hold our county quarterfinals, semi-finals, and finals. You did a wonderful job. It was especially pleasing to have some new venues this year and I hope that they, as well as some more new clubs and the more established clubs will offer their facilities for next year. Each club will receive forms detailing the dates and competitions. Please fill them in and return them if you feel able to offer your club as a venue. I will be writing a personal thank you to each club soon. I really appreciate the support of our wonderful clubs.

Also, I would like to thank those who supported us by marking and umpiring. You also did a great job. Brian Bontoft, especially, was a tremendous help, organising umpires for all of our quarters and semi-finals. Thank you so much, Brian.

Finally, I must say a truly heartfelt thank you to the area secretaries. Without their help it would be nearly impossible to carry out my duties.

They help me, support me, spot my mistakes, and generally help to keep me sane. Thank you so much, ladies. You have been fantastic as usual.

Joy Griffin