






# End of Short Mat Season – A Fantastic Year for the Club!

 As we come to the end of another brilliant short mat season, we would like to congratulate all our members on their wonderful achievements both on and off the green.

## Finals Day Highlights

Finals Day was a great success, with some outstanding performances:

-  **Singles Winner** – Denise George
-  **Pairs Winners** – Debbie Hudgell Kuhler & Colin Rose
-  **80 Up Winner** – Steve Maslen
-  **Plate Winner** – Colin Rose

It was also fantastic to see **Jean Marlow** triumph over **Arthur Austin** in the **Friendship League Final**. A great match to watch. Well done to all our runners-up – the matches were competitive, close, and a great showcase of bowling.

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## League Success & Team Achievements

### West Sussex County Short Mat League Results:

- Horley Hawks – **Division 1 Winners**
- Horley Robins – **Division 3 Winners** (and promoted)
- Horley Ravens – strong performance in Division 2

A big thank you to our team captains for all their hard work:

- Hawks – Denise George
- Ravens – Allan Weller
- Robins – Ron Hudson

...and to **Colin Squires** for coordinating fixtures across the club.

However, it's not over yet with Hawks playing in the County Wide Play Off on Easter Saturday. Good luck to the Hawkes

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## National Success

The club also performed exceptionally well at national level:

- **8 players reached the last 32** in the Mixed Fours
- **2 teams reached the national finals** in the Over 55 Pairs and well done to Jo and Steve for reaching the last 32 in this competition.

A fantastic achievement – well done to:

Mark Clark, Denise George, David File, Jackie Elliott, Steve Maslen, Jo Streeter, Colin Rose, Tessa Loader, Paul Kimber and Elaine Hudson.

We also need to congratulate - Jacob Thomas one of our young players who played in the under 18's at Worthing and came second - winning three of his four games and **securing a place in the National finals** on 18<sup>th</sup> April. We wish him well.

Special congratulations to **Jo Streeter**, who continues to be **Short Mat International** – a brilliant achievement and a real trail blazer for our club.

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## Spitfire League Success

A huge congratulations to everyone involved in winning the **Spitfire League** – especially impressive in our first year of entering!  
Thanks to **Elaine Fawcett** for organising.

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### **Recognising Our Volunteers**

A special mention to **Sarah Kellar**, who has taken on the role of **County Youth Officer for West Sussex** – a fantastic recognition of her commitment to developing young players.

Sarah is also setting up an **after-school club**, and we hope the club will be able to use the facilities during school holidays so our short mat players can continue practising year-round.

We are also delighted that **Liz Cargill** has been recognised as **Volunteer of the Year (Reigate & Banstead)** – a thoroughly deserved honour.

As we can only accommodate 16 players on the mats at a time, it has been great to introduce alternative activities when mats are full. A big thank you to **Pat Gilbert** for organising and running these sessions.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered to **mark or umpire** – we simply could not run competitions without you.

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### **Captaincy Transition**

We extend our sincere thanks to **Captain Alan Wellar**, who is stepping down after his dedicated leadership and commitment to the club.

We are delighted to welcome **Liz Cargill** as the new Short Mat Captain, with **David File** supporting her in the season ahead. We wish them every success.

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### **Social Highlights**

It's not just been about the bowling! A big thank you to **Mel Hoskins** for organising a fantastic **horse racing social event**, which was enjoyed by all and helped strengthen the club's great community spirit.

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### **Exciting News for the Future**

We are thrilled to share that **Sport England has approved our funding bid!**

This will allow us to:

- Improve the pathways and access for players and spectators
- Replace old sheds with new ones
- Create an enhanced space for players and spectators
- Develop a new outdoor social area

Work is scheduled to begin in **October 2026** – an exciting step forward for the club.

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### **Looking Ahead**

The lawn bowls season is just around the corner:

- **Captains Meeting** – 7 April, 6:00pm
- **Opening Drive** – 19 April 2026

Let's keep our fingers crossed that we carry our winning momentum into the new season!

