

Ladies Secretary's report to the 2025 Bowls Durham AGM

It has been a challenging year for our County teams. After teams were selected and over the course of the season, there were several withdrawals and we struggled to produce teams every week. The Stella Logan team was hardest hit and we had to reduce the team from five to four rinks to fulfil our fixtures. Despite this, we were delighted to welcome two young players, one of whom played for both the Northern Counties and Stella Logan teams. Yorkshire won both leagues with Durham finishing second in the Northern Counties league and third in the Stella Logan league. The Johns trophy was run as a league and despite a good result we were unable to win the Northern group.

However, in team competitions, Durham was very successful reaching the National Finals at Leamington in the Amy Rose, Walker Cup and Over 60's mixed league. We were particularly thrilled with our young Amy Rose team who held their own against much more experienced players. The support and encouragement of family and friends was much appreciated. The Amy Rose team benefitted from an Academy day run by David Bolt when he was able to provide some much needed support and coaching.

The National Championships and competitions were well supported and our thanks must go to Peter Coulson and Joan Brown for their hard work. Finals Day at HDL was once again a great success. Some new teams qualified for Leamington this year and their experience has encouraged them to try and qualify again next year.

Thank you to all the clubs who hosted County matches and Competitions, to the umpires who supported us and to everyone involved in making this a successful season. My personal thanks go to our District Reps Joan Brown, Joan Rodgers, Fay Slinn and Anne Camp. Anne is resigning as a Rep at the AGM and on behalf of everyone I would like to thank Anne for her contribution as a player and later as a District Rep. Her involvement with the County started in the 1970's! She will be missed and I would like to send our best wishes to her. Thanks to Susan Walker who acted as treasurer throughout the playing season and to Eileen Horan who helped to organise the teams and took my place as Team Manager. It has been a difficult year for me personally and the support of you all has been much appreciated. Best wishes to everyone for the winter season and I look forward to welcoming you back in 2026.

Sue Almond

Bowls Durham Secretary