

## Sutton St. Edmund Short Mat Bowls Club. 2024/5 Team Captains CSMBA League Season Report.

Now that was a little bit different for most of you starting off with a non-playing captain. We were in the fortunate position of having sufficient league players signed up where my services were limited to team admin assistant 😊.

I've learnt a lot about how the system works and just how much personal time it consumes, fortunately Sharon has a very placid nature and has suffered in silence.

I would like to thank David, Gary and Sharon for arriving early on match afternoons / evenings to get our venue ready for our matches. Laying out the mats, hoovering the mats, making sure the white lines are present and correct, getting the score boards out, the umpires kit is available, chalk is available, placing those bits of wood in the correct places and making sure the hall heating is on all takes time and should not be underestimated. Then there is the kitchen to lay out (I'm sweating just thinking about it 😊), and to think David does this most Tuesday evenings throughout the year on his own for the Sutton St. Edmund short mat bowls club roll up evenings. To top it all following the match... it all needs to go back to where it all came from, phew!

To ensure our opposition enjoys the tea interval, we must thank Jane for those infamous 'Sponge Cakes' she bakes for us, most enjoyable. The tea intervals are a little different when Sharon and I provide the cakes as they turn into anything Mr Kipling can provide still very nice but not the cheapest option.

Our season started off on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 with an away match at Holme closely followed by Fen Drayton away, this completed our two remote venue matches. Even though we have on paper more than sufficient team members to fulfil our match commitments our Fen Drayton team was a little tight. I do appreciate it's a long way to go if they are in the same division as us next year whoever is the team captain for the 2025/6 season needs to be a little sharper on selecting the match date where most of our members are available. I must thank Ron and Muriel for committing their time to the Fen Drayton match and believe me it was a long day for myself and Sharon as we went out to pick them up and return them home safely. Its only one away game for us, they (Fen Drayton) has to travel to six away matches now that's what I call commitment.

As you are now all aware I changed things around a bit with my team selection bringing the likes of Jenny in for a couple of matches. Wow was she some nervous at her first match but still managed to place them nice pink bowls on that little yellow thing (the jack not my bowls 😊). As my game is improving I might play next season if selected that would mean the team dynamics would change again, but that's not a bad thing and a little in-house competition should be welcomed by all.

As a team we are in the pleasant position of having a core of dedicated players committed to both home and away games. For some of you turning up for an away game following a full day at work is not easy and I thank-you for your commitment to our team.

I hope that you have enjoyed the 2024/5 Cambridgeshire Short Mat Bowls Association (CSMBA) Short Mat league season enough to sign up for the 2025/6 season to enable David and the

Sutton St. Edmund (SSE) Short Mat Bowls Club (SMBC) management committee to enter a team.

My first official 'Bun Fight' that the CSMBA refer to as the 'CSMBA Fixtures meeting' now that was an eye opener for me, luckily Rosemary accompanied me and had seen it all before so knew what was coming.

Rosemary was quick out of the starting block (did not wait for the official off nor did anybody else) and had our remote venue matches booked in as early as possible in the season, hopefully she can do it again at next seasons 'Bun Fight'.

We had a good run in the 2024/5 league season, unfortunately the beating we took at Tydd St. Giles quickly followed by Doddington was a blow to our table position, but heck that's the game and not everybody can be top, you gave it your best and that's all I could ask for.

We finished the 2024/5 season in 6th place with a very respectable 62 points, we should all be satisfied with how the season went for us. As your non-playing captain, I can say I've enjoyed the challenge of selecting the team for each match. SSE has a reasonable size pool of league players to select from and I'll dive in and play next year (2025/6 season) which will most definitely change the dynamics of team selection.

We have had some great afternoons / evenings out, met some fantastic people along the way. We have also come across the odd not so nice person and that's all down to personalities and thankfully were in the minority. Overall, it has been a very pleasant season. The matches were in my opinion nice social gatherings with a lot of general chat, lots of laughs a few wincing with a game of bowls thrown in. Long may this continue, just enjoy the occasion.

I am extremely pleased with the way you have all presented yourselves at matches it just looked and felt so professional. Our conduct both on and off the mat has been second to none in fact it's been near on perfect well done.

I do like playing with data so below is a couple of 'data tables' I have constructed using our seasons results. As with any data it can be manipulated to read anything as certain professionals such as 'Government Analysis' or 'Business Accountants' prove daily. I have enjoyed constructing these tables so here goes nothing.

The game is all about accumulating shots, so below is my shots data: -

Shots for	Shots against	Shot difference	
175	181	-6	David Warriner
115	180	-65	Jane Spriggs
210	231	-21	Alex MacFarlane
0	0	-300	Alan Bingham
149	238	-89	Sharon Bingham
32	67	-35	Ron Ellinor
32	67	-35	Muriel Ellinor
207	218	-11	Margaret Ward
233	221	12	Gary Heath
117	168	-51	Rosemary Richardson
105	94	11	Janet Russell
41	74	-33	Jenny Poulton

2024/5 Season shots table.

Shots either for or against are the shots you / the player has been involved in accumulating, where the individual player or team has scored them.

Joint	1 <sup>st</sup>	12	Gary Heath
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11	Janet Russell
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-6	David Warriner
	4 <sup>th</sup>	-11	Margaret Ward
	5 <sup>th</sup>	-21	Alex MacFarlane
	6 <sup>th</sup>	-33	Jenny Poulton
	7 <sup>th</sup>	-35	Ron Ellinor
	7 <sup>th</sup>	-35	Muriel Ellinor
	9 <sup>th</sup>	-51	Rosemary Richardson
	10 <sup>th</sup>	-65	Jane Spriggs
	11 <sup>th</sup>	-89	Sharon Bingham
	12 <sup>th</sup>	-300	Alan Bingham

Shots difference table sorted 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.

In the data below I've simply used the number of games played against the number of wins / draws you / the player has been involved in to work out a 'strike rate'.

Games Played	Winning Success	Strike Rate	
17	11	65%	David Warriner
14	5	36%	Jane Spriggs
20	11	55%	Alex MacFarlane
0	0	0%	Alan Bingham
17	4	24%	Sharon Bingham
4	1	25%	Ron Ellinor
4	1	25%	Muriel Ellinor
20	9	45%	Margaret Ward
21	11	52%	Gary Heath
13	6	46%	Rosemary Richardson
9	5	56%	Janet Russell
5	2	40%	Jenny Poulton

Games played is simply the number of games you / the player has been involved in, be that singles, pairs or triples.

Winning success is the number of games you / the player has been involved in, where the individual player or team has won / drawn.

Strike rate is simply the player winning success for the team overall given the number of games played.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	65%	David Warriner
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	56%	Janet Russell
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	55%	Alex MacFarlane
	4 <sup>th</sup>	52%	Gary Heath
	5 <sup>th</sup>	46%	Rosemary Richardson
	6 <sup>th</sup>	45%	Margaret Ward
	7 <sup>th</sup>	40%	Jenny Poulton
	8 <sup>th</sup>	36%	Jane Spriggs
Joint	9 <sup>th</sup>	25%	Ron Ellinor
	9 <sup>th</sup>	25%	Muriel Ellinor
	11 <sup>th</sup>	24%	Sharon Bingham
	12 <sup>th</sup>	0%	Alan Bingham

Strike rate table sorted 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.

The table below is simply the number of points you / the player has accumulated throughout the season from any game you / the player has been involved in, be that singles, pairs or triples.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	21	Gary Heath
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	20	Alex MacFarlane
Joint	3 <sup>rd</sup>	18	David Warriner
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	18	Margaret Ward
	5 <sup>th</sup>	10	Janet Russell
	6 <sup>th</sup>	9	Rosemary Richardson
Joint	7 <sup>th</sup>	8	Jane Spriggs
	7 <sup>th</sup>	8	Sharon Bingham
	9 <sup>th</sup>	3	Jenny Poulton
Joint	10 <sup>th</sup>	2	Ron Ellinor
	10 <sup>th</sup>	2	Muriel Ellinor
	12 <sup>th</sup>	0	Alan Bingham

2024/5 Season Team Points Won sorted 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.

As with any data collation it is subject to error, I have been through my spreadsheet a few times to check the raw data and sheet calculations and believe I've got it right.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for your support and understanding in this my first year as your non-playing team captain 😊. Not sure I'll be nominated to be your captain for the 2025/6 season given the league position we finished up in as I suspect you were expecting greater things.

Kind regards,

Alan B.