

## 2023 October Library Newsletter

( A ) Inside Bowls magazine provides you with all the latest news and information from around the world free of charge. Simply go to <https://www.insidebowls.com/> to become a registered reader, then you'd receive the magazine every month.

As the outdoor season draws to a close, the October issue of "Bowls International" magazine features mainly the coverage of British Isles countries national championships, especially the Bowls England Aviva National Finals.

( 1 ) Sian Honnor interviewed the England National Singles champion, 31-year-old Lewis King who considered the success was way more than a dream come true as qualifying from Kent was not easy, not to even think that he could reach the final and win the title.

Lewis started bowling at the age of seven with his brother, following in the footsteps of their mother and grandparents.

This year is special for him because his Appleyard team also won the men's Top Club trophy.

Lewis loves the social side of the game. He says that there aren't many sports where you can play with your friends, family, older or younger people. In their Top Club, their oldest player was 71 and the youngest was 19. He can't think of any other sports where there can be a 53-year gap between teammates and they can still win the title together. He believes that being part of a good club and having loyal teammates behind him is the biggest factor of his enjoyment in bowls.

( 2 ) Lewis King was the hero in the singles, but it was the pairs final which was hailed as the standout game of the championships - eight dead ends and an extra end to decide the winners.

In an all-time classic, Nick Wardle and Joe Dawson, Leicestershire, claimed the trophy in astonishing style.

John Rednall writes an article about this final match with admiration and remarks on the excellent performance of both teams. He says that the match had everything: well set up heads from the leads, pinpoint drawing to save and to add, defightful trails and some of the best conversion shots. Described by many of its enthralled viewers as "the best final to ever grace the greens of Leamington", it saw two of the country's top skips in strategic combat.

John interviewed Joe Dawson after the match. When Joe was asked what went through his mind as he stood on the mat, match lie down with one bowl left, he said that he knew what he had to do and was confident to do it as he had been very successful and consistent with his driving throughout the event. John has witnessed Joe's exceptional drive in the past and how he has the big drive become his trademark. Joe explained that he used to play front end at his club for many years and he was a firm believer that everyone should learn the basics of the game before moving up the order. As far as his driving becoming a trademark, he has practised a lot to master the skill.

Some people may say firing shots may spoil the sport. John says that firing shots can make the sport exciting and dynamic. This would be more appealing to newcomers and to spectators. Dawson's Drives became a feature on social media. This might recruit juniors and adults if we showcase the full repertoire of shots and emotions.

( B ) Bowling videos

( 1 ) This 2023 England National men's pairs final is an excellent game to watch. With regret, this video is just a highlight version. Still, I can figure out these four first class bowlers must have consistently

played wonderful draw shots and accurate drive shots all through the game. You can feel the buzz of excitement around the green. No wonder why John Rednall in his article says that we need more enthusiasm and emotion which make the sport exciting to watch. Don't miss the last few ends which are "wow", "wow" to watch.

2023 England National men's pairs final

Nick Wardle and Joe Dawson vs Steve Gunnell and Ed Morris

[m.youtube.com/watch?v=DiSRvngJUn8](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DiSRvngJUn8)

( 2 ) Those who intend to play in the Provincial games next year would have a concern for the new format of three sets with 5 ends each. The 2023 World Bowls Champion of Champions Singles championships is the first international bowls event to adapt this format, also closely followed by the European Mixed Pairs tournament. I have watched some of these games and was somehow disappointed to see some renowned bowlers unexpectedly lose their games.

In order to try out how it would feel as a player, just for fun, I asked my husband to play a singles game in such a format with me. Usually, I am a better draw bowler than my husband. But this time, he easily took the first set as I struggled to get the right line - losing 4 points in the first 2 ends, and became too eager to catch up in the next 3 ends and failed. He boosted up his confidence and continued to beat me in the second set. Then we agreed to go for another game. This time, gaining from the previous experience, I got the line and weight much better. Also, I played long jack which was his weakness, In this way, I dominated the whole game and won straight two sets.

Actually, you can figure out any of such situations would happen when a set is shortened to only five ends. Well, whether you like the new format or not, you have to face it, accept it and try your best to adjust.

Going back to the 2023 Champion of Champions Singles championships. The men's singles final match was between Daniel Salmon from Wales and Darren Gualtier from Scotland.

Daniel only took 14 minutes to beat Darren 8 - 0 in the first set. He also won the second set. The whole game only lasted 38 minutes.

Let's watch the women's singles final match which was a closer game with three sets.

Anne Nunes ( USA ) vs Lucy Beere ( Guersey )

[m.youtube.com/watch?v=GBG88I5JOWc](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=GBG88I5JOWc)

( 3 ) With the financial support of the government and well organised youth coaching programmes, Hong Kong lawn bowling is flourishing in recent years. It is amazing to watch so many Hong Kong young and talented players pop up in the international scene. How good are they? You get to know them better by watching their performance in the recent event - the Simply Bowls Master Singles. I haven't had the chance to watch Hong Kong past top players such as Noel Kennedy and Danny Ho playing bowls for such a long time. After all these years, they still kept their form well. ( I still remember Danny Ho's signature firing shots.) But their young opponents played even better.

Let's watch the final game between Tony Cheung and Jordi Lo.

Both had lots of good shots, especially Jordi.

( I'd like to explain some of the rules in case you don't understand Chinese. The player can walk up to the head with 30 seconds allowance. If the player violates such a rule, his bowl would be taken away. They have two time-out calls if needed. )

Simply Bowls Master Singles 2023 - Final

[m.youtube.com/watch?v=NLvzKgOB9cs](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=NLvzKgOB9cs)

( 4 ) If you are keen to watch some good indoor bowling. This is a good one from the World Indoor Bowls Singles Championships at Potters quite a number of years ago.

Jason Greenslade, a veteran bowler played against the young Australia qualifier Ben Twist. In this game, Ben had an excellent performance. You would enjoy watching how a bowler like him could master the art of consistently drawing the bowl to the jack.

2014 World Indoor Bowls Championships

m.[youtube.com/watch?v=2eMJSEr-2\\_o](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=2eMJSEr-2_o)

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