

## Sutton St. Edmund Short Mat Bowls Club. 2025/6 Team Captains CSMBA League Season Report.

What about that then, my second year as your team captain / administration assistant is now complete. Still surprising how much personal time it consumes, and Sharon is still suffering 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. And at the end of the afternoon / evening we can put it all away again, it's nice to have the additional help just takes the weight off. It's also nice to see several of us 'self-training' in the art of mat rolling, Malcolm Spriggs makes it look so easy.

I've not caught them yet ('them' being the kitchen pixies) but come interval time and the shutter goes up, everything is laid out and the tea is in the pot ready. Then heck the kitchen cleans itself and put's everything away ready for the next time, it is just magic.

To ensure our opposition enjoys the tea interval, we must thank Jane for those infamous 'Sponge Cakes' she bakes for us, most enjoyable. Interesting just how many opposition players look forward to them.

Our season commenced on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 with a home match vs. Gorefield 'cubs' we had a good start sharing the points. A couple of our away matches became tight for available players, made even worse this year with 3 teams only available on either a Monday or Friday evening. Even though we have on paper more than sufficient team members to fulfil our match commitments it's work that pays the bill's and I appreciate it must come first. The 2026/7 season could be even worse.

Below is a simple spreadsheet I keep updated with player availability, and clearly it shows just how squeaky away matches were, lots of little red boxes.

Key *	* Available.		* Unavailable.		* Reserve.		CSMBA 2025/6 League Season, Player Availability Table.					2025/6 Season Matches "Played" in out of a possible 10.
	* Unsure		* Decision pending.		* Injured.							
	Gorefield Home Friday 26th September	Gorefield Away Monday 20th October	Wisbech St. Mary Home Thursday 23rd October	Fen Drayton Away Friday 31st October	Wisbech St. Mary Away Monday 10th November	Fen Drayton Home Sunday 16th November	Tydd St. Giles Home Sunday 8th February	Emneth Away Monday 16th February	Tydd St. Giles Away Rearranged Sunday 4th Jan, to Sunday 1st March	Emneth Home Sunday 8th March		
Sharon Bingham	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	10	
Alan Bingham								Played			1	
Muriel Ellinor											0	
Ron Ellinor											0	
Alex MacFarlane	Played					Played	Played		Played	Played	5	
Gary Heath	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	10	
Richard Kinghorn	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played			8	
Duncan Knight	Played					Played			Played	Played	4	
Gill Knight	Played					Played			Played	Played	4	
Joy Markillie											0	
Jenny Poulton					Played		Played			Played	3	
Rosemary Richardson	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played				7	
Janet Russell			Played			Played	Played		Played	Played	5	
Jane Spriggs			Played		Played		Played			Played	4	
Margaret Ward	Played	Played		Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	9	
David Warriner	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	Played	10	
<b>Total number of players available =</b>	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		
<b>Total number of players selected =</b>												
<b>Total number of players used =</b>	9	6	7	6	8	10	10	6	8	10		

We were fortunate towards the end of the season as we lost 2 players to injury, but with our player availability we managed to field a couple of nice large teams. I wish our injured players a speedy and full recovery ready for the 2026/7 season.

As you are now all aware my team selections can be a little 'out there' and surprising for some, but hey that's just me. We do still have that core of 'retired' dedicated players committed to both home and away games which does make my life a little easier.

For those of you turning up for a league match either home or away following a full day at work I appreciate it is not easy and I thank-you for your commitment to our team.

Now I must mention Ron and Muriel, who after many, many years of playing and enjoying the game of short mat bowls will be hanging up their 'League Match' boot's. I believe they are going to attempt in my opinion that silly game referred to as 'Long Mat', I wish them all the best in their new adventure.

I hope that you have enjoyed the 2025/6 Cambridgeshire Short Mat Bowls Association (CSMBA) Short Mat league season enough to sign up for the 2026/67 season to enable David and the Sutton St. Edmund (SSE) Short Mat Bowls Club (SMBC) management to enter a team.

My second official 'Bun Fight' that the CSMBA refer to as the 'CSMBA Fixtures meeting' was no different to my first experience. David accompanied me and we got our matches arranged without any issues, two of them in the bar before the official meeting commenced.

We had a good run in the 2025/6 league season, unfortunately the beating we took at Gorefield, our second match of the season was always going to be difficult to recover from, but hey that's the game and not everybody can be top, you gave it your best and that's all I can ask for.

We finished the 2025/6 season in 4<sup>th</sup> place with a very respectable 56 points, we should all be satisfied with how the season went for us. As your 'part' non-playing captain, I can say I've enjoyed the challenge of selecting the team for each match and watching you play.

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 another very pleasant season. The matches were in my opinion nice social gatherings with a lot of general chat, lots of laughs a few whinges with a game of bowls thrown in. Long may this continue, just enjoy the occasion, after all "it is only a game of bowls".

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.

As you all know, 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.

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

Shots for	Shots against	Shot difference	
76	26	50	Janet Russell
208	165	43	David Warriner
54	33	21	Jane Spriggs
182	162	20	Sharon Bingham
93	78	15	Rosemary Richardson
41	41	0	Duncan Knight
17	19	-2	Alan Bingham
135	142	-7	Gary Heath
37	44	-7	Jenny Poulton
33	46	-13	Gill Knight
85	114	-29	Alex MacFarlane
150	193	-43	Margaret Ward
129	177	-48	Richard Kinghorn
0	0	-300	Muriel Ellinor
0	0	-300	Ron Ellinor
0	0	-300	Joy Markillie

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.

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	
5	4	80%	Janet Russell
5	4	80%	Jane Spriggs
14	8	57%	Gary Heath
19	10	53%	David Warriner
16	8	50%	Sharon Bingham
2	1	50%	Alan Bingham
4	2	50%	Duncan Knight
9	4	44%	Rosemary Richardson
14	5	36%	Richard Kinghorn
9	3	33%	Alex MacFarlane
3	1	33%	Jenny Poulton
16	5	31%	Margaret Ward
4	1	25%	Gill Knight
0	0	0%	Muriel Ellinor
0	0	0%	Ron Ellinor
0	0	0%	Joy Markillie

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

Winning success is the number of games you have 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.

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

20	David Warriner
16	Sharon Bingham
16	Gary Heath
10	Richard Kinghorn
10	Margaret Ward
8	Rosemary Richardson
8	Janet Russell
8	Jane Spriggs
6	Alex MacFarlane
4	Duncan Knight
2	Alan Bingham
2	Gill Knight
2	Jenny Poulton
0	Muriel Ellinor
0	Ron Ellinor
0	Joy Markillie

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.

I would like to thank everyone for your support and understanding in this my second year as your 'near' non-playing captain. I might be your captain for the 2026/7 season let's see how the vote goes in August at our AGM.

Finally, I would like to mention Gill and Duncan, who I am sure all of us can see just how their game has improved, I hope they can also see just how accurate and consistent they are becoming, a nice addition to our pool of league players.

Kind regards,

Alan B.