

Norfolk Bowling Club Newsletter

Shining a spotlight on.....

Ellie Johnson



Tell us a little about yourself – your background, are you from Norfolk? Your occupation past or present. Your family? Do you have other hobbies and interests outside bowls?

I am from Norfolk and my brother (Aaron) and dad (Steve) play bowls; it's a family sport. I work as a Teaching Assistant at Colman Schools, just down the road from the Bowls Club. My job takes up a large portion of my spare time in the evening as it involves marking work and planning lessons for the next day. Bowls takes up a lot of time too and weekends are often spent travelling somewhere to compete so there's not much time for other hobbies.

When did you first begin playing bowls?

I began playing bowls at 10 years old when my grandad, Maurice, took me up the club for a roll up. I really enjoyed it and then went on to train every Tuesday after school with Brenda and Keith Whitehead and I have been bowling ever since!

What attracted you to the sport of bowls?

My grandad inspired me to play bowls. He has played bowls for over 30 years and has won many nationals during his career. He would often tell me all about his highly competitive games back in the day. (He was a footballer too when he was younger and played with a few bowlers from our club. He loves to tell me how he played at Carrow Road.)

How long have you been a member at NBC?

11 years

What do you enjoy about bowling?

I really love the social side and meeting so many people from all over the world. I enjoy the competitiveness and the excitement of visiting so many different counties and countries to compete. BUT it can get very expensive ha ha.

Which leagues and competitions have you played in?

Aussie Pairs, Monday Night Triples League, Fours League on Fridays and club competitions.

What are your highest achievements?

My most memorable achievements are:

- Nationals at Nottingham and U18 and U25 series for England (awarded player of the series one year)
- Outdoor series and winning gold at Scotland in the U25s
- Atherley
- U30s Double Rink
- U18 Singles
- U25 Singles – was runner up
- Ladies' Pairs
- Ladies' Fours winner (twice)

cannot remember what else 🤔

What are your happiest memories/proudest moments from bowling?

- Getting player of the series at U25 England International Series and winning the whole series
- Winning the National Ladies' 4s back-to-back
- Playing with family
- Coming runner up in U25 National Women's Singles to Millie my bowls bestie
- Winning the Atherley back-to-back
- Coming runners up in U30s Inter County Double Rink

- Playing at the World U25 Championships and meeting people from different countries
- Yetton Plate champions
- Playing at the British Isles Championships representing England in the Ladies' National Fours

What tips would you give to players who are just starting out on their bowling journey?

Just to stick at it and your hard work and commitment will pay off.

Thanks to Ellie for sharing her thoughts and her photos too! – see below



