

## About the Wednesday Doubles League

The Wednesday Doubles League is a BTBA sanctioned handicap doubles league which, as you can imagine, rolls-off every Wednesday at 7:15pm. This fun and yet competitive league was formed in the spring of 1993, shortly after the Guildford Spectrum centre opened.

The league started in a small way with 12 teams for a once round summer league and continued on a split season basis for another three years whilst increasing in size to 16 teams. A significant increase to 22 teams in 1996 prompted a change to a twice-round, year-long season, and since then the number of teams in the league has varied from 24 to 16 teams. Last season we had a 14-team league. Currently there are 14 teams in a three times round season to take us up to the next AGM on 28 August 2024.

Separate team and double elimination singles knock-out competitions are run annually with a special end of season Challenge match between the League Champions and the Team KO winners. This was previously known as the President's Challenge but has been renamed as the Bill Hollingsworth Challenge in memory of Bill and everything he did for the league. All the current and previous league and competition winners are recorded on the Past Champions Downloads section of this website. All the current League Records can also be found in the Downloads section.

A notable event of the 2005-2006 season was the rolling of Spectrum's first league 300 game. The twelve-in-a-row was achieved by Graham Beardmore on 17 May 2006. This was matched three times in the 2006-7 season by Graham Knight on 17 January, David Barnden on 20 June and Gary Peed on 1 August 2007. The 2008-09 season's best was an eleven-in-a-row 299 from Tony Hart. Ryan Mitchener rolled a perfect game on 4 March 2009 for a new Junior League and House Record. Clare Reed rolled a 279 on 18 March to equal the then Ladies League and House Record. Graham Beardmore rolled a 299 in December 2008. In the 2009-2010 season Andrew Brandish rolled a perfect game on 7 July 2010 to equal the Junior League and House Record. Steven Smith rolled a new Junior and All-commers League and House record series of 834 (268, 268 & 298) on 12 January 2011 and Clare Reed rolled a Perfect Game on 9 February 2011, the first Ladies Perfect game at Spectrum. Matt Dold and Steven Smith rolled a 587 game in January 2018, a new League and House Record for a Men's Scratch Doubles Game. Matt Dold rolled a 300 game in April 2018. Iain Rollings rolled a 300 game on 12 December 2018.

All types of players are catered for, from beginners to the more experienced, with everyone having a good chance as the handicap system used is a great leveler.

There are a number of registered league reserves who are available to bowl for any team, should the need arise, and there are often vacancies for individuals in this category. Preference will be given to new teams formed by existing league reserves.

If you are interested in joining the league either as a doubles team, with up to four registered players, or as an individual please contact the league secretary, at the e-mail address on the Contact page, and we will get back to you.

September 2023.