

# Robbie Gove, 27, of Bury St Edmunds, challenges stigma around bowls after being crowned Suffolk's Champion of Champions

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A 27-year-old bowls champion is challenging stereotypes around the sport while hoping to inspire younger players to take part.

Robbie Gove, of **Bury St Edmunds**, has already enjoyed years of success in bowls after first taking up the sport at the age of 10.

Bowls quickly became a major part of family life for Robbie as he and his older sister, Sarah, began playing with their father.



Robbie Gove, 27, has been crowned the Suffolk County Indoor Bowling Association's Champion of Champions. Picture: Mark Westley

Just three years after starting the sport, Robbie won his first trophy at the age of 13 – a moment he says sparked his love for the game.

Since then, he has gone on to become men's captain at Risbygate Bowls Club while Sarah has represented her country internationally and recently won the Women's National Triples Championship for 2026.

Robbie recently added another title to his growing list of achievements after being crowned Champion of Champions by Suffolk County Indoor Bowling Association in April.



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Robbie is hoping to break stereotypes around the sport and encourage younger players to get involved. Picture: Mark Westley

Despite the siblings' success, Robbie said there is still a stigma attached to bowls with many people viewing it as a sport for older players.

"There is definitely a stigma around it," he said. "If you went to your average bowls club, you would get the impression the average age is quite high.

"But as soon as you get to the higher levels of the sport, you realise it is the younger generation winning the competitions."

Robbie said bowls is highly accessible due to its low-impact nature and strong social element, adding that it shares similarities with darts in the way it relies heavily on strategy and decision-making.



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everything on offer at **Risbygate Sports Club** set to take place on Saturday, June 20, between 11am and 3pm.



Robbie is also set to complete the Three Peaks Challenge in June in memory of his friend, Elle Taylor. Picture: Mark Westley

For more information, [click here](#).

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On top of his bowls efforts, Robbie is raising funds for St Nicholas Hospice Care by taking on the Three Peaks Challenge on June 27.

He will be climbing the highest mountains in Scotland, England, and Wales in just 24 hours alongside three others to honour their friend Elle Taylor lost her battle with cancer in February.

The group has raised £1,300 so far and to donate to their cause, [click here](#).

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