



BIBC Newsletter March 2023

From the Board...

Board Members

You will have seen from the notice boards, or learned by speaking with other members, that Bob Griffiths recently stepped down as Club Chairman.

The remaining Board members would like to place on record that the club is very grateful for the work and dedication Bob has given to the club over the past six years, four of which were spent as Chairman.

The Board is also pleased to announce that Maddie Wilmott has agreed to join the Board, bringing a wealth of experience with her.

All Board members are volunteers and receive no remuneration for their involvement. Each spends a great deal of their time and effort looking after the day-to-day management of the club, its finances, the property, staff, bar, catering, cleaning, etc on your behalf.

We are dependent upon volunteers to make the club what it is, reduce our overheads, manage bowls and social activities, arrange matches, coaching and attract new members.

Please note that the club will be closed for two weeks after Easter, reopening on 24 April. During that closure, the club will undergo a deep clean, and any help you can offer will be appreciated – please liaise with Cheryl. More details will show on the club website – www.bristolindoorbowls.org.uk

Message from Steve Neal concerning League Tables

This year we have had a few matches played before the set date, and some of these will affect the top of the tables.

Please be aware that when the League table is put on the notice board, the table is produced at the point of the last round of matches. It will not include any matches played early.

If, however, you view the League tables on the website using the BOWLR link on the home page (see below) that will show all results entered, including any played early.

Rink availability and bookings can be found via our bowlr web link:-

[Bristol Indoor Bowls Club \(bowlr.co.uk\)](http://Bristol Indoor Bowls Club (bowlr.co.uk))



SUMMER LEAGUES 2023

Summer is coming!

We are hoping to run the following Summer Leagues:

Monday	Aussie Pairs	12.00-14.00 (starting 15 May)
Tuesday	Triples	12.00-14.00 (starting 9 May)
Thursday	Aussie Pairs	10.00-12.00 (starting 11 May)

If you are interested in playing in any of these leagues, please register your team on the forms displayed on the noticeboard in the changing room corridor or by email to info@bristolindoorbowls.org.uk with your name, telephone number and team name

**Umbrellas will be played on Tuesdays at 10.00 and
Thursdays at 12.00**

**If you have any queries or further suggestions, please speak
to Cheryl**

From the Bowls & Social Committee

Bowls bags in changing rooms, please

All members are reminded that bowls bags should not be left in the lounge or rink side at any time.

Dress Code

Many comments have been received about Dress Code when playing in matches, and it's noticeable that standards have been slipping since the covid-enforced breaks.

The Bowls Committee would like to remind members that when playing in League Teams, the following extract from the handbook still applies:

Collared shirt - either team colour, club or white shirt. All players should wear the same shirt although a club shirt (new or old) may be worn instead of a team/white shirt.

Coincidentally, there are a few 'old' club shirts available, at a cost of £5 each; please speak with Cheryl if you'd like to buy one.

Club Finals 1st & 2nd April

The club finals will take place over the weekend of 1st and 2nd April. The schedule of games will appear on the notice board as soon as the semi-finals have been completed.

It would mean a lot to the competitors to have as many members as possible supporting them over those two days.

Coaching News

Firstly, may I please say a big thank you for all of the support and well wishing I have received since taking a tumble on the ice back in late January. I am still under medical supervision but am at least partially mobile now and doing my best to get back to where we were before.

Access Sport and Disability Bowls

You may or may not be aware, but in the last couple of weeks the club has launched a new venture in conjunction with Bristol Access Sport to give differently abled people the chance to try out bowls as a sport that can be accessible to them. The sessions are being held at one of our quieter times on a Wednesday afternoon and so far three or four families have come along to see what we are about. I believe this is something that fits in with the club's ethos and one of the reasons why we were awarded the disability kite mark in the first instance. If you know of anyone who might benefit from these sessions please let us know as I hope that this will be a successful venture and one which may lead to our triallists eventually being more integrated into the normal running of the club. There are also plans afoot to host a wheelchair bowling tournament at the end of April but more details on that will be forthcoming as they progress in the coming weeks.

Improvers

For the rest of you bowlers, don't forget there are the improvers sessions still running on Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons. These are not just aimed at beginners, but a few more experienced bowlers have come along and have appreciated what we are doing and have had positive effects on their games. Don't be shy, the sessions are interactive, and you will have your chance to add your input. The "coaches' surgeries" are also still available on Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 5.30 and 6.30. These are meant to be informal times when you can come along to perhaps discuss aspects of the game or even just ask the coach to watch your action as you have felt you have "become a little weaker on your backhand" or similar. No judgments are made, we just want to be helpful. Otherwise, more formal one to one sessions can still be booked with specific coaches, should you want them.

Bowls stock

Finally, I am pleased to see that a number of members have availed themselves of the opportunity to make use of the bowls on the racks and in the smaller bowls cupboard by rink one. I do try to keep these updated and number each set with their rack location so that they can easily be found. What I would ask is that if you do borrow a set, please could you return them to the place you got them from at the end of your session so that others can make use of them as well – more on this later.

As head coach, one of my duties is to try to ensure that the bowls we keep in the cupboard and on the racks are representative of different makes, biases and sizes so that members can try out different types to see how they fare before buying their own set. They are also imperative for the coaches to show new members the possibilities that exist. To this end I keep an inventory of the bowls we have and try to keep them as up to date and relevant to the game as possible.

From time to time we have been donated sets of bowls by individuals and clubs that no longer have need of them and for this we are very grateful. Older less relevant ones are replaced, when possible, by newer varieties. As the bowls are retired, they have been offered for sale to members and when not sold here have been put onto sites such as e-bay and any monies raised has been ring-fenced by the club to purchase new bowls directly from the manufacturers. Just to let you know, because of this we are expecting to receive two new sets of the smaller sizes of bowls from Thomas Taylor, hopefully in April.

I have been pleased to see that many members have been taking advantage of this service that the club provides and that the bowls are not just sitting there gathering dust. I would like to remind members however, that the bowls are only to be borrowed for the session that the bowler needs them and that they should be put back on the rack immediately after the session so that other members can use them.

Occasionally we do give permission for bowls to leave the club temporarily, for example, to help local clubs when they are having recruitment drives but in these cases written permission is required. During my most recent audit of the bowls, I have noticed that there are several sets of bowls missing from the cupboard and racks and would urge those members that may have them in their possession to return them as soon as possible so that I can finalise the audit and then replace the older ones with some of the newer ones we have obtained. Thank you all in advance for your help in this matter.

Danny Kite – Head Coach and Bowls Committee

Volunteers

On Saturday evening, 11 March, the club hosted an evening to thank all of the volunteers for the work they have done during the past year or so. It was, in my opinion, a successful evening and some forty members enjoyed not only one of Steve's hot and cold buffets but also had the opportunity to dance to the disco afterwards, thus getting rid of at least some of the calories they had put on. It was, however, a pity that some of the volunteers were not able to make the evening due to illness or other prior engagements, so I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them publicly for the work that they do. Without our volunteers, the overheads the club would face would lead to much increased subscriptions. So, if you feel you can help the club in any way, with any particular skill set you may have, please let Cheryl know and we would love to welcome you into the fold. We have had a couple of members step up in recent weeks but could still do with more. To paraphrase someone more famous than me, ask not what the club can do for you, but what can you do for the club. Thanks everyone.

Danny

The Trophy is coming home! and other junior news

On 19th February 15 juniors travelled to Poole in Dorset in preparation to play against the Dolphin junior Academy. This is now an annual event at alternating venues.

The club opened its doors to us for an evening meal despite no games being played by us that evening, and our juniors had a couple of 'roll ups' before returning to the hotel where they played chess and card games – we stayed at the Premier Inn (North) 2 mins away by car.

We arrived on Saturday in time for a superb breakfast at 8.30 and games started with triples at 10 am.



Our juniors looked extremely smart and professional in their new tops and black trousers which I think boosted their confidence. We stopped for lunch, which was a choice of five varieties of sandwiches and jacket potatoes, chips sausage rolls or Cornish pasties.

The afternoon games started with a special triples competition between SID'S GUYS (the Academy main coach plus two colleagues and BRIZOL'S BEST (three of juniors' dads). I'm delighted to say that our dads only lost by ONE shot and obviously a return match is promised for 2024!

This was followed by triples for the juniors and the day drew to a close with 4 points all, and all to play for on Sunday morning.

Evening Entertainment was provided for us after a complimentary buffet enjoyed by all!

Breakfast commenced on Sunday at 8.30 before pairs started at 10.00am. Our juniors faced a new challenge as they played on a different set of rinks ...fast ones!!

It didn't take long to get adjusted, and they ended the weekend on a high note winning the annual event by 99 shots to 90!

The presentation was made, followed by a well earned roast dinner!

I'm so very proud of our young players who played extremely well with perfect etiquette, manners and friendliness.

We're looking forward this time next year! Well done to all who came to Poole.

EXTREMELY PROUD OF ALL OF YOU!

Thomasina Goodman

SOMERSET JUNIORS V SOMERSET LADIES – SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Five of our juniors put their names forward to play for Somerset juniors against Somerset ladies.. Sophie and Evie Hicks, Lydia Sheldrake, Oakley Trent and Stanley James, were ALL were selected! They played in teams alongside juniors from Purnells, Clevedon, Taunton Deane and Ilminster to win the game!

Well done Everyone you did your clubs PROUD!!

Congratulations, also, to Lydia Sheldrake, who is part of the team representing Somerset in the Under 18 County Double Rink Triples in the semi-finals on 26 March at Nottingham. GO LYDIA!!!

The juniors would like say a big THANK YOU to all the members who have helped with our fundraising, from supplying and buying from our fund raising table, and to all who have attended our bingo sessions

You have helped us buy new club tops, and funded the juniors to various friendly competitions