



City & County of Bristol Indoor Bowls Club

Newsletter November 2023

Message from the Chair – Danny Kite

A few weeks ago the board approached me to see if I would be willing to take over the position of club chairman. I was only too happy to accept the offer and have now chaired my first AGM.

Thank you very much for the expressions of support and good wishes and also for not being backward in coming forward with observations and comments.

Comments have been received regarding this year's issue of the member's handbook. This has been held up due to the thorny issue of dress code.

Dress code is not a problem exclusive to our club, nor even the national association whose advice has been sought. Over the years styles, fashions and even the fabric used to make them has changed. Things have become far less formal and more relaxed. This to the joy of some and the sorrow of others! The use of colour has also been more in evidence of late, especially with several clubs moving towards colour for their below the waist apparel. I would remind members that BIBC has determined black or grey to be the acceptable colours within the club.

I hope you agree that clothing such as denim jeans and cargo trousers might be considered as work wear, and such as are not appropriate in the bowls hall - together with beach wear such as vests and short shorts. Discreet clothing should be acceptable for most members, especially for less formal occasions such as roll-ups or umbrellas, where our newer members are encouraged to start their bowling career with us. For more formal games such as internal leagues or inter club matches (both friendly and competitive) the standard of dress should be more enforceable. For national competitions all team members should be dressed the same and therefore we should be more insistent as, after all, the players are effectively promoting the club. The Board and Bowls and Social Committee will continue to monitor dress code within the club.

We are also concerned about Health and Safety, as bowls pushers and bowls bags have caused-at least two incidents recently.

Bowls Pushers

The bowls pushers have been withdrawn from use. Even though there have been a number of measures taken in attempts to improve safety, accidents are still reported on a regular basis. Luckily, none have been too serious but given the age profile of the membership and the often-fatal consequences of a fall, consideration for the health and safety of all members must outweigh any inconvenience this may cause.

Bowls Bags

We would again urge all members and visitors to make use of space in the changing rooms to store their bowls bags. Walkways must be kept clear at all times and bags should not be taken rinkside or left in the lounge. Members are also reminded that the green should be vacated quickly at the end of a game to enable players in subsequent matches to move down to rinkside.



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More on Dress Code

To eliminate doubt, listed below is the club dress code, published many times before, but which still seems beyond that which some members are willing to apply to themselves.

- For league matches, all players should preferably wear the same shirt although a club shirt (old or new) may be worn instead of a team/white shirt
- Below the waist, only plain black or grey garments, defined below
- Any clean, coloured flat soled shoes may be worn on the green
- Sandals are not allowed except for medical reasons when a doctor's exemption letter is required
- Denim jeans of any colour must not be worn but black tracksuit bottoms similar to the EIBA cashel pants may be worn. The discreet wearing of plain black leggings is permitted. Discreet is defined as "careful not to cause embarrassment or attract too much attention". Wearing leggings with a long shirt, a skirt or shorts are examples that meet this definition

Please refer to the EIBA's dress code when playing national competitions.

Men's League Matches

Collared shirt - either team colour, club shirt or white. Black or grey trousers, black or grey EIBA/Bowls Manufacturer or tailored shorts.

Ladies' League Matches

Collared shirt - either team colour, club or white shirt. Black or grey trousers/regulation skirts/cropped trousers, black or grey EIBA/Bowls Manufacturer or tailored shorts.

Club friendlies

Club shirt, black trousers/regulation skirts/ cropped trousers, black EIBA/Bowls Manufacturer or tailored shorts.

Competition finals

Collared shirt - either team colour, club or white shirt. Black trousers/regulation skirts/ cropped trousers, black EIBA/Bowls Manufacturer or tailored shorts.

Roll ups and umbrellas

As for men's and ladies league matches.



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Heating & ventilation – Ian Anderson

There have been some questions regarding the capability of the bowls hall heating and ventilation, particularly during the summer months.

Ian Anderson, our Property Director has produced some information that will help you understand how the system works.

Rather than include the whole document here, please see that information posted on the club noticeboards.

Lockers – Lyn Griffiths

Please note that when lockers become available, a notice will be attached to the vacant locker in the changing rooms.

Several members have requested a locker – there is a waiting list so please be patient and do check the lockers in your changing room for availability.

Large lockers do not become available very often – if you have requested a large locker this will be allocated as and when one becomes available.

Please do not pay for the hire of a locker until one is allocated to you.

Competition notes - Eric Seavill

Internal competitions

The entry forms are now available on reception; please don't be shy, but be prepared to 'have a go'. There are competitions for all abilities, and taking part will help you develop your game. That, in turn, will increase your whole enjoyment of playing bowls. A self fulfilling activity!

County Competitions

Also available from reception is the entry form for Somerset County competitions; the deadline for entry is 1 December

Fantastic Fives

During the summer we reached the knockout stages of the Fantastic Fives but went out to a very strong Egham side who are defending champions from last season.

Clubs may enter more than one team, so if anyone is interested in putting together another squad for next year, please contact Eric Seavill for details.



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Coaching – Head Coach Danny Kite

Welcome back everyone; I hope you have had a good season outdoors. Just a few words to let you know that the coaching team will be on hand to cover the following sessions.

- Tuesday evenings 5.30-6.30 - Pop in surgery to chat with a coach and perhaps refine some details of your game
- Wednesday afternoons 4-6pm - A two-hour session for those less able to play our standard game but who would still like to enjoy playing it in some form or another
- Wednesday evenings 6-8pm - The improvers course with Terry, Rod and Danny returns to help you read the game better and understand some of the tactics employed
- Thursday evenings 5.30-6.30 - Another pop in surgery possibility
- Friday afternoons 2-4pm - The alternate improvers course with Mike and Martin who again will show you ways in which to improve your game
- Saturday mornings 10-12 sessions for the junior section. New members always welcome in the 6-18 age bracket

Saturday early afternoon The VIBE section have their rink booked and we try to have a coach on hand for any new bowler that wishes to join this group

Finally, we still offer one-to-one personal sessions for anyone, new or experienced to work with one of our coaches to improve delivery or understanding of the game. Just speak to Cheryl and she will put you in touch with the group

The coaches are friendly and want to help. They are volunteers who give their time for free. All you need to pay for is the time taken on the playing mat. Please take the opportunity to let us help you.



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Junior News – Thomasina Goodman

On Saturday 28 October we held our Halloween juniors v parents Annual Competition on three rinks.

As usual, the juniors won overall two rinks to one!

A great couple of hours enjoyed by all!



Christmas Lunch and Raffle

Bookings are now being taken for the Christmas Lunch, and members are also asked to supply items for the Christmas Raffle.

- Christmas menu available from 4 December – four courses £22 per head
- Club Christmas lunch 15 December 12:30 for 1pm – four courses £20 per head
- Christmas Day Dinner 25 December – 2pm (bar from 1pm) – four courses £45 per head

Please see the posters in the club, and talk to Cheryl or Steve Metcalfe for details.



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County News - Jenny Tibbs

Somerset County Women's Indoor Bowls Association **SWCIBA update autumn**

Welcome to our 2023 winter season at BIBC.

Bristol Indoor Bowls Club comes under the Somerset County Women's Indoor Bowls Association region and as such any one of us is able to put our name forward to play in the county matches.

I know this sounds that you need to play at a high standard and that they will pick the strongest teams for the league matches (and the Atherley competition [top 6 rinks]) but we are able to have a go in the friendly matches. So those wishing to enjoy a game of bowls against others from all over our county can meet new players and/or play at a higher level, get noticed and work their way up to a more competitive level or just enjoy the day.

Please google the Somerset Women's County Indoor Bowling Association website [<https://swciba.sportsclubwebsite.co.uk>]. You can set up a log in so that you can see what matches are coming up, and add your availability on line - they are always looking out for more players. There will also be availability lists on our boards as they come through if you find the internet a bit challenging.

I play in as many as I can so am very happy to chat things through with you Tel 01761 221520.

We are setting up County and National sections on our ladies notice boards so that everyone can have the opportunity to see what it's all about so please have a look.

The Mason Trophy [Over 60's] is coming up soon so please watch out for the availability sheet going up shortly.

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