



Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter December 2023

Message from the Chair – Danny Kite



Whilst the board has seen and heard the various comments about the pushers, for the sake of health and safety and taking note of the recent risk assessment that has been carried out, the decision to remove them will stay in place. I am pleased to note that the other area of concern, namely leaving large bags around the lounge area, is also being addressed positively.

Since the clarification of our dress code, I am also pleased to see that on observation over several days last week there was some 90-95% compliance with the code. I am sure the odd 5-10% will fall in line soon.

Following recent comments to me from a number of members, I would like to remind you all of the guidelines during the end of one session and the start of another. That is, for those finishing, please remember to leave as quickly as you can and have your final conversations in the lounge area. For those waiting to start, please allow the majority, if not all the bowlers to vacate the area before you go down to bowl.

Please remember, it is not the responsibility of volunteers on reception to rebuff offenders but for the entire membership to offer polite reminders to the miscreants.

On a lighter note, may I (and Fliss) together with all the board members wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Lockers – Lyn Griffiths



Lyn would like to remind members who have lockers that they will continue to have the same lockers in future seasons, unless they choose not to rent one.





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League Notes - Steve Neal

Pool Players/Members looking to join a League team/League team looking for players

There is a file on Reception for members to enter their contact details in, if they would like to join a team or become a pool player, and also for Team Secretaries looking for players. It has separate sheets for each League. If you would like more information, speak to Cheryl or Steve Neal.

Pool Players

We need players available to stand in, when teams are short of a player in the Leagues. If you have spare time, and you are available on certain days of the week, please put your name in the file, and then a Team Secretary may phone you if they need a player. You can put your name in as a pool player and looking to join a team, in the same League, but once you have joined a team you cannot be a pool player in that league. If you get a call from a team secretary, and are not available on that day, you can always say sorry not available, you are not committed to play.

Rule in Handbook

“Pool Players” are members who record in the same book at reception their availability to play in leagues where they are not already registered in a league team. This allows league teams to fulfil matches that otherwise would have been postponed due to lack of one player. Pool players may be used up to three times a season by any league team. No pool player may skip a league team (does not apply to Australian Pairs).

Looking to Join a League Team this Season or form a new team for 2024/25?

If you are a new or existing member looking to join a League, please enter your name in the file on reception or contact the League Manager. Teams are only allowed to register players up to 31st January each year, but still put your name in, as teams may be looking for players at the end of the season, for the following season. I had enough names on a couple of leagues at the start of this season, to form a couple of new teams in the Leagues, so please add your name to the file.

Team Secretaries - Please check the file on reception, so that you are aware of players looking for teams & Pool Players

To make sure the Leagues continue, we need to encourage new/existing members wanting to join in the Leagues. If you do not, we may lose them to other clubs or they will not come back next year. You are allowed to register players up to 31st January each year, but members of the Board, Bowls and Social Committee or League Manager can give permission for a player to be registered after this date, if it will affect the team completing the season.

Outstanding League Matches

Please can you arrange to play any matches over six weeks old. Under league rules they should be voided by now and rink fees paid, but I am still giving a bit of leeway at the moment.

Steve Neal - League Manager Mobile. 07974 107729



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Coaches Corner - Head Coach Danny Kite

We are seeing a tendency for some bowlers to forget the etiquette surrounding walking on the rink.

Please remember that when crossing over with the skip during an end, you should walk up the rink as close to the middle of the rink as possible until you reach the head and then walk around the head to take up the required position.

Please do not stray close to the edge of the rink and certainly do not walk on the next rink as this may impede someone else's game.

In games where the skip may visit the head, bowlers are reminded that having delivered their bowl, they must regain position behind the mat or past the head before their bowl comes to rest.

Our league games are timed so no visits to the head are allowed. You should be behind the mat when your bowl comes to rest. Finally, if you are a front-end player, as the bowl prior to the changeover with the skip has been delivered, please allow the person that has delivered it the opportunity to see it go up the green. Whilst you may add a few precious seconds to the game this is quite discourteous and against etiquette - as is having long, meaningful discussions with the skip during the changeover. Please remember, both skips must leave the head at the same time.

Club Christmas Lunch



We have received a number of complimentary comments, including this one:

Congratulations to BIBC and Steve Metcalfe on an excellent Xmas Lunch from beginning to end. The organisation needed with a team of ten staff to prepare, serve and clear a complete Xmas dinner of good quality in a relatively confined space must be applauded. Not only were the catering and bar staff efficient but also fun company for the dining experience. The appearance of an elf conducting a raffle and a jolly Father Christmas was an added bonus. Congratulations to all.



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Junior News – Thomasina Goodman

The inaugural under 16's Australian Pairs Tournament held at the club on Saturday 9th December was deemed to be a great success.

Sixteen pairs were registered to play but sadly one pair had to drop out due to sickness. Nevertheless, draws were made on the day, dividing the teams to play in groups of round robin matches.

The teams who topped the groups then played for the Tournament and Plate final positions.

The Tournament semi-finalists were:

Bowlers in Disguise (Joshua Hodges & Alfie Holland) – Gloucester
v
Oakmarshes (Oakley Trent & Marshall Clark-Simpson) – Bristol

and

Lincoln Imps (Owen & Evan Kent) – Lincoln
v
Cheltenham Boys (Louie Hodges & Dylan Williams) – Cheltenham

**Cheltenham Boys defeated Bowlers in Disguise in the final to become the
Tournament Winners**

The Plate semi finals were played as follows:

Doom & Broom (Zach Broom & Lucas Powell) – Clevedon.
v
Cats (Catherine Rivers & Thia Billings) – Bristol

and

D & S Rampelt (Daria & Samarada Rampelt) – Poole
v
Jenicity (Jenna Scott & Felicity Sheldrake) – Bristol

Doom & Broom defeated Jenicity in the Plate Final

Well played to everyone who took part and also a very big thank you to Joe Taylor our Umpire who was called upon several times, and who complimented all the players on their etiquette, behaviour, knowledge of the game and sportsmanship and to Clifton Rotary who sponsored the event.



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In other newsa bowls chute

The club is grateful to Lewis Toman, who has created and donated a bowls chute together with the following narrative:

The concept of making a bowls chute arose in a discussion after the AGM and started a long process. This initially included failing to find any design information so needing to design the chute from scratch.

Once the design was complete the help of Avrils, a timber supplier near Clevedon, was needed to advise and then cut the 30-degree chamfer on the timber for the main chute, and then supply all the timber.

It was always recognised that forming the transition section to convert the 30-degree slope into horizontal was going to be the most challenging part, and so it turned out to be. Various initial attempts progressed from 4"x2" to 6"x2" then finishing up with timber 8 inches by 2 inches needed to give enough height to fit the down slope and then shape this to allow the bowl to be released horizontally. It took eight attempts before the final two pieces were ready to be fitted to the plywood base.

The 2.8-metre-long sloping section represented a logistical problem transporting it to the bowls club but a trusty trailer was brought into use and finally the complete unit was erected at the club on Saturday 16th December and passed its live testing process with flying colours.

The actual construction process took three weeks and was particularly challenging during the preparation of the transition section.

The good news is that all the costs have been gift aided so the club benefits from not only having its own bowls chute but an additional 25% income on the cost of making the chute.

