



# **Bristol Indoor Bowls Club**

## **Newsletter March 2024**

### **Message from the Chair – Danny Kite**

#### **National Mixed Fours and Pairs finals**

Firstly, apologies to anyone who had their bowling sessions disrupted recently but what an honour to be chosen as one of the clubs to host some of the National Competition Finals.

Thanks to all the volunteers and helpers that made the weekend a success - so much of a success, in fact, that we've learned that we will be offered the chance to be hosts again next year. We are awaiting confirmation of the dates etc.

For those that came along just to watch and enjoy the high standard of bowling on show I thank you, and you helped to create the atmosphere that went along with the games. Maybe one day we will be able to cheer on one of our own teams. Let's hold onto that dream!

#### **Club shutdown**

Hopefully, you are all aware of that the club will be closed between 6 April and 21 April inclusive. This is so that essential maintenance and cleaning work can be carried out between the winter and summer seasons. If any of you have any skills to offer, even if it is only elbow grease and a willing constitution, please let Cheryl or any of the directors know as we are compiling the timetable of jobs to be done and all offers of help will be gratefully received.

In the last newsletter, I indicated that the position of club captains will be open for next season but have yet to receive any applications. The door is still open.....

### **Bowls Committee - Eric Seavill**

#### **Wessex League**

We finished the season with a disappointing two wins from 6 games. North Wilts and Clarrie Dunbar qualified from our group.

#### **National Competitions**

Congratulations to Lydia and Fliss Sheldrake who are both in the Somerset Under 18s squad who have qualified for the County Under 18s finals at Nottingham, and to Callum Gwinnell who has qualified in the Novice competition.

At the other end of the age range Richard Doughty and Eric Seavill have qualified for Nottingham in the over 60s Pairs.



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### Club Competitions

Finals weekend is the 23rd and 24th March so will those competitors still lucky (or skilful!) enough to still be involved please play their games as soon as possible so that the Competition Secretary can draw up the schedule for the finals in good time.

### Fantastic Fives

As more players turn to indoor bowls (or indeed if you wish to mix indoors and outdoors) during the summer, some of you may be interested in entering the Fantastic Fives competition, run by the EIBA.

We entered a team last year who had a successful run and qualified from our group to the knockout stages. The same squad will be entering again, but clubs can make more than one entry so if anyone wishes to enter a team please see or contact Eric Seavill for details. You will need a squad of about 8 or 9 nine players (up to 14 are allowed, seven of each gender) of whom 5 will play each game. The initial groups are of four teams so you will play 6 games (three home and three away) over a period of a couple of months, before the knockout stages commence.

### Disability Bowls England

DBE recently played an International match against Ireland in Solihull.

Emma Price was called up to play for England, and Emma writes:

*Playing for England in the DBE Test series v Ireland was a truly incredible experience.*

*I'm so grateful for the opportunity, as it was such an honour to play alongside a fantastic group of players.*

*Everyone was so friendly and welcoming.*

*Since becoming disabled I didn't think I'd be able to competitively play any sport again, until I discovered bowls two years ago. Now I'm competing, having fun and making new friends.*





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### League Notes- Steve Neal

#### Summer Leagues

The Leagues will start beginning of May; hopefully we will have the same Leagues as last year.

Monday Afternoon Open Australian Pairs	12 noon
Tuesday Afternoon Open Triples	12 noon
Thursday Morning Open Australian Pairs	10 am

If you would like to enter a new team for any of the above Leagues, please contact Cheryl or League Manager by 20<sup>th</sup> April 24.

Existing teams will be emailed later in February to see if they wish to continue.

#### Postponed matches

Just a reminder, a game at the end of the season cannot be conceded, if it affects the outcome of a league.

For the next winter season, the Thursday evening 2 bowl triples will revert to 3 bowls

Steve Neal can be contacted on 07974 107729



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### **Club Friendlies**

Availability sheets are on the board near the changing rooms. These are very enjoyable matches, very social and bring extra revenue to the club, are almost complete for this season.

We'd like to draw your attention to the game against Henleaze (outdoor) on Tuesday 2 July at 2pm

### **National Finals held at BIBC**

#### **National Mixed Championships**

From 23rd to 26th February the club was privileged to host the Finals of the EIBA's Mixed Pairs and Fours competitions. We welcomed bowlers from around the country, who put on a tremendous display of bowls. Both finals (and many other matches) came down to the last end and even the last bowl. The eventual winners of the Fours came from South Shields and the Pairs from Exonia.

A number of volunteers and the catering and bar staff ensured that the event ran smoothly. Representatives of the EIBA were very complimentary about the facilities on offer and the efforts of the members involved.

It would have been nice to see more members of the club supporting the event. However, we are hosting the event on the same weekend next year, so please make an early note in your 2025 diaries!

### **Coaches Corner - Head Coach Danny Kite**

#### **Internal competitions**

I have fielded many questions since the last newsletter, many to do with our club competition rules.

If in doubt, please refer to the copy of the member's handbook at the water fountain end of the bar. Page 22 onwards should give you the answer to most questions raised so far.

Please remember that the competitions run as per the normal sessions i.e. 1 hour 53 minutes and not the full two hours. If you start late you still need to finish when the session bell sounds, especially if there is another game following your allotted time.



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### Markers Awareness Course

I am still working toward getting a Markers Awareness Course and have received a positive nod from the Umpires Association but due to the club closure it might not happen until the end of April or the beginning of May. I realise that many of you will be playing at your outdoor clubs at that time but if there is sufficient interest, I will try to get a course running on a Sunday. Please let me or Cheryl know if you would like to attend the course.

It's not the winning – it's taking part!

Fliss Kite has passed on the message that on Monday 11 March three members of the same family played in the Ladies Triples Competition. Mother - Felicity Kite, daughter Juliet Rivers and Juliet's daughter Catherine Johnson. They played Sue Whale, Ella Baker and Emma Price. Fliss says that although they didn't win, it may be unusual to have three members of the family playing together in a competition. They all enjoyed themselves and will give it another go next year!







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### Junior News – Thomasina Goodman

As we reach the end of the indoor season and the beginning of the summer bowls season we would like to wish all the juniors who play outdoors all the best for their new season.

For the juniors who are not moving outdoors we would like to remind you that junior coaching will continue throughout the summer every Saturday morning 10-12. Prices will increase from April to £2.50 per session to cover the cost of the rink hire and the equipment we provide for the children.

This indoor season has been an exciting year for the juniors, starting with the National Aussie Pairs 'under 16' competition which was a great success with juniors entering from surrounding counties and we will be repeating it next year and hope to make it an annual event!

Our big Christmas party at the climbing centre was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The recent annual competition with Poole visiting us this year was a fantastic weekend for our juniors and Poole juniors. The 'horse racing night' on the Saturday evening was a great success, real fun and enjoyed by not just Poole adults and juniors but by our juniors, their parents and some BIBC members.

We also have the junior tour to Torquay to play against adult bowlers over the weekend 15th-17th March which will be a new experience for them!

As well as all the fun and games the juniors have taken part in, we have also provided every junior with club shirts, new tracksuits and shorts which are not only very smart but make them look like part of a team!!

All of the above is funded by the junior fundraising committee with the support of the juniors, parents and club members which we thank you, whether that's through putting money in the 'jar on the bar', buying raffle tickets or attending our monthly bingo nights (1st Friday of every month of winter season) please continue to support us so we can make next indoor season 2024/2025 even more encouraging and exciting for our juniors!

