



Bristol Indoor Bowls Club

Newsletter December 2024

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members

Message from the Chair – Danny Kite

Let's get the bad stuff out of the way early; several members have spoken to me recently about a couple of things.

Firstly, it seems that despite my friendly comments about dress code, several members feel that if they are coming straight from work or the shops it is okay to ignore the dress code. It seems that other members do not agree, and they have asked me to point out that that is why we have changing rooms. Trousers and shirts can be changed into there, whilst you store those large and cumbersome bags rather than take them down to rink side.

This brings me on to the second complaint, which is that despite many requests players are still coming down on to the rink side too early and congestion has become the order of the day. This is as big a health and safety issue as the pushers were. It may only be a matter of time before someone falls from the walkway onto the green, potentially suffering greatly in the process.

Several suggestions have been made and these will be discussed by the board but anything we decide will impact upon the potential playing time more than if you can control your enthusiasm to get on the green.

Now for the good stuff. I would like to congratulate Claire on the job she has been doing and continues to do for you the club members. I understand that the Club Christmas dinner was well received by member. I do hope you appreciate the effort she is putting in.

As discussed at the AGM, the board is aware that she cannot cover all the events as in the past on her own and consideration is being made as to the best way forward for 2025. We have already established a kitchen subcommittee consisting of Claire, two board members and two professional catering experts.

The number of members that have stepped up to help in both the kitchen and bar areas is very pleasing and I thank all who have contributed so far. However, there is still space available so if you wish to help, just talk to Cheryl.

The Board of Directors

After eleven years as a director, Margaret Ford has, for personal reasons, decided to step down from the BIBC board.

Margaret has been a member of the board under two previous chairmen and has served the board and club extremely well on many levels in all she has done as a director and volunteer over many years. Whilst she continues her membership and bowling, we will miss her wise counsel on the board.

Danny Kite
Chairman





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Bowls & Social Committee

Weekend friendlies

Here are the current friendly fixtures for this season. As usual, the availability sheets will be displayed on the board; please add your name if you wish to play.

Unless otherwise indicated on the availability sheets, the matches will start at 2pm.

5/1/25	Chew Stoke	7/8 rinks
19/1/25	Begbrook	7/8 rinks
26/1/25	Isle of Wedmore	3/4 rinks
5/2/25 (Wednesday)	Wey Valley Tourists	tba
16/2/25	Long Ashton	6 rinks
26/2/25 (Wednesday)	Avon & Somerset Police	5 triples
2/3/25 (Away)	Cotswold	6 rinks
9/3/25	Portishead	6/7 rinks
10/3/25 (Monday)	Devon Ladies Tourists	tba
15/3/25	Avonvale	5 rinks
23/3/25 (Away)	Isle of Wedmore	2 rinks

Crown Green 2025

The successful and enjoyable Crown Green Day of 2024 will be repeated on Sunday 23 March 2025 (please note change of date from that previously announced). Please look out for Availability sheets in due course

Somerset Ladies

It's lovely to see so many ladies adding their names to the Somerset County match availability lists, showing interest and support from BIBC, putting us on the map and showing that we have some good competitive players.

We have four players selected to play in the Atherley Trophy at Taunton on 11th January against Dorset - Emma Price, Suzi Coles, Liz Taylor and Sue Osborne, which is a great achievement.

The next round of the Mason Trophy is on 3rd January, we have one rink at home and one away to North Wilts. This will be a tough match but we are ready for the challenge - please come along and support us if you can.

The ladies are really busy as we also have the Somerset Double rink on Saturday 12th January against Isle of Wedmore.

If you are interested in playing in these matches come along and have a chat and see what it's all about.

GOOD LUCK LADIES, you can do this!! Jenny Tibbs





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Open Singles Circuit

As already mentioned, we will be hosting this event on 5th and 6th April. This is the first time we have done post Covid and it would be great to have plenty of entries from Bristol. Entries will be online through the EIBA website, which will open soon.

Please see Eric Seavill or Richard Doughty if you need any more details about how it works. However, please note that we will also need volunteers for that weekend, including markers, so we will be asking for volunteers soon.

National Mixed Competition Finals

We are hosting the National Mixed Pairs and Fours for the second time on the long weekend of 21st to 24th February. Again, we will be looking for volunteers, but also please come down to watch top class bowls.

Somerset League

Please add your name to the selection sheets to give the selectors plenty to think about.

Availability lists are displayed on the boards next to the league table board

5/1/25	St Andrews	Away
18/1/25	Victoria (WSM)	Away
9/2/25	Isle of Wedmore	Home
16/2/25	Nailsea	Home
22/5/25 (provisional)	Purnell	Away

Wessex League

Two rinks at home and two rinks away; availability sheets are on the board.

19/1/25	North Wilts
2/2/25	Purnell
TBA	St Andrews
16/2/25	Clarrie Dunbar

Club Competitions

Please note that I have amended the play by dates for first round matches due to be played by 31st December to "ASAP". However, if you win, the next round's closing date is 9th February, so please don't leave it too long.

National Competitions

We lost in the Denny Plate to West Berks. This match was originally postponed due to the red weather alert a couple of weeks ago. As a result, a much changed side kept the game close for much of the 21 ends, but just lost towards the end. Thank you to those players who came in at short notice, all of whom enjoyed the experience.





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Our over 60s double rink play against North Wilts on Tuesday 7th January at 10.00 am. If you are playing a morning league game please stay and support the home rink over the last couple of ends.

We still have a number of players involved in National Competitions. I will give a name check to those still involved at the time of the next newsletter, as they will be close to the area finals if still going at that time.

Wessex League

We have won our first two matches against Thornbury and Clevedon. Tougher games await in the New Year, but this is a good start.

Thanks, Eric

Coaches corner – Danny Kite

Firstly, my apologies for not being there every Tuesday and Thursday evening for the coach's surgery sessions. This has been partly due to ill health on my part but also due to me being involved in bringing some new coaches along.

Over the next few weeks, you may see candidates out on the green getting ready for their formal assessments early in the new year. If you see them out there working hard, please do not disturb them other than to give encouragement for what they are trying to achieve. Who knows, you may require their services one day in the future.

During the month, several members have come to me asking for advice on situations that have arisen during games they have played.

The most popular one this month concerns possession of the rink. To summarise, you are in possession of the rink **as you take to the mat with your bowl in your hand**. At this point you may communicate with your skip and play your shot. This may continue until the point at which your bowl comes to rest. At this point you should either be behind the head or behind the mat and neither you nor the skip should communicate as possession of the rink passes to your opposition as soon as your bowl comes to rest. Equally, if you happen to be playing the last bowl before the changeover with the skips, your opposition should not walk between you and the shot you have played. If you decide to walk up the green, they may follow you but should not overtake you. Hopefully, this clarifies things for a few members.





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League Notes - Steve Neal

Scorecards

Please can you check that both cards match when you leave the rink, as I have had several that do not.

Players looking for a team

I have a player looking to join a Monday Evening Triples team. If you require a player, please let me know.

Postponed games

I will be emailing secretaries in the New Year with the details of all outstanding games. I would be grateful if you can agree a date with your opponent, any problems let me know.

New Members League

Unfortunately, I have not had enough interest in starting this league, so I will advertise again for the 2025/2026 Winter Season, and I will keep a record of the players who have asked so far.

Ladies Singles League

I have been asked if it is possible to start a Ladies Singles League. If I can find a space in the schedule, I will advertise for the 2025/2026 Winter Season. If you would be interested, please let me know.

Have a good Christmas & New Year.

The Christmas Friendly played on 22 December – a lovely, fun-filled afternoon!





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Junior News

Arrangements are under way and entries are being received for the second Under 16s tournament to be held on Saturday 25 January.

Have your say.... members' page

To have your say, please email bristolindoornews@gmail.com

AGM and Presentation night

Comments have been received that the club should revert to holding separate events, as used to be the case.

It became obvious, particularly post-lockdown, that numbers in attendance at both these events has been poor, given the membership numbers.

The Board and the Bowls & Social Committee, therefore, can see little merit in reverting to separate events.

Club Competition winners' trophies

Further comments have been received regarding certificates and trophies, in that all winners should receive some kind of keepsake trophy.

In recent years it has become clear that winning league teams do not collect certificates. so only those requesting them have received them.

For the club competitions, juniors will continue to receive keepsakes and in future all first-time winners will be given the opportunity to request a keepsake.

