



# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter February 2025

## Message from the Chair – Danny Kite

By the time you read this, the National Finals will have taken place at the club. At the time of writing, things have gone smoothly and the bowlers and officials from EIBA have given positive feedback to the club. I would therefore like to thank all the members who volunteered to make the event the success it was. I would also thank those members that came along just to watch and enjoy the high standard of bowling on view.

To those who had their matches postponed to accommodate the finals, I apologise but hope that you recognise we all have a role in promoting the club as well as the game itself. If the event sparked any new interest, it is to the benefit of us all as a vibrant and forward-looking club.

Other events to be aware of – we are hosting a Liberty Trophy quarter-final between Devon and Berkshire on 1<sup>st</sup> March and an Open Singles Circuit event over the weekend of 5-6 April. A list for those willing to volunteer to mark matches will be displayed on the boards shortly.

These events provide more opportunities to watch good bowlers in action and the chance to criticise their shot selection when it does not work or to learn that such shots are possible when they come off. I know I learn a lot from just watching.

## Request for help – Ian Anderson, Property Director

In addition to replacing the boilers and upgrading the computer software that controls the heating and ventilation, this year we have put together a long list of works to be carried out either during the annual shutdown or during the summer.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with these, together with a good reliable jobbing builder who we can call on to carry out some work.

If you can offer your time and effort or know of good reliable tradesmen, please let Cheryl know - she has a list of the jobs.

## BIBC – a cause for celebration

The building we occupy now was completed and handed over to the club in late 2000. There are mixed memories from members at that time about when we started playing, nevertheless it calls for a 25-year celebration in the latter half of this year and to that end we are looking for suggestions from the members. Please put your suggestions in an email to [bristolindoornews@gmail.com](mailto:bristolindoornews@gmail.com) for consideration and we'll keep you informed.





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## Bowls Committee

### Weekend friendlies

Here are the current friendly fixtures left 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.

2/3/25 (Away)	Cotswold	6 rinks
9/3/25	Portishead	6/7 rinks
15/3/25	Avonvale	5 rinks
23/3/25 (Away)	Isle of Wedmore	2 rinks
29/3/25	Keynsham	tba

### Crown Green 2025

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

### Club Competitions

All the competitions seem to be running well at the moment. Please keep up the good work!

### Open Singles Circuit – 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April

We are hosting the Open Singles Circuit weekend on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April. There are a few entries left. First prize is £1,200.

We will need markers, especially at 9.00 am on both mornings for the first session. Eric will put a list on the board by the competition draws.

### Summer activities

Moving on to the summer, we have entered a team into the Fantastic Fives competition for the last couple of years. Clubs can have more than one entry (at least one club had four entries last year), and I think we could raise another team. It is a mixed competition which requires a team of 5 for each match. You can name up to 14 players in a squad, but it probably works best with a squad of 7 or 8 so that everyone gets a few games. Please see the EIBA website or speak to Eric Seavill if you would like more details.

### Torquay tour 2026 – Lorraine Paget

Forms are available for next year's tour on Reception.





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## Coaches corner – Danny Kite

It has been brought to my attention that there are a number of bowlers in the club who do not fully understand why we have certain dots and markings on the green.

Let's start with the re-spot marks. These are the dots level with the 'T' on each side. These are the points at which the jack will be replaced should it be driven off the side of the rink. In outdoor games or in end play, this would normally result in a dead end which should then be replayed.

In timed play, such as our leagues, the dots come into operation. It is quite a legitimate tactic to break up a head with a weighted shot trying to get the jack to go off the rink when you have a bowl closer to the spot than your opponent. If you are still unsure, please ask anyone of our qualified coaches and they can explain more.

The 'T' and the first dot (nearest you at the far end from the mat) are also important. These are marked to show a 2-metre distance from the rear ditch to the front of the horizontal part of the 'T' itself. The first dot nearest you at the other end is measured at 25 metres from the rear ditch, thus giving us the minimum jack distance of 23 metres. It also explains the slightly larger gap between that dot and the other dots in the row which are measured forward from the opposite 'T' mark.

These dots are only there as indicators to help with assessing jack distances other than the one above. Please also remember that the 23 metres, measured when the jack is delivered, is from the front of the mat to the nearest part of the jack, once it has been centred.

So, when asked "how far is the mat up", the answer "it is on the 'T'" is only valid when the front of the mat has been placed on the horizontal part of the 'T'. If the back of your mat is on the 'T', then the response would be 'one mat up' etc.

Where applicable, the front of the mat should just obscure the front of the 'T', and at full length the jack should be placed on the 'T' such that its nearest point (not the centre of the jack) is level with the 'T'. Again, if you are unsure, please talk to a coach or an umpire.

## League notes – Steve Neal

### League Manager

Thank you for your efforts in arranging and playing a lot of the outstanding postponed games.

Reminder: Any games postponed from now, must be arranged within a week of the postponement, also the date arranged must be before the end of the league schedule

### Summer Leagues

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





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Secretaries should now have received an email to see if they wish to enter their team for Summer 2025. If we get enough interest, we will also start an Open League @ 7pm on Tuesday evenings, this could be Australian Pairs or Triples. If you would like to enter a team, please contact me on the number below or reception, stating preference.

I have also been asked if we can have a Summer Singles League. Contact me if you would like to enter, and if we get enough interest, I will see if a time slot is available.

**If you would like to enter a team or join a team in any of the above, please contact me or reception.**

## Umbrella Summer 2025

Tuesday 10 am  
Thursday 12 noon

Starting date for summer times to be advised.

Steve Neal - Mobile 07974 107729

## Junior News – Thomasina Goodman

### Aussie Pairs Tournament

The now annual Open under 16's Aussie Pairs day was deferred until January 2025 due to an already full schedule, but it was worth the delay.

Sixteen pairs entered but unfortunately only fifteen took part, but it didn't deter the competitors and there was some excellent bowling from these youngsters. Several had taken part in the previous tournament.

The day was again a great success, enjoyed by competitors and supporters alike.

I'm delighted to say that one of the pairs from BIBC - Thia Billings and Stanley Cannings-Brown were semi-finalists.

The Plate Final was played by The Cheltenham Boys (who won and who also won the tournament last year) and Soul Sisters.

The Tournament final was played by Doom and Broom (who won last year's Plate and Cheliz).

Doom and Broom went one better this year, and won the Final.



Many congratulations to the winners, and all who took part.





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Every Friday night junior Aussie pairs are played, each team made up of a junior and an adult.

During one of these sessions recently Jenna Scott and Bradley Cox achieved a 'Hot Shot and Thomasina presented them with their badges and certificates at Poole on Sunday.



## Juniors at Poole

The weekend of 22/23 February saw our juniors travel to Poole for the annual friendly against Dolphin Junior Academy (they come to us alternate years). As always, we had a super time playing two games Saturday followed by an excellent buffet (provided by Dolphin juniors courtesy of Dolphin Indoor bowls club resident caterer Phil & co) and fun games.

Also, on Saturday afternoon there were two games of combined parents and coaches from both sides which caused great fun and a lot of noise!

On Sunday morning the juniors played four rinks of fours, followed in the afternoon with seven singles games. These games showed some fantastic bowling on both sides that was an absolute delight to watch: Laico Purnell won his match 21-1 followed by Stanley Canning Brown winning his set 21-8.

Despite all their excellent efforts our juniors were beaten and the trophy was returned to the Dolphins for another year. This weekend saw youngsters play like they've never played before, and their confidence was boosted no end!





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Have your say.... members' page

To have your say, please email [bristolindoornews@gmail.com](mailto:bristolindoornews@gmail.com)

## Catering

One member has questioned how catering can be extended to Fridays. We are exploring a couple of options and plan to have a solution in place for the next winter season.

## League teams

Another member has asked how newer bowlers can be integrated more easily into league teams. This is a good topic for consideration, as it seems to be a perennial problem in indoor clubs generally, not just in our club.

We will be giving this some serious consideration in the coming months. One suggestion is that a new league of experienced plus newer bowlers is created. That would, of course, be possible should numbers be sufficient. Otherwise, we need to persuade existing teams to be more willing to invite newer bowlers to join their ranks, to give newer bowlers a better chance to develop their game.

If you have any thoughts on this topic, please let us know.

**The deadline for inclusion in newsletters is 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**

