



# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter March 2025

## Message from the Chair – Danny Kite

Over the past few weeks, a number of members have again made complaints about the changeover between sessions being hampered by those coming off as well as those coming on to the rinks. Despite numerous requests, there continue to be too many instances of rink time being lost by last-second jack delivery and slow exits from rinks.

This has been discussed both by the Board and the Bowls & Social Committee. A number of proposals have been considered, but it has been decided that there will be a rescheduling of league start and finish times for weekdays next winter season.

In brief, there will be a minimum of 15 minutes between the end of one session and the start of the next. Those involved in the subsequent game should not access their rink more than 5 minutes before the start of their session.

No changes will be made to Saturday and Sunday sessions.

This means that from the start of the 2025-6 Winter Season the daily timetable will be as follows:

### **Session One: 10.00 – 12.00**

Session start bell will sound at 10.00.

Last jack bell will sound after 1 hour 53 minutes, and no new ends may begin.

Rinks are to be vacated as soon as possible.

### **Session 2: 12.15 – 14.15**

Session start bell will sound at 12.15.

Last jack bell will sound after 1 hour 53 minutes, and no new ends may begin.

Rinks are to be vacated as soon as possible.

### **Session 3: 14.30 – 16.30**

Session start bell will sound at 14.30.

Last jack bell will sound after 1 hour 53 minutes, and no new ends may begin.

Rinks are to be vacated as soon as possible.

### **Session 4: 16.45 – 18.45**

Session start bell will sound at 16.45.

Last jack bell will sound at 18.38.

The evening session will begin on the sound of the bell at 19.00 as it does currently.

Not everyone will like these changes, but it means that the rinks will be clear for several minutes during the changeovers.

This should remove the frustration felt by many who quite frequently have had their rink times reduced by last minute jack setting and slow exits from the rinks, and make changeover a safer, calmer and more pleasant experience. It will also allow wheelchair users time to get to their rinks without interrupting current matches.





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## **SERIOUS ISSUE – YOUR EXPENSIVE BOWLS CARPET IS BEING DAMAGED**

For some time now there has been a clamour from a small percentage of the membership for us to replace the existing carpet with a new one. The expert opinion that we have received up until now is that the playing surface still has a few years of life left in it. That said, the Board and Bowls Committee are fully aware that we need to plan for the future.

## **Use of Glycerine & Rose Water is NOT PERMITTED**

You will have noticed that multi coloured signs have appeared around the club advising members that certain substances, in particular Glycerine and Rose Water should not be used as they are detrimental to the carpet material.

## **Use of overshoes when stepping outside**

Alongside that, some of you will also have noticed that there are blue overshoes placed by the main entrance to the club. We have to accept that a minority of bowlers cannot manage to play a game of bowls without the need to vape or puff on a cigarette, but to do this they need to step outside of the front door. As they do that, they run the risk of picking up particles of dust and dirt on the soles of their bowling shoes. This detritus is just as detrimental to the carpet as the aforementioned Glycerine and Rose Water.

The Board have decided to enforce the need to protect our carpet and, if we start now, then the current practices should be a thing of the past when the new carpet is installed.

Please bear this guidance in mind, as it will ultimately benefit all club members. We will be monitoring adherence to the above and, if it is not observed, we may need to discuss whether some kind of sanction will be required.

Please also remember that you must not arrive at the club wearing your bowling shoes.

Hopefully common sense will prevail, and we will not have to enforce such actions as points deduction or personal exclusion, but with such an expensive asset being damaged, there may be no other option.

The future, as they say, is in your hands....

**Bowls Committee**

## **Ladies section - Jenny Tibbs**

This winter season has been a promising one going forward for our BIBC ladies. We have a competitive group of ladies who are eager to succeed to put BIBC on the map. It's been wonderful to see some new faces joining us from both senior and junior ranks, with rinks evolving showing confidence playing together and gelling well. All bodes well for next season.

I'd like to thank all the teams for their support and their commitment in keeping the rinks together with as few changes as possible, which can only make us stronger.





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## Somerset County Women's Indoor Bowling Association (SCWIBA)

The AGM will be held on Saturday 26 April at North Petherton BC at 10:30am. These bodies don't run without volunteers, and there are nine positions to be filled. If you feel able to contribute some time to ensure the continuation of the county structure, a form will be on the board for you to put your name forward.

The annual Luncheon and Presentation will be held on Tuesday 6 May (12.30 for 1 pm) at Batch Country House. The cost is £27 per head. All are invited, with the application form being on the board in the club. Raffle prizes are requested.

The next council meeting will be on Tuesday 25 March at 11am.

## Club Competitions – Eric Seavill

I am having to grant some dispensations to play games after the due date, mainly due to some members still being involved in multiple competitions and struggling to get all their games played. If you need an extension to your closing date, please let me know. As long as I am aware that you are making every effort to play the game I will usually be happy to grant a limited extension. However, please note that the winner of the delayed match should immediately contact their next opponent to ensure that the next round is played promptly.

All semi-final matches should be played by 30th March, or very soon after, so that I can arrange the schedules for Finals Weekend on 12th/13th April. Remember that you will not be able to play any club competitions on the weekend of 5th/6th April.

A number of members have noted that it can be difficult to get six players together to play triples matches. Don't forget that it is possible to use a substitute if that helps to get the game played.

We will look at the format of the triples competition prior to next season to see if we can overcome some of these problems and, if possible, increase the number of entries.

## Open Singles Circuit – Eric Seavill

This will take place on 5th/6th April. We have a ceiling of 96 entries and are very close to achieving this number.

We are still looking for markers for this tournament, and especially would like to encourage a few more female members to put their names forward. First round matches start at 9.00 am each morning, but will continue at various times during the day.

For anyone, male or female, who feels a bit doubtful about their hand shaking whilst performing a tight measure, please note that fully qualified umpires will be in attendance to deal with such matters and any other queries.

Catering will be available for most of the day, including bacon/sausage rolls in the morning.

## Fantastic Fives – Eric Seavill

This competition, run by the EIBA, takes place during the summer. We have entered a team for the last couple of years and it looks like we will have another team entering this year. Please see Eric Seavill if you require any further details.





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## Torquay tour 2026 – Lorraine Paget

Forms are available for next year's tour at reception.

## EIBA National Disability Pairs - Solihull IBC – Emma Price

On 8th/9th March two teams from BIBC entered the National Disability Pairs held at Solihull IBC. After a weekend of high class and entertaining bowls our BIBC teammates should be proud of their performance.

Congratulations to John Marshall and Emma Price who will compete in the Plate Final at the EIBA National Championships on 14th March.

Sue Osborne and Julie Deferville had a fantastic win against last year's winners and a close second game with just two shots in it, which unfortunately went the other way. Well done to all four players on an excellent weekends bowling.

## County Ladies Finals - Taunton Deane IBC

Congratulations to Emma Price, Ella Baker and super-sub Maggie Drake (who played the first game), on reaching the County Pairs Final at Taunton Deane. It was nip and tuck all the way and the first half was honours even. Lots of good bowling and some super heads of bowls to enjoy with the Clevedon opposition of Madi King and Imogen Cracknell coming out winners.

Well done to you all for getting to the final.

**League Manager – Steve Neal**

## Novice & New Members joining the club wishing to play in leagues

We have been asked if we can provide competitive bowling for Novice Bowlers & Experienced Bowlers joining the club, should they join after the leagues have started in September.

Many have found it difficult to join a team, especially if they do not know a current member of the club. We've also found that many teams are reluctant to include new players until or unless they are known to them.

As a way of including more willing participants, for the 2025/2026 winter season we are prepared to start some extra leagues.

These could be in any format, and include separate Leagues for 'Novices plus Experienced' bowlers, which would hopefully get them known to the current members.

Leagues would have a maximum of 8 teams and run for up to 7 weeks, depending on the number of teams. Teams could join or leave at this point. Then this could be repeated so it's possible to have three rotations in the winter season.

Below is a list of sessions during the week where it would be possible to start a league. Obviously, we will need enough players wanting to play on the same day and time. (Existing leagues running at these times use only a few rinks, so there is space for new leagues alongside).





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## Possible sessions available

Monday	10.00	12.15	19.00
Tuesday	14.30	16.45	
Wednesday	16.45	19.00	
Thursday	12.15	16.45	
Friday	10.00	14.30	

If you would like to join in with the above, please let me or Cheryl know days and times, type of game (e.g. Aussie/pairs/triples) and also if you are prepared to organise a team entry.

Contact: Steve Neal      Mobile 07974 107729

### Coaches corner – Danny Kite

Following on from the latest Bowls and Social meeting, it has been agreed that we will open on Thursday evenings as well as Tuesday during the summer season.

I ran both a disabled session and an improvers course last year on Tuesdays and intend to run them again this year.

If there is sufficient interest, I am prepared to do the same on a Thursday this year.

Please let reception know if you would like to do this or perhaps have suggestions for alternative sessions, for example a summer umbrella, and we will prepare accordingly for the summer season.

### And a final reminder ...

## Building maintenance

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 are able to 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 are in 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.





# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter March 2025

Have your say.... members' page

We've responded to all the comments received so far, which have centred on the introduction into our mainstream leagues of more bowlers, especially those new to the game.

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

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

