



Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter May 2025

Message from the Chair – Danny Kite

What a fantastic end to a season, top level bowlers bowling well is a joy to see, well done the finalists. Oh, and by the way, the Open Singles Circuit was quite impressive as well! Congratulations to all who were involved in both weekends and a special mention to Eric Seavill and Richard Doughty for the work they put in to make both events a success.

A number of you have commented to me about the temperature in the club over these weekends. I am sure you will be pleased to learn that Ian will be supervising the installation of a new boiler and building management system during the annual closedown, so hopefully things will be resolved on that front. After the closedown we will switch over to the summer season and in response to demand, the club will also open during the day on Wednesdays and Thursday evenings. The membership has asked for this so please support the action by coming along during these new sessions. Steve Neal is trying to organise some competitive events during these times but needs your input to know what to arrange. In the meantime, roll-ups and impromptu matches can be played. Good luck to our 3 Fantastic Fives teams.

The Bowls Carpet

The March Newsletter featured a lengthy article detailing the damage being caused to the carpet and how following club rules and procedures can rectify this.

The carpet was professionally cleaned in April and a report issued which endorses the guidance set out last month, as follows:

- Eleven chewing gum blobs have been removed from the carpet, and all but one of these were at the viewing area of the green which would indicate that these are caused by players either wearing bowls shoes into the club or wearing bowls shoes when going outside for a smoke during a game.
- There are a significant number of rosewater and glycerine stains in the carpet which is disturbing, as this sort of stain can only be removed by the use of solvents. However, the bowls carpet is laid on a rubber crumb underlay which reacts very badly to the use of solvents, so that stains like this become a permanent and unsightly feature in the carpet.

It is also recommended that the carpet is vacuumed twice a week in the winter season and once a week in the summer season. Pete Collins has cleaned the carpet on Thursdays for a number of years and is doing a great job, but we do need to recruit a team of volunteers to clean on Monday mornings during the winter and help when required on Thursday mornings throughout the year. **PLEASE CONTACT CHERYL IF YOU CAN HELP.**

Ian Anderson, Property Director

A big thank you to all the members who helped with a variety of tasks during shutdown.





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Bowls Committee

Club Competitions – Eric Seavill

The season came to a conclusion with finals weekend on 12th and 13th April. Many thanks to all competitors, especially those who were still involved in multiple competitions in the later stages, who managed to get all their games played (although, in some cases, only just!).

The ages of the finalists ranged from 8 to over 90 years, showing that bowls truly is a sport for all.

The results were as follows:

Men's Championship	Callum Gwinnell	21	Steve Neal	9
Ladies Championship	Ella Baker	21	Jenny Tibbs	10
Open Singles	John Marshall	21	Jason Potgieter	9
Two Bowl Singles	Callum Gwinnell	21	Harry Tinker	6
Novice Singles	Jason Potgieter	21	Paul Matthews	15
Unwon Singles	Neal Lock	21	Jill Titone	16
Under 12 Singles	Rose Alford	7-7 5-4	Jed Driscoll	
Under 18 Singles	Laico Purnell	6-8 8-7 1-0	Marshall Clark-Simpson	
18-21 Singles	Stanley James	7-5 13-1	Charlie Scott	
Men's Pairs	Brad Cox Simon Fuidge	26	Richard Coulter Peter Degg	22
Ladies Pairs	Wendy Toman Audrey Mitchell	18	Cheryl Brown Lyn Griffiths	10
Mixed Pairs	Eric Seavill Ella Baker	16	Liz Taylor John Couch	15
Open Aussie Pairs	Richard Doughty Eric Seavill	18	Fliss Sheldrake John Marshall	14
Mixed Aussie Pairs	Liz Taylor John Couch	20	Wendy Toman Lewis Toman	10
Open Novice Pairs	Paul Matthews Jason Potgieter	22	Matt Ellis Phil Manning	12
Men's Triples	Dave Byett Jack Fuidge Keith Chaney	18	Callum Gwinnell Richard Coulter Eric Seavill	13
Ladies Triples	Jeanie Osborne Pauline Hodges Maddie Willmott	19	Debbie Trowbridge Fliss Kite Kirstie Evered	12
Mixed Triples	Carol Grenfell Nick Grenfell John Marshall	21	Chris Lowden Margaret Collins Peter Collins	13





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Highlights included Callum Gwinnell and Ella Baker winning their first club singles championships; Liz Taylor and John Couch winning the Aussie Mixed Pairs for the third consecutive year; Richard Doughty and Eric Seavill winning the Aussie Open Pairs for the fifth year running; Eric Seavill and Ella Baker winning the Mixed Pairs for the second year running; and Wendy Toman and Audrey Mitchell gaining their revenge in a replay of the previous year's Ladies Pairs Final. The various age group finals and novice finals also produced some great games and close finishes.

Many thanks to caterers, bar staff, markers and all, for helping the weekend run smoothly.

Open Singles Circuit – Eric Seavill

After a gap of 6 years, we were pleased to welcome the Open Singles Circuit back to Bristol. This gives club members a chance to test themselves against top players, including internationals and a previous winner of the World Title at Potters.

Players travelled from Lincoln, Kent, Ipswich, Torquay and Wales, amongst other places.

John Couch performed the best of the local players, winning three rounds to reach the last sixteen.

Jamie Walker, the ex World Championship winner, showed his class with a superb exhibition of drawing bowls throughout the weekend, beating Welsh visitor Cory Davies in the final. He picked up a cheque for £1,200 thanks to generous sponsorship from John Marshall at Nailsea Patio Supplies.

Again, many thanks to catering, bar staff, markers and other volunteers over the weekend.

We have already secured a date for next season - the tournament will be held on the weekend of 21st - 22nd March 2026.

EIBA National Competitions - Mixed Pairs - Solihull IBC

Many congratulations to John Marshall and Emma Price on their victory at Nottingham in the DBE Pairs Plate competition. They played a pair of DBE internationals and from 8-16 down in the final came back to win on the extra end. Emma secured shot on both the 18th end and extra end with her last bowl in a dramatic finish.

We believe this is the first time since 1971 when David Bryant was representing Bristol that any of our members have won a national title, although we did win the Denny Cup in 1979!

We have three entries in the Fantastic Fives competition this summer, involving about 30 club members in those teams. This shows the increasing popularity of summer indoor bowls. We will wait to see who we are drawn against, but good luck to Bristol Unicorns, Bristol Lions and Brizzle Deux.

A reminder to all those entering national competitions for next winter that the closing date is 8th June - enter now before you go outdoors!

Torquay tour 2026 – Lorraine Paget

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





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DBE – Disability Bowls England

On Sunday 11 May, West Backwell Bowling Club and DBE are holding an Open Day, where anyone can attend and meet national officers and representatives. The aim is to show that bowls is a sport in which anyone can participate. BIBS are delighted to be supporting this initiative by providing wheelchairs, and promoting BIBC in the process. The poster below shows more information, and the events will run from 11am to 4pm.

BOWLS ENGLAND

Bowling With a Disability Open Day

Bowls is one of the most inclusive sports out there and we believe anyone can enjoy our sport. Join Bowls England at a tailored open day for those with a disability, in collaboration with clubs across the country.

Where and When
West Backwell BC
Sunday 11th May
11am - 4pm

Join us for free
Give bowls a go
Learn about and try bowling equipment
Speak to various experts
Meet international Para players
Enjoy refreshments
Watch an exhibition match
And more...

Follow us
@BowlsEngland
#PeopleLikeMeDo

Find out more and sign up:
bowlsengland.com/bowling-with-a-disability

Visually Impaired Tournament

The regular VIBE tournament will take place at **Clarence BC, Weston super Mare** from 8th to 15th June. If you're able to attend, you will be amazed at the skills on show! The games typically begin at 9:30am and run into late afternoon.





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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).

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





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Coaches corner – Danny Kite

Just to let you all know that our coaching team will be kept busy this summer. Events planned so far are for Belgrave School, with several sessions for each of three different year groups at that school.

Thomasina is finalising other local primary schools to send in pupils for coaching and hopefully an end of summer tournament.

The first of several sessions for the Bristol Autism Project has been held, and was enjoyed by all who took part.

Our roadshow will also be in evidence at the annual Bristol Access Sport open day at the end of May. I take this opportunity to thank any coaches who come along as we could not do all of this without you.

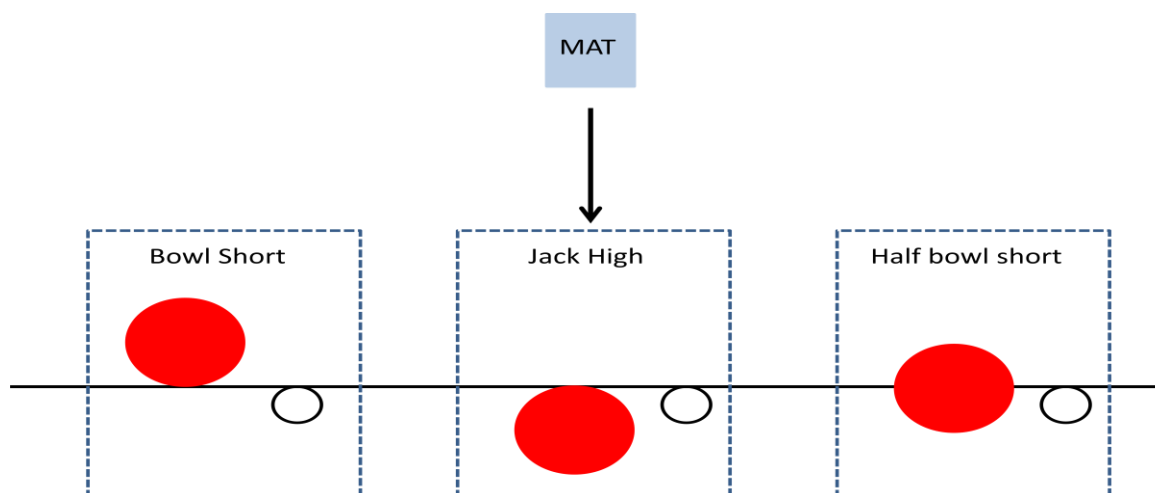
If anyone is interested in coaching, please feel free to speak to me and I will give you the inside story.

Correct call

- During both the Open Singles Circuit and Internal Competitions, several times an incorrect call was made by some markers – both by club members and visitors – concerning the description 'Jack High'.

It is important that the correct call is given, as it might affect how the bowler plays the next bowl.

If the target bowl in question is past the Jack High line, the bowler may decide to bowl at that bowl; if it is short of Jack High, however, the bowler may decide to bowl the other hand, rather than risk moving the target closer to the jack. The diagram below serves to illustrate the point; just because the bowl and jack are close, they may not be 'Jack High'!



Have your say.... members' page

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

The deadline for inclusion in newsletters is 20th of each month.

