



# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter December 2025

## From the chair – Danny Kite

As we head into a busy and exciting winter season at Bristol Indoor Bowling Club, I'd like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our members—new and longstanding. It's been fantastic to see the club buzzing, and I'm incredibly proud of the energy, enthusiasm, and success we're seeing across the board.

Recently, we've had several positive and constructive discussions at both Board level and within the Bowls & Social Committee about one of the challenges created by our growth: limited rink availability at peak times and the "pecking order" that can sometimes arise when matches need to be prioritised.

This pressure on rink space is, in truth, a reflection of our success—our continued recruitment drive and outstanding performances in external competitions that have brought more players onto the rinks than ever. To make sure we manage this in a fair, forward-thinking way, we have decided to form a subcommittee that will take a fresh look at rink bookings, league structures, match hierarchy and all related areas.

Since Covid, our membership has increased year on year, and while this is something we should all celebrate, it does mean we now need to review how we operate to ensure the club remains sustainable—both practically and financially—into the future.

On that note, I'd like to offer huge congratulations to those who have already enjoyed success in external competitions this season. Your achievements shine a positive light on BIBC and inspire us all—long may the good runs continue!

I'm also aware that our VIBE section membership has dipped in recent times, but I want you to know that we are actively working to revive the Saturday lunchtime sessions. If this is something you might be interested in—or if you know someone who would benefit—please do let Reception know.

Your feedback will help us shape the best way forward. And we've exciting news on our commitment to growing the game for everyone - running the first ever Para OSC - you can read more about that below.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and the Bowls & Social Committee, may I wish every one of you a very Happy Christmas and a successful, enjoyable New Year.

Thank you for being part of our wonderful club.



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## Bowls & Social Committee

The club would like to make more use of the great facilities we have, in particular the Function Room, so if you have any thoughts on events you'd like to see, please let us know.

Either speak with Cheryl, or drop an email to [bristolindoornews@gmail.com](mailto:bristolindoornews@gmail.com)

Currently, two events are planned –

**Quiz Night** in January, date to be confirmed, and

**Barn Dance**, 28 February.

The Barn Dance will have live music and a caller to explain the dance moves.

## League Manager – Steve Neal

### Teams looking for Players

#### **Tuesday Morning Triples 10am/12.05**

Team: Spirit - Are looking for a player to join their table topping team.

Team: Happy Jack's – Are looking for a Skip to join them.

#### **Wednesday Afternoon Fours 2.10pm –**

Team: Bilbie Bowlers – Are looking for a player to join their friendly, supportive team.

Team: PBA are looking for an additional member



If you would like to join one of the above teams, a team in any other League or you are a team looking for a player - contact Steve on Mobile 07974107729.

### Novice League

Unfortunately, not enough members have shown interest to enable me to start a League. But it's not too late! If you're keen to take part, please contact Reception or myself. Steve - Mobile 07974107729.

### Winter Leagues

Postponed games – Please try and play within six weeks of the original date.



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If rink availability is an issue, the Bowls & Social committee have agreed that teams can agree a date before the end of the League that you are playing in. This agreement should be made within two weeks of the original play date.

Then advise me or reception of the rearranged date, so that it can be booked in the rink diary.

Please try not to book dates too far ahead, however, as you may have other games postponed that you will struggle to fit in.

If you have any problems Re-arranging matches, please contact me Mobile 07974107729.

## Score Cards

We're still getting a lot of Score Cards that do not match, please double check that your scores match with your oppositions card, at the end of the game – it only takes a moment and will save a great deal of untangling later.

## Competitions and Nationals news – Eric Seavill

### Club Competitions

We are delighted to report it's been a bumper year for entries. They are now closed so please bear with us whilst we sort through and make the first round draws.

A reminder that Finals Weekend will take place on 11th & 12th April 2026. Please only enter if you are able to play on either or both of those days — we want every competition to run smoothly and fairly.

### National Competitions

We've had a couple of unfortunate results recently:

- Our Under 30s had to concede their fixture against Egham after a serious motorway incident prevented players from reaching the venue.
- Our Men's Over 60s team were defeated by Nailsea.
- Our Ladies Yetton team were defeated on an extra end by Thornbury

But it's not all bad news — far from it!

Over the next few weekends the Men's team face Westlecot in both the Denny Cup and the Egham Trophy, and the Ladies Mason team face North Wilts. Our other National Club campaigns kicked off brilliantly, with:

- A win over Clevedon in the Under 30s
- Victory against North Wilts in the Top Club
- A strong result versus Weston St Andrews in the Egham Trophy



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All upcoming fixtures are listed on our Facebook page and website — come along and support the teams whenever you can. Your encouragement truly makes a difference!

## Somerset

We're proud to have strong BIBC representation at county level this season:

- Liberty Trophy Squad: Paul Bryant, Harry Tinker, Simon Fuidge & Jack Fuidge
- County Over 60s Squad: Kelvin Little, John Marshall & Eric Seavill

A huge congratulations to all selected — and best of luck in the matches ahead!

If you have questions about competitions, entries or fixtures, drop by Reception or speak to Eric. Here's to another great season of competitive bowls!

## Junior Section news – Thomasina Goodman

The recent Juniors v Adults game resulted in a win for the Juniors – 57 shots to 51. A close encounter!





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## DBE and para notices – Emma Price

Bristol Indoor Bowling Club is proud to announce that we will be hosting the very first EIBA Para OSC on 14 March 2026 — a landmark moment for our club and for disability inclusion in bowls.

Interest in this inaugural event has been extraordinary. Entries went live and filled within a week, with players travelling from across the UK, including Scotland and Wales. Competitors include nationally Classified players and those registered as Disabled Bowlers with the EIBA, as well as familiar local faces.

We're also delighted to welcome bowlers who recently competed at the World Championships and Commonwealth Games trialists.

Emma, who has worked closely with the EIBA to create this event, shares why this competition matters so deeply:

*“Having an opportunity like this is important because whilst many of us with disabilities enter the main able-bodied competitions too, for one-day or weekend events. By the time we get to game three our differing abilities mean we're managing significant pain and drained energy levels. Concentrating and playing our best bowls becomes all the more challenging.*

*But that doesn't mean we don't want to compete at a high level - we do - we just can't always dig as deep as our able-bodied counterparts, because we've already dug deep just to be there. ”*

Emma also highlights why Bristol is the right place to launch this first-of-its-kind event:

*“Having a facility that is different-ability friendly, like Bristol, makes a huge difference. The fact we have motorised wheelchairs and various aids available for anyone to use is incredibly helpful.*

*Usually, before I can enter any away game, I have to check access, check if they have a motorised chair (often they don't), check what the rink space is like, arrive the day before so I have enough rest — and that's before the bowls!”*

## How Can You Help?

To make this historic first event a success, we are looking for markers and helpers throughout the day.

The competition will run from 9am onwards, and even a couple of hours of your time would make a huge difference.

If you are able to support, please contact Emma to register your interest.



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## Coaches Corner – Danny Kite – here to help you improve

For all members don't forget that our fantastic coaching team are always on hand to help you improve your game. Whether you're brand new or experienced; looking to fine-tune your technique or build confidence on the rink; support is only a request away.

To book one-to-one coaching, simply speak to Reception. They'll collect your details and pass them on so we can match you with a coach at a suitable time and rink. It's free you just need to pay for the rink.

### Weekly Coaching Sessions

We also offer a range of open improvement sessions throughout the week — relaxed, welcoming and designed to help you get the most from your bowls.

#### ★ General Improvement Sessions

- Wednesday Evenings
- Friday Afternoons

There's no fixed format — our coaches tailor each session to make sure everyone gets plenty of practice and picks up valuable tips on shot selection, technique and overall game understanding.

Just turn up at the start of the session and get stuck in!

### Disability Coaching Session

- Wednesday Afternoon

A supportive, inclusive session for any members with a disability who want focused coaching in a comfortable environment.

### Junior Coaching

- Saturday Mornings

For our younger bowlers. Fun, structured and a brilliant way to build skills early on.

Please remember to arrive promptly at the start of each session so our coaches can plan and organise effectively.

Whether you're fine-tuning or just starting out, our coaching team is ready to help you take the next step in your bowls journey. See you on the rink

Top Tip – if you really want to improve your game, practise the element of your play that you feel needs improving, not just what you are comfortable doing!



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## Join our Bar team

We are looking for enthusiastic people to join our bar staff team. This is a paid position with mainly weekend shifts, and additional hours available at other times.

No experience needed as full training will be given.

If you are interested or would like to know more please speak to Cheryl.

## Have your say

We're always looking to improve, and your feedback truly helps shape the club. Whether it's a suggestion, a comment, or something you'd love to see included in the newsletter — your voice matters.

✉ Email your thoughts to:

[bristolindoornews@gmail.com](mailto:bristolindoornews@gmail.com)

📅 Newsletter deadline:

Please send any items by the 20th of each month for inclusion.

## Stay connected:

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