



# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club

## Newsletter May/June 2026

### From the chair – Danny Kite

Well, here we go — looking ahead to another summer season at BIBC.

You may not have seen much of us over the past few weeks, but far from taking a break, there has been a huge amount of work taking place behind the scenes. I'd like to begin by thanking all members who came in during the shutdown period to lend a hand. Your support has helped ensure the club remains clean, welcoming and ready for the season ahead — something we can all take pride in.

The big news, of course, is our newly laid playing surface. This has been far more than simply replacing a carpet — the underlay has also been renewed and essential work carried out to the flooring beneath. The result is a significantly improved, more consistent playing experience for all members, and one that reflects our ambition to provide top-class facilities.

As we begin play, there will be a short period to allow the surface to settle before final adjustments and markings are completed. In the meantime, I would ask all members to take pride in the new surface and play their part in protecting it. This is a shared investment in the future of the club, and looking after it properly will ensure we all benefit for as long as possible.

Our efforts haven't stopped at the green. The wider club has been thoroughly refreshed, and improvements made to organisation and accessibility — all with the aim of creating a better environment for members both on and off the rink.

Looking ahead, it's clear that maintaining and improving our facilities requires ongoing investment. Over recent years, the club has committed significant funds to upgrades, and there is a clear plan for further improvements to ensure we remain a leading club. At the same time, like many organisations, we are experiencing rising operating costs. As a result, there will be some adjustments to pricing and membership in the coming period. These have been carefully considered to balance affordability for members with the need to secure the club's long-term future.

We are also continuing to develop our offer, with new leagues and extended opening options designed to give members greater choice and flexibility. It's encouraging to see both the club and individual members continuing to compete at a high level, and I wish everyone the very best of luck for the season ahead.

Whether you are playing indoors or heading outdoors this summer, I hope you have an enjoyable and successful season. I look forward to seeing many of you in the weeks ahead and hearing how you are getting on.



# **Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter May/June 2026**

## **VIBE – Visually Impaired**

Some of our members will be involved with the Weston super Mare tournament, which means that we will re-start the VIBE sessions from Saturday 16 May

## **League Manager – Steve Neal**

### **Summer Leagues**

I was asked to start a Singles League on Thursdays 4pm; I've had enough number of members express an interest, so that will proceed; those registered have been informed.

### **Winter Leagues 2026-27**

Secretaries will be contacted in July regarding Winter 2026/2027, if you are not entering please let me know, as I have some teams already looking to join Leagues.

If you would like to enter a team, you can contact me on the Mobile below.

Steve Neal Mobile 07974107729



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## Competitions and Nationals news – Eric Seavill

BIBC finals weekend provided some great bowls for the good number of spectators that turned out over the two days. A number of games went to the last end with some final bowl victories and one very good extra end.

Well done to everyone who made the finals and for providing such fine bowls. Congratulations to all the winners, especially Brad Cox on winning the Men's Singles for the first time and Ella Baker on retaining the Ladies' Singles.

The results were:-

Men's Singles	Brad Cox	21	Harry Tinker	17
Ladies' Singles	Ella Baker	21	Andi Moore	16
Open Singles	Clive Drake	21	Simon Fudge	15
Two Wood Singles	Gary Hancox	21	Brad Cox	14
Novice Singles	John Slinn	21	Charlie Scott	5
Unwon Singles	John Slinn	21	Peter Bell	14
Under 12 Singles	Jed Driscoll	10 – 7 7 – 5	Willow Tallis	
Men's Pairs	Richard Doughty Eric Seavill	21	Laico Purnell Marshall Simpson	10
Ladies Pairs	Fliss Sheldrake Emma Price	22	Urszula Eaton Sarah Buxton	12
Mixed Pairs	Emma Price Kelvin Little	27	Sue Whale Rich Coulter	5
Aussie Open Pairs	Richard Doughty Eric Seavill	17	Lydia Sheldrake Harry Tinker	16
Aussie Mixed Pairs	Jenna Scott Oakley Trent	17	Fliss Sheldrake Harry Tinker	16
Men's Triples	Roger Price Paul Matthews Jason Potgieter	22	Jamie Haskins Oakley Trent Marshall Simpson	21
Ladies Triples	Liz Taylor Lydia Sheldrake Fliss Sheldrake	21	Jeannie Osborne Pauline Hodges Maddie Wilmott	10



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Mixed Triples

Carol Grenfell  
Nick Grenfell  
John Marshall 26

Terry Tucker  
Dave George  
Sarah Buxton 23

Excluding the Under 12s game, 11 of the 14 games above featured players who are under 30, which augurs well for the future of the club.

The Under 18s final (Stanley Cannings Banks v James Johnson) and Novice Pairs final (Peter and Jane Bell v Amy Wood and Robert Wild) were unfortunately postponed due to illness or injury. These will be played in the early weeks of next indoor season.

## Somerset Men's Competitions

BIBC lost in the final of the Somerset League playoffs to Taunton Deane (on their own green). Having been over 20 shots down at one point we rallied to within 3 but lost in the end by 11. A very good effort as the team included a number of players making their debuts in a final at this level.

In the County Double Rink Competition we went out in the semi-final to a very strong Ilminster side.

## Summer National Competitions

The entries for the EIBA summer nationals have now closed. We have three teams entered this year in the Fantastic 5s competitions...

## Winter National Competitions

Believe it or not, entries for the 2026/27 indoor competitions are already open. Anyone who is interested has until June to get their entries in, but it is usually worth doing this asap before you get too involved with outdoors.

Thanks, Eric

## BIBC Ladies news – Emma Price

## BIBC Ladies – A Season to Celebrate, A Future to Build

What a season it has been for our BIBC Ladies.

After battling our way to **two County Finals**, the team delivered in style—**winning both** and firmly establishing BIBC as one of the standout sides this year.

The first triumph came in the **Top 9 Final against Clevedon**, followed by a fantastic performance in the **County League Final versus Nailsea**.

Two big occasions. Two outstanding results.



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But beyond the trophies, what truly defined this campaign was **the way the team played**.

There was a real sense of togetherness throughout—support on every rink, encouragement after every end, and a collective belief that carried us through key moments. That spirit made the difference.

Across the season, we also saw:

- Strong performances across multiple rinks
- Important wins at crucial stages
- The opportunity to explore and develop new team combinations

All of which gives us something even more valuable than silverware—**momentum**.

There is a genuine feeling that **we are building something special**, and that is incredibly exciting for everyone involved with the club.

For now, we take a moment to **celebrate our County successes** and recognise the commitment, effort, and team spirit shown by every player.



## Looking Ahead

At the beginning of next Winter season, we will be holding a **get-together for all ladies interested in playing representatively for BIBC**.

This will be a great opportunity to:

- Find out more about the playing opportunities
- Meet and connect as a wider squad
- Understand how we can support each other and play better together

We are also hoping to organise a **bowling opportunity alongside this**, so we can begin putting rinks together early and develop that all-important on-green understanding.

Looking further ahead, we will begin building early around our **Yetton and Mason's national squads**, creating a strong foundation to compete at the highest level.



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I am looking forward to continuing to bring players together as we grow, develop, and push standards even further. And I would welcome as many ladies as possible to get involved.

## **Any comments, questions, or suggestions—please do ask**

The journey is just beginning.

### **Coaches corner – here to help you improve – Danny Kite**

Coaching will continue through the summer, just contact reception with your requirements and I will do my best to ensure you are looked after.

Following comments regarding my practice game in the last newsletter, I would suggest the following purposeful practice.

I often see members rolling up by simply borrowing an extra jack from reception and then going back and forth with the mat and jack in the same position. Why not try putting the jack on a re-spot and try to bowl to it from a mat at different lengths?

If this seems too tame there are two racks of bowls just sitting outside of rink 9. Why not borrow some and set up a head and try to do shots like drawing around a short bowl or trailing the jack away from “away bowls” to ones designated as being in your team.

These are scenarios which will occur during league matches so why not try to master them?

### **Bowls & Social Committee**

**The Unravelling Wilburys** will be back later in the year, so watch this space for details.

If you have any thoughts on what you'd like to see next, please let us know – have a chat or email [bristolindoornews@gmail.com](mailto:bristolindoornews@gmail.com)



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## 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

### 📅 **Newsletter deadline:**

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

### **Stay connected:**

[www.bristolindoorbowls.org](http://www.bristolindoorbowls.org)

Find us on **Facebook**

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

### **Join our Bar team**

We are always 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.