



Bristol Indoor Bowls Club

Newsletter July 2026

From the chair – Danny Kite

Thank you to all the bowlers that have taken advantage of the opening times for leagues, competitions, training, roll ups etc. during the past weeks.

There have been some comments about the air conditioning during the past days. We can assure you that the system is up and running but is struggling to overcome the heatwave, particularly on the playing area, even though the bar area has been comfortable enough.

The new carpet appears to be behaving itself and has been stretched already to improve speed; I trust you are enjoying the experience.

Unfortunately, not all players have been taking notice of the warnings on the TV screen regarding the use of banned substances, as within hours of the first games marks were appearing and which can not be removed.

The carpet was a huge investment for the club and all of its members, so it appears that a few are potentially spoiling things for the majority.

The board bowls committee are ready to take action against the miscreants. If you need to use sanitiser when playing, please use the one provided by the club and not the one that smells of rosewater!

The club is again happy to welcome our Welsh contingent of bowlers and wish them well in their national competitions alongside our teams of local players. Keep a keen eye open as I am informed there may be a new shirt appearing on our rinks developed by Gavin et al.

Once again, this year, we had the privilege of hosting an evening for the visitors from Oklahoma University. They embraced our strange British game with fervour, and the feedback is that a pleasant evening was had by all. Please remember the club is open to suggestions for similar corporate events so why not consider an evening with your working colleagues, so that you can show off your levels of expertise. The coaching team is always ready to lend a hand to those that need it.



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Ian Anderson - Buildings

Heating & Ventilation in the Bowls Hall

Over the past few weeks we've received a number of questions about the temperature in the bowls hall, particularly during the recent spell of exceptionally hot weather.

With temperatures outside reaching over **30°C**, it's understandable that members want to know how the ventilation system works, why the hall can sometimes feel warm or stuffy, and what we're doing to try and improve things.

Why can't we simply make it colder?

The simple answer is that the building wasn't designed for the climate we're now experiencing.

When the club was built in 2000, it was constructed to the standards of the day using a relatively simple heating system. At that time, prolonged periods of very hot weather were unusual, so today's cooling requirements simply weren't anticipated.

Although we've modernised the system significantly over the years, we're still working within the physical limitations of the original building.

What's changed since then?

The club has invested continually to improve both comfort and energy efficiency.

These improvements include:

- Better insulation throughout the building
- Modern heat pump technology replacing the original gas-fired heating
- Cooling within the bowls hall
- Computer-controlled Building Management System (BMS)
- Full LED lighting
- Solar panels
- Upgraded boiler plant serving the rest of the building

These upgrades have made a significant difference while keeping running costs under control.

How does the ventilation system work?

During the summer, the system is designed to maintain the bowls hall at around **21°C** while supplying **100% fresh air** in the summer during occupied periods.



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The plant starts before play begins and continues running throughout the day based on rink bookings. It is **not switched off early to save energy**.

Four sensors around the hall constantly measure temperature and carbon dioxide (CO₂), allowing the Building Management System to adjust airflow automatically as conditions change.

Why not just open the doors?

It seems like the obvious answer—but during very hot weather it actually has the opposite effect.

When it's hotter outside than inside, opening the doors allows even warmer air into the building, making it more difficult for the cooling system to maintain comfortable conditions.

What about humidity?

Temperature isn't the whole story.

High humidity can make a room feel warmer than the thermometer suggests. While the cooling system naturally removes some moisture from the air, the building doesn't have dedicated humidity control.

Installing this would require major new equipment, additional plant space and significant running costs, none of which the original building was designed to accommodate.

How do we prepare for hot days?

To give the building the best possible start each morning, the ventilation system automatically runs a **night purge**.

During the cooler hours overnight, fresh air is drawn through the building to reduce both the internal temperature and CO₂ levels before members arrive. This helps create the most comfortable conditions possible before play begins.

However as we are effectively a big metal box we are affected by solar gain allowing heat to build up in the ceiling void which impacts greatly on the efficiency of the air conditioning system and takes a long time for heat in the void to dissipate.

What happens during the winter?

During the winter, the bowls hall is maintained at around **19°C**. Fresh air is carefully balanced against heating demand to maintain a comfortable playing environment while ensuring good air quality.

The lounge, changing rooms and other areas of the club are heated separately by the recently upgraded boiler system.



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What we're doing now

The heating and ventilation system is continually monitored through our Building Management System (BMS), which tracks temperature and CO₂ levels throughout the day and automatically adjusts the system as conditions change.

To improve comfort during periods of exceptionally hot weather, we've purchased and installed four large floor-mounted circulation fans to increase air movement around the bowls hall.

Looking ahead

Like many buildings of its age, our club is now facing the effects of warmer summers that simply weren't anticipated when it was built over 25 years ago.

The Board will continue to review longer-term options, but any significant improvements would require substantial investment, major alterations to the building and considerable disruption. As technology develops and practical solutions become available, we'll continue to assess what is both technically achievable and financially viable.

Want to know more?

If you're interested in seeing how the system works, Cheryl can show you the Building Management System (BMS), which provides live information on the bowls hall, function room and boiler plant. There are also display monitors in the bowls hall showing the current temperature, humidity and CO₂ readings.

We hope this helps explain how the system operates and why periods of exceptionally hot weather and solar gain present particular challenges for the 26 year old building. We'll continue to monitor the system, review opportunities for improvement and invest where practical to provide the best possible playing environment for our members.

VI – Visually Impaired - and Para News

Please note that the Visually Impaired sessions normally run on Saturdays, straight after the juniors have finished, and any VI members would be very welcome to take part.

Dave Garland, one of our VI bowlers, was very successful at the recent VI National competition in Nottingham, winning both Pairs and Singles!

We don't have a picture of Dave from the event, but we do have a picture of his trophies!



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Over the weekend of 27/28 August, Sue Osborne, Ian Thomas, John Marshall and Danny Kite competed in the para pairs at Erewash IBC.

A round robin was played, with games of two five end sets and a one end shoot out; both our pairs played three games, and Sue and John won all their three.

That got them into the final which where they will face Joe Peplow of Malvern Hills and Kieran Rollings of Wellingborough, both of whom will be representing Team England in the upcoming Commonwealth Games, so BIBC is up there with the best!

The final should have been played the same day, but it with no air conditioning it was decided that the finals will be played in Melton & District IBC on Saturday 19 September.





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League Manager – Steve Neal

New League?

There's been some interest in a new **Wednesday Evening League. This could be triples, fours or another format, depending on interest shown**

We'll need 6 or 8 teams to make it viable, so please register your interest asap if you'd like to enter a team in this or any of the leagues listed below.

Team Secretaries will be contacted towards the end of July, to see if their team is entering in Winter 2026/2027.

Steve can be contacted on mobile 07974107729
or email leaguemanager@bristolindoorbowls.org.uk

and there is also a file on Reception where you can register your interest.

Winter Leagues so far....

2026/27 Winter League entries so far

Monday Afternoon Ladies Triples	12.05pm	10 Teams with spaces
Monday Afternoon Open Fours	2.10pm	11 Teams with spaces
Monday Afternoon Open Singles	4.15pm – 19 Players	full with reserves
Monday Evening Open Triples	7pm	11 Teams with Spaces
Tuesday Morning Open Triples	10am/12.05pm	24 Teams – full with reserves
Tuesday Afternoon Open Fours	2.10pm	12 Teams with spaces
Tuesday Evening Open Triples	7pm	18 Teams – one space
Wednesday Morning Australian Pairs Div 1	10am/ 12.05pm	19 Teams full with reserve
Wednesday Morning Australian Pairs Div 2	10am/ 12.05pm	19 Teams full with reserve
Wednesday Afternoon Open Fours	2.10pm	11 Teams with spaces
Thursday Afternoon Ladies Triple	12.05pm	10 Teams with spaces
Thursday Afternoon Open Triples	2.10pm	19 Teams full with reserves
Thursday Evening Mens Triples	7pm	15 Teams with spaces
Friday Afternoon Open Pairs	12.05pm/10am	23 Teams – one space
Friday Junior/Adult Australian Pairs	7pm	16 Teams – organised by Thomasina/Danny



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Competitions and Nationals news – Eric Seavill

Fantastic 5s

All our teams have now played their first matches in this year's competition. Bristol Unicorns beat a Clarrie Dunbar side 8-0 and Cross Border Force (yes they are a Bristol team) beat Bristol Lions in a local derby 6-2.

National Competitions

The early rounds of this summer's competitions are just underway. Good luck to all our competitors.

Summer Club Competitions

The Sports and Social committee discussed the possibility of introducing a couple of club competitions next summer - namely an Open Singles and Open Aussie Pairs comp. Please speak to Eric Seavill or comment on the website if you have any views on this.

Commonwealth Games

If you are watching the bowls in the Commonwealth Games this summer, please note that the two young women representing Wales - Lauren Gowen and Amy Williams - are both BIBC members!

BIBC Ladies news – Emma Price

I hope you're all enjoying a fantastic summer of bowls, whether you're playing indoors, outdoors, or just making the most of the sunny weather!

It's already been a brilliant start to the summer, with some excellent runs in the national competitions. A special congratulations goes to Sue Osborne, who has reached the National Finals and will be competing in the Para Pairs alongside John Marshall. We wish them both every success.

All of our entries are now in for the Winter National Team Competitions, so there will be plenty of opportunities over the coming season to represent Bristol Indoor Bowls Club at both county and national level. I look forward to seeing as many ladies as possible getting involved and wearing the club colours with pride.

As we look ahead to the new indoor season, I'm really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the club. We're working on some exciting plans to make the season even more enjoyable, and I'll be sharing more details in the next newsletter.

Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer bowls, and good luck to everyone competing over the coming months



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Coaches corner – here to help you improve – Danny Kite

Coaching sessions are continuing through the summer for those that wish to improve their game, as well as the pan disability sessions for those that need them. These run on Tuesday evenings.

On Saturday mornings the juniors meet regularly for their training sessions and new members are always welcome to this group

Our competitive teams demonstrated high standards last winter, and if you would be interested in more targeted training sessions please let me know so that things can be set up accordingly. This applies to all ages and genders!.

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

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

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