



# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter October 2024

## Message from the Chair – Danny Kite

Greetings and welcome to all returning and new members to the club. This newsletter is issued free to all and is one of the ways we try to devolve information about what is happening in and around the club. Many hours have been spent at meetings during the summer trying to resolve various issues, and the following paragraphs outline what the board has been considering.

## AGM and Presentation Evening

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the club on Friday 25 October at 7pm. You should have received an email with the various reports, and a proxy voting form. There are also notices in the club. After the AGM, there will be presentations to the winners of the last winter leagues, this summer's leagues and the winners of last year's internal competitions, and a buffet; please make every effort to attend.

## New Members Evening – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm

This evening, which includes a free buffet, is an opportunity for all members who have joined the Club this year to meet the directors and committee members and find out more about the Club. Please let Cheryl know if you wish to attend.

## Catering

Most members will be aware of the changes taking place with our catering arrangements. During the summer Steve Metcalfe announced his resignation from the franchise with us.

So, for those who used to listen to Radio 4 comedy when it was funny - there's good news and bad news! The bad news is that "The Hungry Bowler" will no longer exist. The good news is that "Claire's Kitchen" will replace it.

Claire has been working in the club for a long time now and is well known and liked by our members. Now employed by BIBC, Claire will be in charge of the kitchen and will do her utmost to provide the best service possible.

While Claire will be effectively running as a one-person operation with the help of some of our volunteers, it may not be possible to run as many catering functions as before in the short term. We have set up a subcommittee to advise and will hopefully be able to increase the output in time.

Please be patient and help support Claire, and if any of you would like to volunteer your services, please speak to Cheryl.





# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter October 2024

## Pushers

The other main issue we faced during the summer was regarding the bowls pushers/collectors/scoopers. Due to concerns with how they were being used, the board took the decision to remove them from use, the action taken based purely on safety grounds.

A petition was raised by the membership to have them returned and many hours have been spent trying to find a solution to the problem.

Several suggestions were made which either would not comply with safety protocols or would be against the laws of the game of bowls.

Expert analysis was brought in to perform a professional risk assessment, and I believe we now have a solution. If anyone wants to see that detailed assessment, please let me know.

The board, together with John Marshall, designed a new pusher which has been manufactured by John with help from Lewis Toman. These are lighter and smaller than the previous design and will reduce the impact upon walkways.

We expect the pushers to be reintroduced after the repair work to rink 7 at the end of October.

Our hope is that the pushers will be used safely, in accordance with the following conditions, and that the matter is now concluded:

*There are two pushers per rink, one for use at each end. Pushers are numbered and can only be used on their designated rink. If a rink is not in use, its pushers cannot be used elsewhere.*

*Designated parking bays must be used when pushers are not in use. The parking bays for each rink are located between two sets of chairs positioned at the back of the walkways at both ends of the green. These chairs must not be moved. The parking bays are indicated by signs and tape and pushers must be parked prongs to the wall.*

*Telescopic rods are available from reception so that, for bowlers unable or unwilling to leave the green, the pusher can be moved to and retrieved from the back of the walkway at the lounge end of the green. The rods must not be used at the far end of the green as a bowler must step off the green to operate the scoreboard and can therefore also retrieve and park the pusher when used. Hooks will be attached to the helpers at the lounge end so that the rods (unextended) can hang from the helper's top rail when not in use. Rods will be available on request from reception and must be returned (unextended) at the end of a game.*

*Please take care at session changeovers when rinks become available at different times, and remember walkways must be kept free of obstructions, so please ensure bowls bags etc are left in the changing rooms and small items such as bowls carriers are stored under chairs.*





# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter October 2024

## Club Competitions – Eric Seavill

Entry forms for 2024-25 competitions are now available at Reception.

## Coaches Corner – Danny Kite

For this issue, the focus is on letting our newer members know what is available for them. Existing members please also note.

Our coaching team is available to all for assistance and guidance and the good news is, as they are all volunteers, there is no cost to avail yourselves of their services. Currently, we can offer one-to-one coaching to new and experienced bowlers alike. Just speak to Cheryl or Danny and sessions can be arranged.

Alternatively, Danny is often in the club around 6pm on a Tuesday and Thursday evening so if you see him sitting and watching, please feel free to come and speak to him. There are also improvers courses running on Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Bowlers of all abilities are welcome to come along to these sessions. Hopefully, as you know how to bowl, the object of these courses is to show you how to play. Those who have attended in the past have said they now liken the game of bowls more to a game of chess than a game of marbles. Come and try them out, most find them fun as well as enlightening.

On Wednesday afternoons, in conjunction with Bristol Access Sport, we host a two-hour session for people who are differently abled. This may be physical, mental or emotional and we do our best to cover all eventualities.

Saturday mornings see our coaches looking after and training our Junior Section. These are run primarily for those between six and eighteen years of age, but sometimes exceptions can be made. Skills exercises are performed as well as match play conditions - all to try to hone our young talent to be the best they wish to be. Some of those who have passed through our academy have been county champions and a couple have even had national trials.

We are here to help you. Please feel free to talk to us





# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter October 2024

## League Notes- Steve Neal

I hope all members have a good Winter League, any queries you can contact me on my mobile. Hopefully, I will be able to see more of you this year, as I will be back playing. Just a couple of reminders below for Members and Team Secretaries.

### **Pool Players/Members looking to join a League team/League team looking for players**

There is a file on Reception for members to enter their contact details in, if they would like to join a team or become a pool player, also Team Secretaries looking for players. It has separate sheets for each League. If you would like more information, speak to Steve or Cheryl or the League Manager.

### **Pool Players**

We need players available to stand in when teams are short of a player in the Leagues, so if you have spare time, put your name in the file, then a Team Secretary may contact you if they need a player. You can put your name down as a pool player and looking to join a team in the same League, but once you have joined a team you cannot be a pool player in that league. If you get a call from a team secretary but are not available on that day, you can always say sorry not available, you are not committed to play.

### **Rule in handbook**

"Pool players" are members who record in the same book at reception their availability to play in leagues where they are not already registered in a league team. This allows league teams to fulfil matches that otherwise would have been postponed due to lack of one player. Pool players may be used up to three times a season by any league team. No pool player may skip a league team (Does not apply to Australian Pairs).

### **Team Secretaries**

Please check the file at reception, so that you are aware of players looking for teams & pool players. To ensure the leagues keep going for years to come, we need to encourage new /existing members wanting to play in the leagues, if you do not, we will lose them to other clubs, or they will not come back next year. You are only allowed to register players up to 31<sup>st</sup> January each year, but members of the board, Bowls and Social Committee, can give permission for a player to be registered after this date, if it will affect the team completing the season.

### **Outstanding League Matches**

The game must be played within six weeks of the postponed league game - you can see full league rules on the website.

Lastly, it is the Team Secretaries responsibility to check the scores for matches have been entered correctly. If you notice any errors, please let me know.

Steve Neal, mobile 07974 107729





# Bristol Indoor Bowls Club Newsletter October 2024

## Junior News

A fantastic day was had at **St Andrew's Bowls Club**, where 13 of our 18's and under participated in the annual outdoor singles competition.

Their sponsors, Avon Sportsground Maintenance Co, were represented by owners, Terry & Yvonne Phillips. They were with us from the off, and, having sourced a pair of flat shoes, Terry marked in three of the qualifying rounds.

Five qualifying rounds were played, with each player participating in four and marking in the fifth. **Sophie Hicks**, unfortunately had to withdraw after the second round due to an issue with her shoulder.

At the conclusion of the qualifiers, **Marshall Simpson** (Knowle) topped the standings with a clean sweep of victories. 2nd was Kimi Powell (Congresbury), 3rd was Kimi's younger brother Lucas Powell (Congresbury), and they were joined by **Oakley Trent** (Knowle) in 4th.

### The "Finals"

In a nip and tuck game, Kimi took a two shot lead into the final end, which Marshall was unable to overturn and so claimed the 2024 title.

It was a different story in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> play off, where Lucas gradually built an unassailable lead with the game concluding on the penultimate end.

A very profitable day for the Powell brothers!

Thank you to St Andrews BC for hosting and providing the refreshments, to **Avon**

**Sportsground Maintenance** for their continued support, to Umpire John McKenzie and markers Janice Malarkey, Sophie Hicks, Terry Phillips, Helen Woodey & Gemma Broom.



We hold **bingo sessions** to raise funds. This year we were able to purchase more club shirts and super track suits and shorts with club logos! These help unite the juniors and make them "look the business" when visiting our junior clubs and when juniors from other clubs visit us!

Bingo is held on the **FIRST FRIDAY** of every month throughout the winter season. Prize money depends on the number of attendees. All club members and their families are welcome!

