



JACK HIGH
SEPTEMBER
2024

Welcome to the 2024/25 season at Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club. I wanted to contact you personally with some key information regarding the upcoming season, the work that has taken place over the summer months and work due to take place over the forthcoming weeks leading up to your return.

As you will all be aware the club continues to face hikes in costs for utilities, maintenance and supplies. The Board and Management have worked tirelessly in trying to keep all expenditure down over these periods, taking on many additional tasks to reduce the costs. Despite these rising costs, the club, through prudent expenditure and savings, has been able to deliver an incredible number of improvements over the summer season.

We are excited for you to see some big changes on your return. We have had to undertake a large roof project, of which phase 1 is underway. Due to huge rising costs on labour and materials this has meant us using a large percentage of our reserves, built up over the last 10 years. Phase 1 of the roof and the refurbishment of the lounge are costing around £175,000. Sadly, we are also faced with many projects that need to be completed in the next 3 to 4 years. We delighted to say we have not amended the membership fee for this season, staying at £165. We have increased rink fees which will enable us to rebuild our reserves and complete the future projects to improve your experience. These include boilers and bowling carpet replacements and phase 2 of the roof, totalling £130,000. We feel that all of this work will improve your bowling and social experience at the club.

Dates for the season

The club is open for play from **Monday 30th September 2024**. At Christmas we close **Monday 23rd December 2024** at 10.30pm and re-open **Thursday 2nd January 2025**, running through until **Thursday 17th April 2025** culminating in the final evening of the season. The Summer Webber will commence from **Monday 28th April 2025**. We are planning on running a one-day event over Christmas on **Monday 30th December 2024**. Timings to be confirmed closer to the time.

Taster Days

We will be having three Taster Days this season.

Sunday 6th October 2024. 9.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday 13th October 2024. 10.00am - 2.30pm

Sunday 5th January 2025. 2.30pm - 6.30pm.

This is a great opportunity for you to bring a family member, friend, colleague from work or a neighbour. Recruitment to the club is crucial and has a significant impact on our future.

Taster Sessions

To supplement the Taster Days this season we will be running Taster Sessions; which will be available for potential new members to book and have a short session with an experienced member.

These must be booked through John McKenzie and will be available every Thursday morning 9.30am - 12.30pm. These may be organised outside of these slots by agreement. To book call John on 07817729117.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank John for developing a booklet available to members called "Helping to improve your bowling" for this season. This will be available from the front desk or bar.

Webbers

A huge thank you to all those who have played in the Summer Webber. We had a great summer season with **145 members** playing in the competition, I would encourage more to come and have a go. The last summer session is **Friday 13th September 2024**. We start our Season Webber on **Monday 30th September 2024** and will continue with the Weekend Webber which will run separately to the Season Webber. These Webber dates will be published in the club.

Whiteknights in the Community

We continue to raise our profile in the community and will be supporting the following organisations this season; Wokingham Blind bowlers, Caversham Blind Bowlers, Ravenswood, Link Charity, Daisy's Dream, NHS, Woodley Scouts, Emmbrook Scouts and Woodley Townswomen.

As part of our commitment to making our club a hub of the community we will also be forging new relationships – we have started to work with the Wokingham volunteers' scheme and Readibus to try and assist members who are having difficulty in travelling to and from the club; we will be looking to release more information over the forthcoming weeks regarding these partnerships.

We also hope to attract more commercial bookings to the club and will keep you informed.

Club Charity

This season our club charity will be Daisy's Dream - <https://www.daisysdream.org.uk/>. We can help raise awareness and as much money as possible for them this season.

Joanne Somner, Community Fundraiser said,

‘Daisy's Dream are really delighted to have been chosen by the club and its members to be their chosen charity for the coming season. We're looking forward to lots of events and having plenty of fun while we raise much needed funds for our charity.’

Friendly Fixtures

Please get behind the captains and support them by putting your name down for as many friendly matches as possible. This is a great opportunity to meet players from other clubs and experience competitive games in a friendly and supportive environment. As we have no permanent Captains this season, we will be operating a "Captain of the day" system, I will contact members in advance to discuss them covering some of these games. If you feel you could Captain a game, please get in touch. All the friendly fixtures are now published on the website

Leagues

All fixtures are now published on the website, a reminder it is now the captain's responsibility to download these and create the team sheets for their team. If any Captains need any assistance, please contact Andy or Morgan. Andy on clubmanager@whiteknightsibc.co.uk and Morgan on Administration@whiteknightsibc.co.uk

League Rules/Comps Rules

The Bowling group have been working on updating and simplifying the rules for the 24-25 season. These are now available on the website and noticeboards; Captains, please ensure that your team is aware of the rules for leagues and competitions.

Catering

We are delighted to confirm that the Food Fairies (Hazel and Mary Jane) and team will be back with us for the next 3 years. I am sure you will all agree they enhance your visits to the club.

Member Experience Officer

We are delighted to announce we will have a new Member Experience Officer this season - Mark Barefoot will be heading up this position. He has a wealth of experience in similar roles in a commercial environment and will be available to discuss ideas and challenges for members. Mark will be working closely with the various groups under the Board to help deliver on the members requests.

We will be using the suggestion box outside of the Managers office for suggestions to Mark. You can also contact direct via email Administration@whiteknightsibc.co.uk

Meet the Team

We will be holding several "Meet the Team" events. These will entail meeting the various members of the groups in the club working with the Board of Directors. The sessions will be advertised via email and in the club newsletter, please take the opportunity to come down to the club and meet the team.

The first session will be on **Wednesday 2nd October at 10.00am - 12 noon**, where you will have the opportunity to meet with Malcolm Giles (Chairman) and Mark Barefoot (Membership Experience Officer) in the dining room.

Social Events

A huge thank you to Edna and Julia for organising a fantastic calendar of events for the 2024-25 season. Please see the website link for more details.

We are looking to get bookings in early for the first few events, the first being a Quiz night on **Friday 25th October 2024 at 6.30pm**. Tickets are £16 pp including food on the evening. Teams of 4-6 people. This will be another great evening so don't miss out!!

One Day events

We will be running several one-day competitions this year, played in varying formats. The first two are played as triples, both will be drawn in advance of the day. The entry sheets are now displayed in the club for you to add your names to.

Club Handbook

We have re-launched the club handbook for the 2024-25 season. The yellow booklet will be available for you to collect from the bar or front desk. We have added more information for you to make it more useful.

Payment of your Subscriptions (Closing date: 16th October 2024)

<u>Annual Subscriptions</u>	
- Annual Bowling Membership	£165(no change)
- Social Membership	£40(no change)
- Membership Summer Only (Webbers)	£40(no change)
- Junior Annual Membership (under 16)	£0
- Late Payment of Subs -additional amount	£25(no change)
- Locker Annual Rental	£5(no change)
- Access/Locker Keys for new members	£5(no change)
- Replacement of access/locker cards	£5(no change)

How to pay your annual subs:

By Internet Banking

Payment is made to Sort Code 40-38-04, Account No 91014641 (**please note change of account number from previous years**).

The payment reference should contain your membership number (obtainable from the Club Manager) and your post code.

Please e-mail the Club Manager (clubmanager@whiteknightsibc.co.uk) when you have made the payment giving full details (i.e., date of payment, membership number and amount). This is to ensure we can tie up entries appearing on our bank statement.

By Credit or Debit Card

Please complete a payment form (available at bar and front desk) with full details (name, date, amounts) and hand it to the Club Manager or staff, at the Front Desk or Bar along with your card.

By cheque

Made payable to: Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club Ltd. Please write Membership number and locker number (if applicable) on the back of the cheque and place in an envelope available from the front desk and leave in the box provided.

By cash – preferably not

To be paid to the Club manager or bar staff in a sealed envelope. Name, membership number or postcode to be written on the envelope.