



# SIBC NEWS

October 2024

Welcome to the first edition of the SIBC newsletter for the 2024/25 season.

If there is anything you would like to see included in future newsletters, or news items for the website or local press, please contact me (Martin Spencer) either via e-mail: [martinspencer1988@gmail.com](mailto:martinspencer1988@gmail.com) or mobile telephone: 07540 066241.



Good luck to Ruby Hill who will be representing England at the forthcoming under 25 International Indoor Bowls Council competition in Hong Kong, China between 2nd and 9th December 2024. Please keep an eye on our social media nearer the time, where we will hopefully be able to share her progress.

## New Software System - Bowlr

Your Management Committee are constantly working behind the scenes and have recently purchased a new league and membership management package called Bowlr. This is now operating your leagues and new club diary/rink booking system. This remains the club's view and the master rink bookings are still administered by Lex/reception.



Our website has therefore been updated to integrate this software and more content is now available to our members. All of the AGM decisions and your Management Committee contacts can be found on there too. If you have any queries on any of this, please direct them to your new secretary, Ruby Hill.

Our men's club president would like to welcome you back with the following message:

*Welcome to you all to the new season at Spalding Indoor Bowls Club. We return looking forward to new successes and personal improvement at all levels of the club, whilst remembering those unable to join us this year. Let's hope that this season goes as well as last year. The national trophies go without saying but there were some great social events, a nice atmosphere amongst members and the friendly team had a great record in their fixtures. We need to remember that all members are important and play for different reasons, so support each other and celebrate our successes.*

*We should be able to see better this year following some work on the lighting and this should improve our bowling (unless you play better in the dark!) Please support the 300 club - it would be fantastic to have more people involved which will provide more funds to be used for the goods of our members. Look out for social events being advertised and support those too.*

*I hope that your season brings you success. That means enjoyment for all, personal improvement for many, and for some people trophies.*

*Best wishes, Kevin Ekins*

## Club Competitions

Club competition entries will be open soon. They normally run after New Year right the way through to April, but it is our intention for entries to be closed and draws available earlier than previous seasons. Entry forms are available on the competition notice board. The club needs your support so please give them a go. Our club captain and competition secretary, Graham Smith, works extremely hard to organise and run club competitions however, without your support, they will slowly die out.

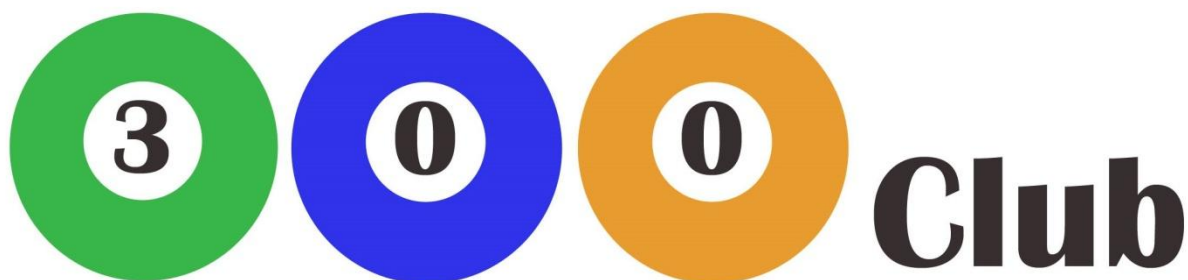


It was decided at the AGM that all competitions will be handicapped, except the men's and ladies singles and the rabbits singles. It should certainly make games more exciting. Graham will be arranging a small handicap committee before the first round as it is too big a job for him to deal with individually and it should not be just one person who sets the handicaps.

Please remember, prize money has been reinstated and the entry fee will be £1 per player per competition.

The Quintet will be also be played this season again the week commencing Monday 24th March 2025. This is a great competition - it doesn't matter what level you play at and has received excellent feedback in recent seasons. Please give it a go!

Finals week will take place between 22nd and 24th April 2025, with presentation night on Friday 25th April 2025. Please do come and show your support to our finalists that week!



You may have seen the posters about the 300 club or be one of the 50-60 people who have joined already. You may have even been one of our lucky winners, but if you haven't joined in and want to know more, please keep reading.

### What is the 300 Club?

It is a lottery that the club are running. It costs £2 per week which is taken directly from your bank account each Wednesday. Half of the money goes to the club and half of the money goes into the prize fund. There are two prizes each week with the split as 50% club, 35% 1st prize and 15% 2nd prize. If there are 100 entries, then the prize split would be £100 club, £70 1st prize and £30 2nd prize. Any rollovers boost the 1st and 2nd prize the next week with the club having none of the rollover money. The draw takes place down the club each Tuesday night with the drawer and the witness being different people each week. The winnings are then paid into your bank account.

### What is the money for?

The money is going into club funds to be used on anything that the committee decides necessary. We thought it was better to be flexible than keep having to announce different projects. The money could be used for things such as repairs/improvements to the scoreboards or other club equipment, new equipment to further develop the kitchen hatch, new bowls for

juniors or beginners, coaching equipment, improved prize money for leagues, etc. Anything that the committee thinks will improve the club for you, the members.

### How do I join?

In an evening, please speak to Dan Mills or Kevin Ekins. Unfortunately, they are busy working during the day so if you only play in the daytime, please speak to one of the other committee members who you do see. You just need your bank card and we can help to fill the form in.

This is a great and easy way to raise money for the club but we need your support.

## Club Shirts

For the last two seasons, many of you will have noticed the club shirts sponsored by Bridgestone Tyres and Roythornes Solicitors. These were brought in to help modernise the game and make it more appealing to the younger generation. To date, they have only been worn in national team competitions.

It has previously been raised that the shirts worn in county leagues and friendly matches are becoming a bit outdated, and we have explored the option of new club shirts for these matches only.



Alan Tokley kindly conducted a consultation on potential new shirts, which proved extremely useful and informative, but it was then discussed about there being multiple club shirts and the costs involved to our members. Our ladies have already made the decision to use the "Spalding Lightning" shirts this season in the Trudy Bates and the juniors are delighted to also follow suit. Some sponsorship has also been found to help them get fully kitted out. Therefore, after much discussion, your Management Committee have decided that the "Spalding Lightning" shirts will be rolled out to all club representative teams from the 2025/26 season.

We are one club and we feel that now is the time to have one club shirt. Other local clubs like Boston, Sleaford and most recently Lincoln, have all got new fashionable and appealing kits and we feel that this is a good way to move the club forward.

We appreciate that bowls clothing can be expensive, but it is the club's intention to subsidise towards the new shirts to make it more cost effective for our members.

## Dates For Your Diary

Bowls Cricket Night - Friday 20th December 2024  
Club Christmas Party - Sunday 22nd December 2024  
Quiz Night - Friday 21st February 2025  
Quintet - Week Commencing Monday 24th March 2025  
Club Finals Week - Tuesday 22nd to Thursday 24th April 2025  
Presentation Night - Friday 25th April 2025  
AGM - Monday 28th April 2025



## Summer Drives & Aussie Pairs

The Management Committee wish to place on record their thanks on behalf of the members to the volunteers who have assisted with the summer drives and Aussie pairs. Monies raised over the last three summers have gone towards the remote scorers, electric wheelchairs, club fund raising and support for the local Tulip Suite. All extremely worthwhile causes and our sincere thanks goes to you all.

All the money from these events has always been paid into the Spalding Indoor Bowls Club bank account. This is the correct thing to do and does not leave any individual with a financial responsibility.

This summer, some of our members who played in these games have told the committee that they were unaware of where the money was going prior to the last week when it was discussed and thought it was going into club funds. As the money was donated, then it should have been clear from the start where the it was going to.

As such, the Management Committee discussed this at their October meeting and made the following unanimous decision:

*That the money be split 50:50 with half buying two sets of bowls for the junior section to support our aspiring younger bowlers and the other half to be split between the charities discussed at the final session of the summer. It was agreed that this seemed to be a reasonable compromise.*

We thank you for your understanding.



## Christmas Greetings

As it is unlikely that there will be another newsletter published before, the Management Committee would like to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

