

Welcome To Risbygate Indoor Bowling Club!

Most new or inexperienced bowlers joining Risbygate Indoor Bowls Club without a guide or mentor must have wondered, from time to time, what it's all about. Very soon it becomes obvious that 'getting on the carpet' involves a little bit more. These notes seek to offer some help to any club member wanting to become involved. Firstly then, an explanation of where to find information and what is available:

Post: Just inside the club's main entrance on the left is the member's post box / pigeon holes, please check here occasionally and in particular if you join a league (as Captain's often put schedules in here).

Notice Boards: As your approach the bowls hall, you will see the National and County Events notice boards. After the double doors into the bowls hall are the Club Competitions board and on the rear wall the League notice boards.

Bowls Website: <http://www.risbygateibc.co.uk> for more detailed information

Bowls FaceBook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/RisbygateBowlsClub> usually something new every day, packed with event news, results, social info, photos and general bowls trivia!

Bowls YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@RisbygateIBC> Collection of coaching and club videos

Bowls Instagram Page: <https://www.instagram.com/risbygateibc/> Club photo gallery

Winter Indoor Schedule (Sept – April)

Winter	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning 9.30am		Friendship		Friendship			
11am	Tree League	Copeland League			Friendship		
Afternoon 2.30pm		Flower League	Wed Drive (Drawn)	Bird League			Aussie Pairs (Drawn)
Evening 6.30pm	Pub League	Pub League	Football League		Cricket League		

Summer Indoor/Outdoor Schedule (May – August)

Summer	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning 9.30am		Friendship		Friendship			
11am	Fruit League				Friendship Club League		
Afternoon	Bury EBF						
Evening 6.30pm		EBF Triples	B.E. Triples	Nut League EBF Triples			

Roll-Ups & Personal Practice

These are a long-standing part of the bowls world. Although no rink space is scheduled specifically for roll-ups, there are rinks available each day which can be booked for this purpose. Casual bookings may be made by members via the online web-bookings system, and are included in your membership fee.

Book a rink at <https://webbookings.co/risbygate>

Leagues

Each league is composed of 6 or more teams, each run by a self-appointed team manager. Each team must have a minimum number of players (as defined in the league rules). Leagues are played on most days of the week starting at 11.00am, 14.30pm or 6.30pm.

Keep an eye on the notice boards! Sign up lists for each of the leagues usually appear around the end of each winter season. Register your interest on the lists or contact the league manager who may know if a team needs a new member.

It is up to **you** to look at notice boards and proceed from there.

You may join any number of leagues but, of course, can play for only one team in any one league. If you want to form your own team, you may do so at the end of the season, when the league programme is being scheduled for the following year. Just contact the League Manager. Help and advice is available if you want to understand how to run a team – any existing team manager or committee member will be willing to help you. Each league requires a 'League Pass' costing between, £10 to £16. The cost depends on the number of games involved. The league pass system allows the club to raise additional funds towards the considerable cost of running the bowls hall. The League Pass system allows the club to keep the basic membership cost lower for social bowlers, whilst recognising that league players are more likely to be playing in County and National games (which are included in the basic membership fee).

For members who wish to carry on bowling indoors during the summer (May – August), the club has two Summer Triples Leagues on Mondays (11am to 1pm) and Thursdays (6.30pm to 8.30pm). New teams are drawn every year.

Your indoor bowls membership gives you a 50% discount on joining the Outdoor Bowls section.

Club Drives and Friendly Sessions

The Club runs a Wednesday drive during the winter season. The purpose of the drives is to encourage new and not so new bowlers to get together in an organised session. The format is very relaxed and friendly and provides an ideal opportunity for all bowlers to have a good afternoon with friends and to meet our new members who may have not yet plucked up enough courage to put their names down for matches or join leagues.

Please arrive for these drives by 2.00pm for registration, in order for teams to be sorted for a timely start at 2:30pm.

Friendly Roll-Ups are 2 hour sessions run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings starting at 09.30am and on Fridays starting at 11.00am. Members can opt to join in playing for the 'Kevin Winch' Trophy.

The Drive and Friendly Roll-Ups are all 'turn up and play' games which is included in your basic membership. The friendly sessions run all year round.

On Sunday afternoons during the main season the club runs a drawn 'Aussie Pairs' turn up and play session.

Friendly Matches

These are played against other Clubs (Home & Away). Lists are displayed on the notice board and are there for any member of the club to append his or her name to indicate their availability for match selection. These matches are fairly relaxed so do please give them a try. If selected, please tick your name off on the sheet to let the Captain know you are available and if you are able to give a lift to other team members.

Don't be worried about joining in these matches. This is the place to learn what bowling is all about. Put your name down on the availability sheets. Make sure you get to know the Captain of the day, and enjoy your game. Other members on your rink will show you the ropes and explain anything you are unsure about.

Suffolk League Matches

As the heading says these matches are played against other Suffolk Indoor Bowls Clubs (Home & Away) and offer a more competitive edge to the game. Men's and mixed league matches are played. Team lists are displayed on the notice boards. The dress code for these matches is the club kit.

If you are unsure about putting your name down for these matches, please speak with the club Captain, Vice-Captain or any of the committee who will offer you advice.

Club Competitions

These are open to all members, who can enter any (or all), as appropriate, of singles, pairs, triples or rinks (i.e. fours) for ladies or men. There are mixed pairs, triples and rinks for both Ladies and Men to enter together, as well as an 'over 70's' triples. There is also a Novice competition, which is open to all members who have not previously won a club competition and are in their first three years of bowling.

Again, keep an eye on the 'Competitions' notice board for entry lists. New competitions may be added at any time.

Please note that these matches are usually played on a 'knock-out' basis and often have 'play by' dates that must be adhered to.

County Competitions

These competitions are at a slightly higher level than club competitions as you are drawn against bowlers from all over the County. They are played in accordance with Suffolk County Indoor Bowling Associations (SCIBA) rules and are open to all members to enter. The competitions consist of singles, pairs, triples and fours for both men and ladies and a mixed pairs competition which is entered through the SCIBA.

Application forms will be made available in the club and assistance provided by the Ladies' and Men's Captains. They will collect all application forms and fees and arrange submission to the relevant association.

National Competitions (EIBA & EBF)

National competitions are another step up in the level of commitment and competitiveness. You will be drawn against bowlers in your section of the County and progress towards an Area final and if successful to the final stages which are normally held at Melton Mowbray and Nottingham Bowls clubs. Good quality bowling offering opportunities to play away at other clubs, where the draw permits and against some of the best bowlers in the country, with the eventual aim at appearing at national finals. Very challenging, especially arranging times and venues!

EIBA National competition application forms will be made available in the club and further information is available by talking to Mike Bowen, or Sandi Steed who are the Club's nominated EIBA Contacts.

County & National competitions are open to all members. Competition Entry Forms are produced each year (usually in February) detailing all Individual County and National Competitions that may be entered, these should be completed and returned (together with appropriate Entry Fees) to the Ladies' or Men's Captains, by the date stated on the form for play in the following Season.

Some members also enter EBF (English Bowls Federation) National Competitions.

County, Regional and National Inter-Club Competitions

These Club Representative competitions are team games and are chosen by a selection committee (Captains and Vice Captains) to represent the club. The matches, and their play by/on dates will be posted on the notice boards.

It is unlikely that new or inexperienced bowlers would be selected for these highly competitive Inter-Club Competitions (e.g. Denny Cup, Yetton Trophy etc.). Nevertheless, the dates and venues for these matches are published on notice boards and on the club website, and any support that you can give would be very welcome, and much appreciated by the members selected to play.

Guests

Members can invite friends and family to come and try bowls or just have a roll up as an introduction to the club and sport, a fee of £5.00 per guest is payable and guests can visit up to 4 times a year. Guests must wear clean flat shoes on the carpet.

Additional Information For Beginners

For your four free introductory lessons the dress code is quite casual but we do ask for clean flat soled shoes and not the footwear you came to the club in. This is to protect the indoor carpet from wear and tear. You will be advised on club requirements for attire during your sessions.

Internal club games including leagues can be played in white tops and grey trousers. Team sheets for external games will specify a dress code (club kit or if a friendly white/grey).

The club does have a range of club colour Shirts, Jackets, Trousers and Shorts in a range of sizes available from the club office which can be purchased, but is not necessary to begin with.

We do not recommend purchasing your own bowls prior to your introductory sessions, there are many different bowls manufactured and you could make a costly mistake getting bowls that are not suitable for a beginner or for the club's rinks. Bowls made for outdoor use are unlikely to be suitable for our carpet which runs considerably slower (18secs) compared to an outdoor green (9-12secs). We have a wide range of coaching bowls to try and use at the beginning and we can advise on the more suitable bowls.

After your initial coaching sessions you are welcome to continue using the club's coaching bowls for a time, but they must not be taken offsite to away games or used on the outdoor green.

We recommend you arrive at least 10 -15 minutes prior to the scheduled start times for any of our organised games.

As always if you have any questions on any subject of bowling then please speak to the Club Captains or any of the Committee.

Buying Bowls and Accessories

Mark Royal is an English International Bowler and a Risbygate Indoor Bowls club member. Mark runs Jack & Bowl an online bowls equipment supply company and brings his mobile road show to the club usually twice a year. Mark is very knowledgeable both about the sport and the club and can offer great advice on bowls:-

<https://jackandbowl.co.uk/> Tel: 01379 671300