



**MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB**

# **Welcome Booklet**

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**Introduction for new members**

**THE MISSION 650 TEAM**

**Oct 2017**

## Mission 650 Booklets

**Booklet 1    Welcome Booklet**

**Booklet 2    New to the Game of Indoor Bowls**

**Booklet 3    Key Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls**

You can download these Booklets by visiting the Club website – [www.meltonindoorbowls.co.uk](http://www.meltonindoorbowls.co.uk) and viewing the “Mems” drop-down menu.

### *How are we doing?*

Our aim is to make your introduction to Indoor Bowls to be as simple and pleasurable as possible. We welcome / need your feedback on your overall experience as new joiners in order to help us continue to improve the welcoming package. Your feedback will help us to lead the way on recruiting and retaining new members into the sport of Indoor Bowls here at M&D IBC.

The Mission 650 Team

# **Congratulations**

**Welcome.** You have taken the first big step towards a new and fun pastime. Whether you are looking for a new, social, no pressure hobby, or want to become an accomplished league player, we will help you enjoy your time at the Club.

We hope you will take a few minutes to look through this brief summary of facts about the Club and the game, which will ease your first few weeks as you settle into the sport.

As part of your introduction to the Club, you will have been given Temporary Membership and Play Card with 3 free sessions. These are to give you chance to decide whether you really like the game, and the Club, before having to commit to any financial outlay. Hopefully you will decide to stay, and as a further bonus you will then be able to take advantage of a reduced Club subscription for the rest of your first membership year.

You will also be given a couple of forms to be filled in. The first is a reminder that, for some, even light physical activity should only be undertaken if you are fit and well, if you have any doubts please

contact your general practitioner for qualified advice. The second is a Membership Form, ready to be filled in once you decide to join. What follows now is a quick question-and-answer style summary of things you need to know, or forgot to ask.

## **First the Golden Rules**

**The Playing Area.** The carpet playing area (8 rinks) of the hall is the life and biggest asset of the Club. It costs over £50,000 to replace, and is not something that can be patch repaired. For that reason;

1. Food and drink is not allowed on the carpet, or within one metre of the carpet boundary.
2. Your outdoor shoes must not be worn on the rinks – **only flat-soled (no tread) bowls shoes** kept clean for the game are allowed.

**Emergency Exits.** Please take a moment to look around the hall and bar areas, and note where the emergency exits are. We do have emergency lighting should it be necessary, and these exits will be lit so they are easy to find.

**What is “Mission 650”?** No, not a secret organisation. Quite simply we are a group of members given the responsibility to attract new members to the Club, and then help them to learn and settle into the game. The Club tries to maintain 650 members in order to keep costs to all at a reasonable level. The “New & Improvers” sessions have both coaches and players who will help you learn the basics of the game.

**What happens next?** It is recommended that you spend at least two or three sessions with a coach to learn the basic skills. Coaches attend all the “New & Improvers” sessions during the week (no cost to you) – see “**When can I play**” later. You turn up at the club 15 minutes before the allotted time, put on a pair of bowls shoes, select a set of woods and have a go. The loan of Club shoes and woods is free, but eventually you will probably want your own. There is no need to dash out and buy anything, and experience says that your preferences may change as your game improves – so early purchases may not suit your needs after the first few months.

**Some very basic terminology.** In simple terms you are going to bowl a wood (i.e. a bowl) from a position on a mat at one end of the carpet at a jack (the smaller yellow ball) at the other end of the same rink (i.e. marked “lane”). The wood is not a perfect sphere, and it has what is called a bias. This means that you don’t bowl in a straight line to the jack, but out to one side and the wood curves round back to the centre line target.

**What “equipment” is needed?** Like many sports, this game does have a recognised “kit”, and the Club does have a Dress Code. Unlike many sports, this is not massively expensive. From your first visit to the Club, you will notice that players wear a plain, white collared (polo) shirt (**no T-shirts please**) and grey slacks, trousers or skirts. It is accepted that temporary members may not play in the appropriate kit during their trial period until they decide to join the Club. When you decide to buy your own flat-soled shoes (no tread),

the choice is varied, and specialist suppliers (both local shops and on-line) can be found easily. They are even stocked by some of the larger Sports Shops, e.g. Sports Direct. They can cost from £25 per pair upwards.

A set of 4 woods can cost from £220 upwards. Even more reason for not dashing into a purchase. Many players start with second-hand woods, and often there are adverts for used woods on the Club notice boards at the main entrance. The main manufacturers can produce up to six different biases, in two weights and up to seven sizes. You may need to try several woods before settling on the right size and bias for you.

You will notice shirts with coloured panels worn around the Club. These are Club team members wearing their Club colours.

**A word of advice.** Woods are heavy and can travel at quite a pace. Try to stop woods, and even jacks, only with your foot, as it has been known for fingers to get damaged. In exceptional circumstances, new players have been allowed to play in stockinged feet if no suitable shoes have been available - under no circumstances stop a moving wood with an un-shoed foot.

**What rules of etiquette should I remember?** This Booklet will only deal with the etiquette associated with players in and around the rinks. The second Booklet, which the coaches will point you to during your first few sessions, will expand the rules of etiquette associated with the game in play.

The coaches will cover this fully, but suffice it to say that you should try and avoid distracting players already in-game (even as you walk around the rinks) by talking to them as they bowl, moving across their line of vision or straying into their rink. **Please ensure that your mobile phones are switched off or set to silent near the rinks. They should not be used during play.** (A longer summary of the rules of Bowls Etiquette will be given to you once you become a member.)

**When can I play?** Whenever there is a rink available. A standard session is two hours long. To book a rink you look on the Bookings Tablet at the bar, and enter your membership number (Temporary members get the bar staff to enter a code), number of players and type of session in the appropriate response box. You pay the £2.50 per person fee at the bar when you turn up, and before you play. (N.B. the fee for non-members is £4.50.) As advised earlier, it is recommended that your first sessions are with Club Coaches in the “New & Improvers” sessions. As your confidence improves, you will be encouraged to join in with the other “social” bowling sessions, e.g. Galas, in order to learn from playing with more experienced players. At the moment these are the times of recommended sessions, and the attending coaches;

Tues	16.10	Open Session “New & Improvers” – with Peter Bailey, Mick Rawle and Peter Kipling
Wed	16.10	Open Session –All welcome – with Paul Noone, Dave & Carol Pick

Wed	19.00	Open Session “New & Improvers” – covered by various coaches on a rota
Sat	10.00	Junior Section – with Erica Warrington

Other social sessions include;

Mon	18.20	Club Gala #
Thurs	18.20	Club Gala #
Fri	14.00	“Come One, Come All” – with Peter Bennett

# Limited availability sessions, you have to book a place ahead by adding your name to the list on the main Gala noticeboards.

**Please arrive at least 15 minutes before times stated.**

When you arrive for these sessions, you will see the waiting group in the bar area. There will be an organiser collecting names and session fees at one of the bar tables. Let them know that you have arrived, and pay your £2.50 to them (or show that you have had the bar sign off your free session on your card).

If any of the above coached sessions are difficult for you on a regular basis, then please contact **Peter Bailey** and he will try and suggest alternative sessions for you.

At the end of the sessions, please return your borrowed shoes and woods to the lockers at the bar end of rinks 1 & 2.



## Useful Coaching Contact Details

### 650 Committee

Arnold Brown                      01664 851457

### New & Improvers Coaches

Peter Bailey                      07547 777 258

Mick Rawle                      01664 854691

### Junior Section

Erica Warrington                01664 560272

**Please treat this information with respect as all of the above are volunteers, not employees of the Club.**

**How do I use my free sessions?** If using one of your free sessions, on arrival you must get the bar attendant to sign off the charge on your Play Card before you join with the waiting group. You go to the group organiser, give your name and show that you have already “paid”.

**Who can join?** The Club is happy to see you join whether you are aged 8 or 80+, male or female, alone or in a group. There are special sessions on Saturday mornings for Junior players (Under-18's). Players with disabilities are welcome, but we would ask that you contact **Peter Bailey** ahead of your first session so that any necessary equipment and coaches can be made available.

**How do I get full membership?** Fill in the application form in your pack, one of the coaches will sign as a seconder (they will also find other members to sign too) and finally by paying the appropriate membership fee at the bar. If you want a locker (you will see these down the side of the hall by Rink 8), then tick the box on the form and add the appropriate fee to your membership payment. There is no need to have a locker straight away as you can apply for a locker at a later date if you want.

Your completed form and attached bar receipt then goes to the Office to be processed. Your new Membership Card should be ready for you to collect from the Card Tray on the Reception Desk on your next visit to the Clubhouse.

**What happens as I improve as a player?** Well, that is up to you! You may decide that you just want to continue as a “social” player, and continue to attend the Tuesday & Wednesday Open sessions, and/or the Monday–Thursday Galas or the Friday “Come One, Come All” session.

You will be encouraged to join, or even form, League teams to play in Club competitions. There are Winter and Summer leagues run on each day of the week during the year. Everything from Pairs to Triples and Fours. There are also Club Knock–Out competitions for individual teams held twice a year. These include both open and restricted (e.g Novice, Over–60, Ladies, Men, Mixed, etc.) competitions. Juniors have competitions too!

Please note that as you progress in your playing experience, the Club Coaches (there are currently 10 of them) will be happy to supply individual coaching sessions for players keen to improve their play.

**What facilities are available at the Club?** This is a Members Club. This means that if you bring non-members with you to the Clubhouse then you should sign them in the Visitors Book at the bar.

Please ensure that all members and their guests comply with the **no smoking** rules on the Club premises.

The Clubhouse has both a bar and a restaurant offering a range of food and drinks at very competitive prices. There is also a hot drinks machine for those wanting something in a china cup! The restaurant provides lunches 12.00–14.00 every day, and evening meals 18.00–21.00 on Tuesday to Saturday. You may need to book for popular times. (Tel: 01664 410210)

Changing facilities are accessed by secured doors. The code for these doors is given to you when you join the Club, or in your first weeks ask the bar person for the code. The changing rooms and toilets are through the double doors at the end of the bar lounge. **Please do not bring your outdoor coats to the side of the playing rink. Please leave them on the hooks near the reception desk, in your locker or in the changing rooms.**

**How do I find out about Club activities?** There is a regular Club Newsletter which can be picked up at the reception desk as you enter the Bar Lounge.

The Club does have a website – [www.meltonindoorbowls.co.uk](http://www.meltonindoorbowls.co.uk) – which has drop-down menus listing many of the Club activities and electronic copies of the Newsletters, and you can also find the Club on Facebook. (Or ring the Office on 01664 410159)

When you are in the Clubhouse, you will see adverts for coming events on billboards near the entrance and on the TV screen in the bar lounge. It is also worth keeping an eye on the Notice boards which run the length of the playing hall wall along the side of Rink 1. The availability signing lists for weekly and quarterly Club Galas will be found on those Notice boards.

*Enough reading, let's get in there and play! Enjoy yourself.*