



Whiteknights

Indoor Bowls Club

Without Limits, providing a Pathway from Grassroots to International Level

NEW MEMBERS

GUIDE

2019/20 Season

Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club
21-23 Beech Lane
Earley
Reading
Berkshire
RG6 5PT

Telephone: 0118 986 0759
Club Manager: Andrew Knapper
Website: www.whiteknightsibc.co.uk
Email: clubmanager@whiteknightsibc.co.uk

This document is designed to provide information for all new bowlers at Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club. One of the top 10 clubs in England, we are a thriving club with fantastic bowling and social sections; it is a club for all ages and abilities

Well done on making the first step, you are considering either joining or have joined Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club. We want to support and guide you on the next steps to life as a Whiteknights member. More information follows to help you decide what type of membership is right for you. When you are ready to join please see the prices below.

Membership Subscriptions

Bowlers - full annual membership fee	£130.00
New Members to the club - first season only	£110.00
New Members joining after 15 th Nov 2019	£90.00
Summer Membership (May to August 2020)	£35.00
Junior Bowlers (under 18/in full time education)	£20.00
Social Members	£35.00
Social Members joining after 1 st Jan 2020	£20.00

Anyone joining as a Social Member wishing to upgrade to Bowling Membership will receive a discount to match the Social Membership fee paid

Club Lockers/Door Passes

Locker and key rental	£5.00
Key deposit	£2.00
Replacement keys	£5.00
Replacement door passes	£5.00

How to pay:

By Internet Banking

The Club is offering members, the option of paying via internet banking (**this is our preferred method of payment**), but it is essential the following action is taken:

1. Payment is made to Sort Code 40-38-04, Account No 71286722
2. The payment reference should be your membership number or otherwise your name and post code.
3. 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.
4. New members please either post your completed Membership Application Form to the Club Manager, pass it to a member of staff or leave it in the box provided.

By Cheque

Made payable to: **Reading and District Indoor Bowls Club Ltd.**

Please write name, 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 outside the Club Manager's office. Alternatively post to the address on the front cover.

By Cash

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

What do I get for my membership?

Full Membership - includes winter (Sept-Apr) and summer (May-Aug) membership

This gives access to all areas of the club with full and unlimited access to bowling and social activities including:

- Coaching
- Webbers (Organised roll-up sessions)
- League Bowls
- Competition Bowls
- National Competition Bowls
- Friendly Matches (see Club Handbook for Fixture List)
- Annual Club Tour
- Casual Roll-up Sessions

Full membership also includes all the activities shown under Social Membership below.

Social Membership - (includes winter and summer membership)

This gives access to all areas of the club and social activities in the club with restricted bowling access.

- Regular Newsletter and email drops on activities in the club

- Use of the Bar - open 12.00am-11.00pm
Sundays - 12.00am-10.30pm
- Use of the Dining Room, Lounge and café facilities
- Café open 7 days a week 9.30am-6.45pm
- Sunday lunches and other catering events
- Social events such as:
 - Whist
 - Crib
 - Crafts
 - Disco's
 - Quiz,
 - Crown Green and Pie night
 - Party nights
 - Christmas Bazaar
 - Childrens' Christmas Party
- Outside events such as organised Theatre visits
- Book and jigsaw library
- Ability to watch bowls throughout the day at the club

Social Membership - Restricted Bowling access

- Up to 6 x 2 hour bowling sessions

Social Activities

Please refer to the club handbook available from the front desk or the website for a full list with dates.

Watch the Social Activities Board opposite the entrance for additional events.

Equipment

Once you start to play bowls, we would suggest starting to buy your own equipment, we do have sets of bowls and shoes that can be used; however it is paramount to have your own equipment.

We have a large number of bowls and shoes and other equipment available on the “for sale” noticeboard by rink 7 that are available from current members looking to sell items; this is a great way of starting out. You can pick up bowls at a highly reduced price.

If you need advice on sets of bowls then discuss with the coaching team or speak to Andy Knapper the Club Manager.

To buy new equipment you can contact Robert Newman a club member who runs Cotswold Bowls in Mortimer, Robert will offer you great advice from his extensive knowledge and experience, including being a former Commonwealth Games Gold medallist.

Cotswold Bowls Centre, established over 25 years, is a major specialist bowls retailer. The address is 32, Victoria Road, Mortimer, RG7 3SE. Telephone 0118 933 2916.

There are a number of other retailers online and shops that you can purchase equipment from as well as sites like EBAY.

If you are a total beginner then it is possible to pick up bowls shoes from a discount store and a second-hand set of starter bowls for as little as £20-£30 each.

When starting out you will need the following:

- A set of bowls (4)
- Flat soled bowls shoes

Optional Equipment

- Measure
- Chalk

Coaching

Coaching is available at the club; we have a great coaching team led by our head coach Kulwant Channa.

All of our coaches' pictures and names are displayed by the entrance to the club opposite the front desk.

We run coaching sessions on Sunday's from 8.00am until 10.30am and Monday evening in hour slots between 6.30pm and 9.30pm. Sessions are £4 and are led by the coaching team; these are excellent sessions that will guide you on all aspects of the game.

The coaching team will supply you with bowls for the coaching sessions. All you need to bring is shoes.

What to Wear

To minimise wear on the carpet we respectfully ask that you bring clean flat-soled shoes to change into when you arrive. For coaching you are asked to wear flat soled shoes, smart casual clothing.

For all other occasions please see the dress code section of the Club Handbook.

Practise

To enhance the skills you have learned at coaching or elsewhere if you do not wish to take the coaching route then practise makes perfect.

Once you have joined as a member you can book a rink to have a practise, either on your own or with friends.

To book a rink you can check the rink availability calendar on the website or call the club to check times available.

To complete a booking you need to call the club on 0118 986 0758.

The cost of rink fees is as follows:

1 hour	£1.50pp	2 ½ hours	£3.50pp
1 ½ hours	£2.50pp	3 hours	£4.50pp
2 hours	£3.00pp	4 hours	£5.00pp

Please pay rink fees at the front desk or over the bar before going out to bowl.

To practise you will need your own set of bowls and shoes, however we do have some stock sets of bowls you can hire from us for £1 a session.

Remember: there is a large selection of second hand bowls, shoes and other equipment displayed on the for sale board by rink 7 with bargains to be had.

New Bowlers Practise and Social Sessions – Diary Dates

To bring the new bowlers together we will run structured social/practise sessions.

We will meet for a coffee in the club lounge half an hour before the rink times shown below. The whole session will be supported by a club member who can help with any club queries and give guidance and support on club life and bowling matters.

We will then have a practise together, with formats to suit our new members. (Non-members restricted to a maximum of 6 practise sessions). Cost £3 to bowl, these sessions will take place on the following dates:

Wed	9-Oct	4.30-6.30	Tue	21-Jan	11.00-12.30
Thu	17-Oct	8.30-10.30	Fri	31-Jan	4.30-6.30
Tue	22-Oct	4.30-6.30	Thu	6-Feb	4.30-6.30
Thu	31-Oct	2.30-4.30	Wed	12-Feb	2.30-4.30
Fri	8-Nov	4.30-6.30	Sat	22-Feb	6.30-8.30
Sun	17-Nov	2.30-4.30	Fri	28-Feb	4.30-6.30
Wed	27-Nov	4.30-6.30	Sat	7-Mar	2.30-4.30
Sun	08-Dec	6.30-8.30	Fri	20-Mar	4.30-6.30
Tue	17-Dec	4.30-6.30	Thu	26-Mar	2.30-4.30
Fri	10-Jan	4.30-6.30	Thu	2-Apr	12.30-2.30
Fri	17-Jan	12.30-2.30	Wed	8-Apr	12.30-2.30

New Bowlers Meetings

Sun 19-Jan 10:00 New Bowlers Next Steps Coffee morning
Tue 21-Jan 6:30 New Bowlers League Launch Meeting

New Bowlers Taster Sessions

Taster Sessions are available to new bowlers who typically have not been to an Open Day or joined the coaching scheme. There is a regular weekly slot, please see the Club Manager to arrange a taster session at another time.

Thu Weekly 9:30-11:00 New Bowlers Taster Sessions

New Bowlers League

We run a New Bowlers league after Christmas, which is a great way of playing semi competitive bowls in a friendly environment, whilst being supported and guided by members and making new friends.

This league is run to help you get on the path to playing league bowls within the club. All bowlers will be in their first or second year. A list is displayed in December on the main noticeboard opposite the front desk, where you can add your name if you wish to play in the league. It is available to men and ladies. Taking into account your preferences and a balance of abilities we organise the teams, so all you need to do is turn up to the New Bowlers League Launch Meeting and meet your new team, this is a very sociable evening. The league is played Monday to Friday on 6.30pm or 8.30pm slots. To ask any further questions or if you need more guidance please speak to Andy Knapper the Club Manager.

The cost of playing in the New Bowlers League is £3.00pp for a two hour match.

Joining other league teams

If you feel competent and ready to join a league team, go for it! You will love it. It is an enjoyable way to build your bowling skills in a supportive group while consolidating your understanding of tactics, rules and etiquette

We have around 130 teams who play in various leagues across all times slots and days. We have the following leagues-

- Ladies Afternoon League Monday and Friday
12.30pm and 2.30pm
- Ladies Evening League Wednesday
6.30pm
- Men's Matinee League Monday to Friday
2.30pm and 4.30pm
- Men's Evening League Monday to Friday
6.30pm and 8.30pm
- Open Triples League Monday to Friday
6.30pm and 8.30pm
- Mixed Afternoon League Monday to Friday
12.30pm
- Outdoor Clubs League Saturday or Sunday
6.30pm
- New Bowlers League Monday to Friday
6.30pm or 8.30pm

How to get into a league team

- You may be approached by the Captain of a league team asking you to join their team
- There is a list on the leagues noticeboard of teams looking for players
- Speak to Andy Knapper the Club Manager or a League Secretary.

Set up a new league team with friends

- Why not create a new league team with some of your fellow new/existing bowlers
- Registering a new league team is done in February for the following season.
- Andy Knapper, the Club Manager will gladly assist you with this.

The cost of playing in a league game is £3.00pp

Webber

The Webber is an organised social/semi competitive rollup game. It is played on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. No need to book, no need to find others to play!

Winter Webber is two sessions

- 9.30am-11.00am
- 11.00am-12.30pm.

Summer Webber is one session

- 10.00am-12.00pm.

Webber Structure

You turn up around 30 minutes before the session and pay your fee to the steward on the front desk, they supply you with a ticket that represents how many people have turned up to play.

The steward will announce by tannoy the format of the game- i.e. pairs, triples or rinks. You swap your numbered ticket for a green or a black ticket showing a rink number. At that rink the green/black teams will decide who plays in which position. A score is kept on the scorecard during the game and handed in at the end of the game, the scores are then input and you move up and down a league table throughout the season.

The cost of the Webber is £2.50pp for the winter and £3.00pp for the summer.

Friendly Matches

We have a number of home and away friendly matches against other clubs from around the country. These fixtures are displayed in the club handbook and on the club website. If you wish to play in these games insert your name on the sheet displayed on the appropriate Men's, Ladies and Mixed noticeboard. Once we have the required number, the relevant captain will then select a team and publish it on the noticeboards, on the website and social media pages.

The cost of a friendly match is £10; this includes a 4 hour match and a 2-course sit-down hot meal after the match (in the dining room for home matches).

Club Competitions/National Competitions

Within the club we run a number of Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Competitions; these are played during the season on a variety of days. To enter the Club Competitions you must submit your entry form around the end of October, these will be displayed on the Competitions noticeboard. Once all the Competitions entries have closed, the Competitions Secretaries will draw the Competitions. The draws will then be published on the noticeboards and website with the times and dates of the matches.

Cost of entry to Club Competitions is £2.50pp per event
Playing a club competition costs £3.00pp-£5.00pp
dependent on time slot required.

National Competitions are entered in March/April for the following season, the draws are published by the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) over the summer months and games are played on a home and away basis dependant on the draw.

Cost of entry to National Competitions is £3.50pp per event.

The cost of playing a National Competition is between £3.00-£5.00 dependent on time slot required

What membership package is right for me?

Only you can decide but as a rough guide consider your goals and attitude to decide when to join:

Existing bowler, new to Whiteknights or indoor bowling or an extra keen beginner

Join at start of season £110 we will help you join Webbers/leagues & coaching as desired

Keen to get going/ready for rollup practise quite quickly

Start with coaching, join November £90 to practise regularly in rollup and Webber sessions before Christmas to gain experience before joining the New Bowlers League in January.

Want to take it at a steady pace/short of time

Start the coaching scheme and come along once a week, join as a bowling member for the New Bowlers League & starting to roll up for practise and maybe Webbers from November.

Social membership £35

Not sure if you are fit enough or keen enough to bowl. Social Membership will give you access to all the social aspects of the club. You can join the coaching scheme and have a limited number of practise sessions while you decide. Remember you only pay the difference between Social Membership and the bowling membership price if you upgrade.

How the Club is managed

Reading & District Indoor Bowls Club Ltd

The elected Board of Directors are responsible for the management of Reading and District Indoor Bowls Club

Ltd (more usually known as Whiteknights). They run the day-to-day business of the Club such as financial control, property maintenance, the bar and catering. Directors are elected at the annual general meeting (AGM) in September. The day-to-day running of the Club is the responsibility of the Club Manager, Andy Knapper.

Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club

Whiteknights is the name of the Bowls Club. It has been given the responsibility by the board of Directors for all day to day bowling matters. It holds its own annual general meeting AGM in September at which committee members are elected

The Bowls Club is answerable to the Board through its Secretary who, on election, is invited to become a member of the Board of Directors.

The Club also maintains liaison with bowling associations such as English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA), Berkshire County Indoor Bowling Associations (BCIBC) and Berkshire County Women's Indoor Bowling Association (BCWIBC).

Names and photographs of all of our Directors, Bowls Club committee members and Coaches are displayed by the entrance to the club opposite the front desk.

Welcome to Whiteknights, we wish you many happy hours of bowling where you will meet new friends with whom to enjoy our many social and bowling activities.