



Whiteknights
Indoor Bowls Club

NEW MEMBERS

GUIDE

September 2026

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

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

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.



Member Morgan Merryweather bowling in the England Team



A member of the Disabled Bowlers Association



A vibrant, friendly club for all

Well done on taking the first step, whether you are considering 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. The following information will help you decide what type of membership is right for you.

For costs, please see the separate membership price list in the club handbook.

What do I get for my membership?

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

All members will be given a “Knight” who will be their mentor for the first year of their membership at Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club.



(Please be aware we only operate on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, during the Summer Season, with no bar.)

This gives access to all areas of Whiteknights with full and unlimited access to bowling and social activities at additional cost including:

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

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

Social Membership - (includes winter and summer membership)



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

- Regular Newsletter and email drops on activities at Whiteknights.
- Use of the Bar: 12.00pm - 11.00pm
Sundays: 12.00pm - 10.30pm
(May close early if no bowling booked)
- Use of the Dining Room, Lounge, and Café facilities
- Café open 7 days a week

- Sunday lunches and other catering events
- Social events such as:
 - Sunday Lunches
 - Whist & Crib
 - Crafts
 - Live Music
 - Quiz nights
 - Crown Green night
 - Party nights
 - Themed food evenings
 - Christmas Bazaar
- Outside events such as organised Theatre visits
- Book and jigsaw library
- Ability to watch bowls through the day at the club
- Sky TV in the club lounge

Social Membership - Restricted Bowling access

- Access to join all coaching

Social Members receive a blue roll-up ticket in their New Members Pack. This ticket includes **6 roll-ups** in total.

- The blue slip contains **6 boxes**. Representing each roll up booking.
- The blue ticket **must be presented and signed by a member of staff when you pay for your roll-up, before going onto the rink.**
- One box will be signed for each roll-up used.

- If two new members attend a roll-up together, **both members must have their own slip signed**. One slip does not cover multiple people.
- A roll-up may last **up to 2 hours**, but it still counts as **one roll-up use**.
- You are entitled to **6 roll-ups only** - not 12 one-hour sessions.

To make the most of your allocation, we recommend:

- Booking **2-hour practice sessions**, or
- Attending one of our **New Members Roll-Up Sessions**, guided by club coaches or members of the Knights.

Social Activities

See the separate fixture list, opening times, dates, and social event dates

Watch the website, emails and social media as well as the social activities board opposite the entrance for additional events.

Equipment



We would suggest buying your own equipment, we do have sets of bowls and shoes that can be borrowed; however, it is advisable to have your own equipment to develop your skills.

We have many bowls, shoes, and other equipment available from Andy Knapper, the Club Manager, and on the “for sale” noticeboard by rink 7 that are available from current members; 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 and you can access our booklet “Choosing Bowls.”

To buy new equipment you can contact Robert Newman a 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 bowls 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 several 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) in carrier
- Flat soled bowls shoes

Optional Equipment

- Measure
- Chalk

Coaching

Coaching is available at the club; we have a great coaching team. All our coaches' pictures and names are displayed in the club.

We run coaching sessions on Sundays from 8.30am until 10.00am and Monday evening in hour slots between 6.30pm and 9.30pm. Sessions 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 flat-soled shoes.

We are also running specialised coaching for 1:1 or small groups. If you wish to book a session, please contact John McKenzie on johnfmckenzie@gmail.com or 07817729117.



What to Wear

- All events regulation flat soled bowls shoes to protect the bowling carpet
- Roll ups/Webbers - smart casual
- Leagues – predominately white shirt, club leisure shirt or club shirt, with grey/black/navy below waist or league team shirt.
- Club Friendly matches - Club shirt with black below the waist
- National matches –Club Shirt with black below the waist

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 BOWLR system and book online or call the club to check times available.

To complete a booking, you need to use the BOWLR system or ask at the front desk or bar or call the club on 0118 986 0759.

Rink fees

Please pay rink fees at the front desk or over the bar before going out to the rink. (All prices published in Club Handbook)

To practise you will need your own set of bowls and shoes, however we do have some stock sets of bowls you can borrow from us. 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

To bring the new bowlers together we will run structured social/practise sessions. This is open to anyone who has joined in the last 2 seasons. Please book via staff at the bar or front desk.

We will meet for a coffee in the lounge half an hour before the rink times shown below. The whole session will be supported by a member who can help with any 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. (Social members restricted to a maximum of 6 practise sessions).

New Bowlers Practise Session and Meeting Dates

Please refer to the Managers noticeboard, the club diary in the handbook or New Bowlers Dates sheet for the full New Bowlers roll ups and meeting dates for the season.

New Bowlers Meeting Dates

Sunday 29th November at 10.30 am – New Bowlers Next Steps.

Wednesday 16th December at 6.30pm - New Bowlers League Launch.

New Bowlers Taster Sessions

Taster Sessions are available to new bowlers who typically have not been to a recruitment day or joined the coaching scheme. There is a regular bookable weekly slot, if you wish to book a session, please contact John McKenzie on johnfmckenzie@gmail.com or 07817729117.

Thursday - Weekly 9:30-11:00am and 11:00-12.30pm - New Bowlers Taster Sessions

Other times are available by arrangement.

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 competitive bowls within the club. All bowlers will be in their first or second year at Whiteknights. A list is displayed in November/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.

Considering 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 at various slots during the week to allow as many people to play as possible. To ask any further questions or if you need more guidance, please speak to Andy Knapper the Club Manager.

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 time slots and days. We have the following leagues: -

LADIES AFTERNOON LEAGUE	MON	FRI	12.30PM & 2.30PM
LADIES EVENING LEAGUE	WED		6.30PM
MEN'S MATINEE LEAGUE	MON TO	FRI	2.30PM & 4.30PM
MEN'S EVENING LEAGUE	MON TO	FRI	6.30PM & 8.30PM

OPEN TRIPLES LEAGUE	MON TO	FRI	6.30PM & 8.30PM
MIXED AFTERNOON LEAGUE	TUE TO	THU	12.30PM
OUTDOOR CLUBS LEAGUE	SAT	SUN	6.30PM
NEW BOWLERS LEAGUE	MON TO	SUN	VARIOUS TIMES
SUMMER LEAGUE	THU		10.30AM

How to join an existing 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
- Set up a new league team with friends.
- Why not create a new league team with some of your fellow new and 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.

Webber



The Webber is an organised social and 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 two sessions.

9.30am - 11.00am

11.00am - 12.30pm

Weekend Webber

Please refer to the Managers noticeboard and the Webber noticeboard for the dates for the season.

Webber Structure

Turn up around 30 minutes before the session and pay your fee to the steward on the front desk, they supply you with a numbered ticket.

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.

Friendly Matches



We have several home and away friendly matches against other clubs from around the country. These fixtures are displayed in the fixture list and on the website. If you wish to play in these games add your name on the sheet displayed on the appropriate Men's, Ladies or 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 friendly match 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 several 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.

Playing a club competition varies depending on the 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, and games are played on a home and away basis.

These are entered at the end of the winter season for the following season.

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 as a bowling member at the start of season and we will help you join Webbers/leagues & coaching as desired.

Keen to get going/ready for rollup practise quite quickly.

Join as a Social Member and start with coaching; upgrade to full bowling membership when you are ready to practise regularly in roll-up and Webber sessions. Do this before Christmas to gain experience ready to begin playing in the New Bowlers League in January.

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

Start the coaching scheme as a social member and come along once a week. Upgrade to bowling membership as soon as you feel ready. Typical times might be:

- Any time you are ready to start to roll up for practise.
- Maybe to play in Webbers from November
- Before Christmas for the New Bowlers League
- Join for Summer Webber Bowling in May.

Social membership

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 and competitively priced refreshments and bar.

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-when you upgrade.

How the Club is managed

The elected Board of Directors are responsible for the management of Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club Ltd. They run the business of the Club such as financial control, property maintenance, the bar and catering. Directors are elected at the annual general meeting (AGM) in January. The day-to-day running of the Club is the responsibility of the Club Manager, Andy Knapper.

Various working groups take responsibility for different areas of the Board's activities. All members are encouraged to join or advise these groups where they have skills useful to a particular area or more general skills such as IT or maintenance capability.

The Bowling group has been given the responsibility for all day-to-day bowling matters including liaison with County and National Bowling Associations.

Other working groups are responsible for Finance & Estates, Membership & Marketing and Operations.

Names and photographs of all our Directors, Bowls committee members, Knights and Coaches are displayed within the club.

For all club policies and procedures please refer to the folder on the front desk or on the club website for more information.

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.

Mentoring

All new members will be assigned a mentor from our Knights volunteers' group; you will receive this information in your welcome email to the club.

The mentors are there to be a point of contact and reference when you need to discuss any club matters or if you are looking for advice.

They will point you in the right direction and assist you with your enquiry.

The Knights will also then support each of the new members league teams for the season. They will assist the captains in the organisation and running of each team.

Each Knight will have a badge with the logo below to assist in spotting them in and around the club.



Building Bowling Champions

“We all started as new bowlers and have worked our way up from novices to Commonwealth, World Champions and Internationals. We look forward to you starting your journey as a new bowler at Whiteknights Indoor Bowls Club.”

