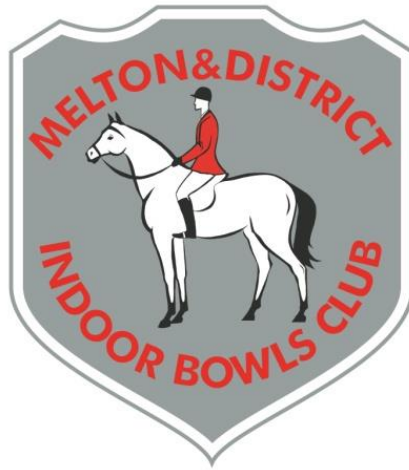




MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

Welcome Booklet

Introduction for new members

The Recruitment & Retention Team

May 2025

Recruitment & Retention Booklets

Booklet 1 Welcome Booklet

Booklet 2 New to the Game of Indoor Bowls

Booklet 3 Key Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls

Booklet 4 How to Play as Skip

Booklet 5 Being a Buddy

You can download these Booklets by visiting the Club website – www.meltonindoorbowls.co.uk and viewing the “Welcome” 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 Recruitment & Retention 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 3 free sessions (signed off by our organiser/bar staff on the rear of your card). These are to give you chance to decide whether you really like the game, and the Club, before having to commit to any major financial outlay.

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 (after a few weeks) will be 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 (i.e. not worn outdoors) 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 but the old name for the Recruitment & Retention Team. 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 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 of 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 preferred bowl 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 many players wear a plain, white collared (polo) shirt and grey slacks, trousers or skirts. It is now accepted that players may wear any “smart casual” clothing during social sessions and roll-ups (no replica shirts or jeans, please). The “Greys and Whites” are still mandatory for competitions and leagues of any sort. 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 £35 per pair upwards.

A set of 4 new woods can cost from £290 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 board in the bar lounge, or ask a coach whether we have any for sale in the storeroom. The bowls manufacturers can produce up to six different biases 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 red and grey coloured panels around the Club. These are members proudly wearing our Club colours.

A word of advice. Woods are heavy and can travel at quite a pace. Only stop woods, or even jacks, 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 on 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 onto their rink. **Please ensure that your mobile phones are switched off or set to silent near the rinks. They should not be used on the rink during play.** (A longer summary of the rules of Bowls Etiquette will be given in the second booklet.)

When can I play? Whenever there is a rink available. A standard session is two hours long. To book a rink you can go on-line (once issued with a password as a full member), or via the Bookings screen at the bar, or by phone to the bar staff. Select a rink and use your card details, enter number of players and type of session in the appropriate response boxes. Currently you pay the £3.50 per person fee on the day as you arrive to play. (N.B. the fee for non-members is £7.00.) 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 “social” bowling sessions and learn from playing with more experienced players. At the moment, these are the times of recommended sessions (and the attending coaches);

Tues	16.15	Open Session “New & Improvers” – with Peter Kipling & Ray Casey
Wed	16.15	Open Session – “All Welcome” – with Dave & Carol Pick

Wed	19.00	Open Session “New & Improvers” – with One of our coaches on rota
Sat	09.30	Junior Section – with Erica Warrington

Other social sessions include;

Mon 18.30 Club Gala – once you are confident #

Thurs 18.30 Club Gala – once you are confident #

Fri 14.00 “Come One, Come All” – with a coach

Limited availability sessions, you have to book a place ahead by adding your name to the list on the Gala noticeboard by Rink 1.

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 have your fee ready for collection or card for signing.

If any of the above coached sessions are difficult for you on a regular basis, then please contact **our Duty Coach on 07719 301 102** and they will try and suggest alternative sessions for you.

At the end of the sessions, please return your borrowed shoes and woods to the lockers in the locker room.

Get your questions answered by phone or text;

New & Improvers Coaches

Duty Coach 07719 301 102

Junior Section Organiser

via the above number

How do I use my free sessions? You have been issued three free rink sessions marked on the back of your temporary Membership card. You give your card to the session organiser as you check in to the session, they will sign off a session. Once you have used these sessions, you pay in £3.50 or buy some tokens from the bar (£17.50 for packs of 5). If just having a roll-up on your own, wait in the bar for the previous session to finish playing (you will hear their final bells) before going to your rink.

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 **the Duty Coach** ahead of your first session so that we can assess any necessary equipment and, if required, coaches can be made available for support.

How do I get full membership? Fill in the application form in your Membership pack (one of the coaches will check you have filled in everything correctly) and by paying the appropriate membership fee at the bar. If you want a locker, then fill in the locker form from Reception 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.

Your completed form(s) and attached bar receipt then go to the Office to be processed. Your (life-time) electronic Membership Card will be issued within about one week – until then you can just continue to use your temporary card as usual.

What happens as I improve as a player? 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 N&I sessions, and/or the Monday–Thursday Galas or the Friday “Come One, Come All” session. Or just book your own session with friends.

You will be encouraged to join League teams to play in Club competitions. There are both 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 players/teams held twice a year. These include both Open and restricted (e.g Novice, Intermediate, Over-60, Ladies, Men, Mixed, etc.) competitions. Juniors have competitions too!

Please note that as you progress in your playing experience, the Club Level 2 Coaches (there are currently 4 of them) will be happy to supply individual coaching sessions (free of charge) for players keen to improve their play. Watch out for our Open coaching sessions run once every 6 weeks – great fun and very challenging.

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 they are here as your guests.

Please ensure you 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 mug! The restaurant provides lunches 12.00–14.00 most days, and evenings from 18.00–20.30 on Wednesday 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 programmed into your Club Membership Card, or in your first weeks ask the bar person for the code. The changing rooms and toilets are through the automatic door 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 (in the locker room), 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, or it can be sent to you by e-mail.

The Club does have a website – 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 screens in the bar lounge. It is also worth keeping an eye on the Notice boards which run along the wall at 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.