



Grantham & District Indoor Bowls Club

Trent Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 7XQ.

Tele: 01476 578324

Email: gadibc1981@gmail.com

www.gdibc.co.uk

Facebook: Grantham & District Indoor Bowling Club

Welcome Booklet

Introduction for new members



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CLUB INFORMATION BOOKLETS

Information Booklet 1: Welcome Booklet

Information Booklet 2: New to the Game of Indoor Bowls

Information Booklet 3: Key Laws of the Sport of Indoor Bowls

You can download these booklets by visiting the club website – www.gdibc.co.uk
Sub section - Membership Information.

Grantham & District Indoor Bowling Club aims 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 a new member 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 Grantham & District Indoor Bowling Club



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CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome. You have taken the first 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 summary of facts about the club and the game, which will ease your first few weeks as you settle into the sport.

First the Golden Rules

The Bowling Green Area. The carpet playing area is 27.95 metres wide, 38.3 metres long and consists of 6 rinks. The playing carpet surface is the biggest asset of the club, costing over £45k to replace, and is not something that can be patch repaired.

For that reason;

1. Food and drink are strictly **NOT** allowed on or near the bowling area.
2. Your outdoor shoes **MUST NOT** be worn on the rinks – only flat-soled (no tread) recognised bowls shoes, kept clean for the game is allowed.
3. Bowls shoes **MUST NOT** be worn outside the building.

Emergency Exits. Please take a moment to look around the bowling area 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.



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What happens next? It is recommended that you spend at least two or three sessions with a coach to learn the basic skills. Please see the steward for further information regarding coaching.

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 variety of coloured shirts, (**T-shirts are not permitted**) and grey trousers or skirts. It is accepted that new members may not play in the appropriate kit during their trial period until they decide to join the club. You will also notice shirts with blue & yellow design & blue shorts/trousers worn around the club, these are our club colours and available for anybody to purchase, please enquire with the steward for further information.

When you decide to buy your own flat-soled shoes (no tread), the choice is varied, and recognised suppliers can be found on-line. We recommend [Jack and Bowl Limited](#).

A new set of 4 woods can cost from upwards of £300 even more reason for not dashing into a purchase. Many players start with a set of second-hand woods, there are often adverts for used woods on the club notice boards or alternatively online. The main manufacturers can produce up to several different biases in varying sizes and colours. You may need to try several woods before settling on the right size and bias for you.

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, will expand the rules of etiquette associated with the game in play.

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 are **not** on the green.



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When can I play? Whenever there is a rink available. A standard session is two hours long. To book a rink, until you get the hang of the booking system consult with the steward and advise the number of players requesting to play on the rink. You pay the rink fee per person at the bar before you play. As advised earlier, it is recommended that your first sessions are with club coach. As your confidence improves, you will be encouraged to join in with other “social” bowling sessions, e.g. social bowling and friendly games to learn playing the game with more experienced players. All friendly games can be found in the Year Book, please enquire with the steward for further information.

Who can join? The club is happy to see you join whether you are aged 8 or 95+, male or female, non-experienced or experienced, alone or in a group. Players with disabilities are welcome, but we would ask that you contact the steward ahead of your first session so that any necessary equipment and coaches can be made available.

How do I get full membership? Complete the application form and pay the appropriate membership fee at the bar. If you require a locker (you will see these either in the ladies changing room or in the passageway leading to the green), tick the box on the form and add the appropriate fee to your membership payment. If you prefer, there is no need to have a locker straight away as you can apply for a locker later. Your completed form and attached receipt then go to the Office to be processed. Once the office has processed your membership form you will be issued with a membership number and a membership card, this will be placed in the alphabetical pigeon holes in front of the notice board.

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 social bowling sessions; you will be encouraged to join or even form league teams and to play in club competitions. Between the months of September to April inclusive, winter leagues from Pairs, Triples & Four’s run each day of the week during the year. During the summer period leagues are available but limited.

What facilities are available at the Club? This is a member’s club. This means that if you bring non-members with you to the clubhouse then you are required to sign them in the Visitors Book at the bar.

Please ensure that you and any guests comply with the no smoking rules on the club premises.

The bar in the clubhouse serves a variety of alcoholic and soft drinks at extremely affordable pricing. For those who prefer something in a cup, there are also hot beverages available! Additionally, a dining space is available for hire at a discounted rate for members or at a set rate for non-members, with catering provided if needed. This dining/lounging space is perfect for meetings, quiz nights, family gatherings, weddings, and more. Please ask the steward if you would like to rent the function room.



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Welfare & Changing Room Facilities - The ladies and gents changing rooms are located to your right as you enter the building with the disabled, ladies and gent's toilet opposite.

How do I find out about Club activities? The Club does have a website and can be found at www.gdibc.co.uk where you can find out about the club's activities, you can also find the club on Facebook @ Grantham & District Indoor Bowling Club
In the lounge area, we have monitors displaying the league tables and adverts for coming events.

Enough reading, let's get you on the green and play bowls!

Enjoy yourself.