

LATEST UPDATE MAY 1st

Following the sad closure of the Richard Herrod Centre yesterday, we wanted to update you on where things stand and, importantly, to share some positive news about the future of Gedling Indoor Bowling Club.

Currently we are going through decommissioning the bowling hall and many thanks to everyone that has and is supporting that activity.

After constructive negotiations with the Council, we are pleased to confirm that the Club's financial position is very healthy. This puts us in a strong and stable position moving forward. Our priority is to use these funds wisely — to prolong the life of the Club and, ultimately, to support the ambition of securing new premises in the future.

However, the strength of our Club is not just financial — it is our membership. Quite simply, we cannot achieve these goals without you.

With that in mind, we have been working hard to secure playing opportunities for **all** members. We have had very positive discussions with South Forest Indoor Bowling Club and the owners of the South Forest Complex, and those conversations are progressing well as we explore the potential for a temporary home there.

At the same time, we are in discussions with Nottingham Indoor Bowls Centre who have already confirmed we can use their centre for our summer leagues. We are encouraged that both venues are supportive, keen to work with us, and recognise the importance of Gedling retaining its own identity and ensuring we retain Gedling as a viable bowling club in the County.

Both venues/clubs are open to providing rink space and helping us continue as a club. In fact both Clubs have indicated that should we have our own Gedling League Teams and they have availability for more teams in one of their leagues we can play as Gedling but in the leagues they already have established.

A key principle for us is fairness. We must ensure that all members are treated equitably, whether you choose to bowl under Gedling's banner at Nottingham or at South Forest or both. At the same time, we must ensure that we "pay our way" with both centres. For now, the Management Committee and Bowls Committee will work together to make decisions about the agreements we put in place and will continue to work together to shape the future of your Club.

We are also delighted to confirm that we have entered the Fantastic Fives competition this summer, and it is great to see some South Forest members joining us — a positive example of collaboration already taking shape.

We recognise that change is not easy. Our immediate focus is to keep things as simple as possible and to ensure that we have rink space available so members can continue to bowl. We ask for your patience while we finalise arrangements.

Understanding your preferences is essential. The questionnaire you have received is a key part of this process — it allows us to match rink availability with what members want for both the summer and winter seasons. If you haven't already done so, please take the time to complete and return it via email to Sharon.

We appreciate that some members have already joined, or are considering joining, Nottingham or South Forest to guarantee playing opportunities. That is entirely understandable, and we remain hopeful that we can still offer a full and meaningful winter programme under the Gedling banner.

Sharon will shortly be contacting those who have expressed an interest in summer leagues. While these may start slightly later than usual, as long as there is sufficient interest, leagues will be organised — so now is a good time to start thinking about your teams.

Looking ahead to the 2026/27 season, we will be offering a significantly reduced Gedling membership fee for those who wish to remain part of the Club. Once agreements with Nottingham and South Forest are finalised, we will provide full details of how these arrangements will work in practice.

Finally, we wanted to confirm that as a CASC-registered club, there are clear guidelines on how we can use our funds. These include:

- Facility hire or leases
- Equipment and maintenance
- Coaching and development
- Supporting participation (including subsidising access where appropriate)
- Maintaining reasonable reserves to ensure long-term sustainability

Everything we are doing is focused on keeping Gedling Indoor Bowling Club together, active, and moving forward, but we cannot do that without you.

Thank you for your continued support during what is undoubtedly a challenging period. There is a great deal to be positive about, and we look forward to shaping the next chapter of the Club together.

Kind regards,

The Management and Bowls Committee
Gedling Indoor Bowling Club