

Dear Members,

## **GIBC – Summer and Winter Bowling Arrangements Update**

We hope you are all well.

Following the sad closure of the Richard Herrod Centre, we wanted to update everyone on the arrangements now in place for both the summer period and our planning for the 2026/27 winter season. The Management Committee and Bowls Committee have been busy not only with decommissioning the bowling hall - and we thank everyone who has supported that - but also meeting with various people including the owner at South Forest, the South Forest Bowls Committee and the Nottingham Indoor Management Team and Bowls Committee.

### **Summer Arrangements**

We are pleased to confirm that summer bowling opportunities have now been secured at both Nottingham (NM) and South Forest (SF).

The proposed summer leagues are as follows:

#### **Nottingham Indoor Bowls Club**

- Wednesdays at 10.30am
- Proposed start date: 1st June
- Format: 3 rinks (Aussie Pairs) - minimum of 6 teams required

#### **South Forest Indoor Bowls Club**

- Mondays at 10.30am
- Proposed start date: 1st June
- Format: 3 rinks (Aussie Pairs) - minimum of 6 teams required

We are currently finalising team numbers for both venues, so thank you to everyone who has already expressed an interest. If you have not yet done so and would like to take part, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing Sharon on [gedlingindoorbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:gedlingindoorbowlsclub@gmail.com)

If you want to play but don't have a team then please let Sharon know and you will be entered into a team.

We are also looking to formalise rink time for the 50s Group and would welcome confirmation of where and when you wish to bowl so that those times can be confirmed and the rink space secured.

#### **Fantastic Fives**

We are also pleased to confirm that GIBC has entered a team into the Fantastic Fives competition this season.

We are very much looking forward to representing GIBC and would greatly appreciate your support when the matches take place. Fixture details will be circulated as soon as they are confirmed.

#### **Winter Programme Planning – 2026/27**

Planning is now well underway for our 2026/27 winter bowling programme, and we are actively exploring league opportunities across both Nottingham Indoor Bowls Club and South Forest Indoor Bowls Club. From the information we have received there is lots of opportunity to run a full programme.

Both Clubs have been extremely supportive and are very keen to help ensure that Gedling continues to retain its own identity and thrive going forward. They are doing everything they can to support us in building a sustainable and enjoyable programme for all members.

To help us put together the strongest possible programme, we particularly need to understand what the 50s Group would like to do next season, including:

- Your preferred venue – Nottingham or South Forest
- Your preferred day(s) of play
- Your preferred time(s)

This information is extremely important, as it will allow us to negotiate the most suitable slots and build a programme that works for as many members as possible.

We would therefore be very grateful if members of the 50s Group could let us know their preferences as soon as possible.

### **National Competitions**

We are also planning to enter both the:

- Egham Trophy
- Top Club

Following discussion, and despite our excellent success in the Yetton Plate this season, we have taken the view that entering both the Yetton and the Denny at this stage may stretch our playing resources too far. There is also the risk of committing to substantial entry fees without sufficient certainty around player availability.

We therefore believe that focusing our efforts on competitions where we can field strong, committed teams gives us the best opportunity to compete successfully while managing costs responsibly.

### **Membership Arrangements**

For the **2026/27 season**, **GIBC full membership will be £20.00 per member**, payable from **1 September 2026**. Membership forms will be circulated later in the summer.

For members who wish to remain as **Gedling-only members**, **Gedling Indoor Bowls Centre Limited (GIBCL)** will pay an agreed **Access Membership** fee on your behalf to Nottingham and/or South Forest to enable you to bowl at either venue as part of GIBC.

For Gedling-only members, **rink fees will be £5.20 for a two-hour session** whether you play at Nottingham or South Forest.

When membership forms are issued, you will be asked to indicate which venue you wish to use as your **primary bowling centre** so that we can complete the necessary registration arrangements. This does **not** prevent you from bowling at both venues—it simply allows us to register you correctly for administrative, league, and competition purposes. As a **Gedling-only member** the only thing you will not have access to at Nottingham or South Forest are Nottingham or South Forest club competitions, or to represent them in National competitions.

You will remain a **Gedling & District Indoor Bowls Club** member and, under this arrangement, Gedling-only members will **not** need to pay a separate membership fee to Nottingham or South Forest in order to bowl there—unless, of course, you choose to become a full member of either club, which is your choice.

If you decide to join Nottingham or South Forest as a **full member**, GIBCL will not need to pay an Access Membership on your behalf. You may still remain a GIBC member, however your

primary club registration for **national competitions** will be linked to the club where you choose to enter Nationals from.

We hope these arrangements are clear, but if you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Management Committee or Bowls Committee.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and commitment to the club. Please continue to support GIBC wherever possible.

Kind regards,

Gedling Indoor Management and Bowls Committee

## **GIBC – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **1. Do I have to choose between Nottingham and South Forest?**

No. Members are free to bowl at either venue (subject to rink availability). However, we need to know your **primary bowling venue** for registration and administrative purposes.

### **2. What does “primary bowling venue” mean?**

This is the venue where your membership will be registered for administrative purposes, including Gedling club competition eligibility where applicable.

### **3. Will I still be a GIBC member?**

Yes. All members paying GIBC membership will remain members of **Gedling & District Indoor Bowls Club**.

### **4. Do I have to join Nottingham or South Forest as a full member?**

No. If you are a **Gedling-only member**, Gedling Indoor Bowls Centre Limited will pay the agreed **Access Membership** on your behalf, allowing you to bowl at either venue without becoming a full member of Nottingham or South Forest but still having access to bowl at each centre.

### **5. What will I pay as a Gedling-only member?**

- **GIBC membership:** £20.00 for the 2026/2027 season (from 1 September 2026)
- **Rink fees:** £5.20 for a two-hour session at either venue

### **6. What if I am already a full member of Nottingham or South Forest and do not wish to remain a member of GIBC?**

That is absolutely fine. In that case, Gedling Indoor Bowls Centre Limited will not pay an Access Membership on your behalf, and your primary registration will normally be with the club where you hold full membership.

### **7. Can I be a member of more than one club?**

Yes, just because we no longer have our own venue it does not change any of the former arrangements you had for your bowling. You can be a member of as many clubs as you wish. As we no longer have our own venue it is only for year 1 that Gedling Indoor Bowling Centre Limited will pay an “**Access Membership**” for bowlers who **only** want to join and be members at Gedling to enable your access to either Nottingham or South Forest.

### **8. Can I still play national competitions for GIBC?**

Yes, subject to Bowls England/EIBA registration rules. Where members hold full membership elsewhere, competition registration will need to align with the club you want to play your National Competitions from.

### **9. What is happening with the Over 50 Group?**

We are currently seeking feedback from the group regarding preferred venue, days, and times so that rink space can be secured for both summer and winter.

### **10. What is happening for winter 2026/27?**

We are currently working with both Nottingham and South Forest to develop a winter programme that preserves GIBC's identity and offers as many league opportunities as possible along with an Adams team and we hope a joint Coppock team with South Forest ladies.

### **11. Who do I contact if I have any questions?**

Please contact any member of the Management Committee or Bowls Committee, or email Sharon at: [gedlingindoorbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:gedlingindoorbowlsclub@gmail.com)