St Neots & District
Indoor Bowls Club

NEW MEMBERS GUIDE
2026-2027

St Neots & District Indoor Bowling Club
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This document is designed to provide information to all new bowlers at St Neots Indoor Bowls Club.

One of the top clubs in England, we are a thriving club with a fantastic bowling and social section and a range of ages and abilities across our 500 members; it is a club for all!

Here at SNIBC we want to support and guide you through the next steps, whether you are considering joining or have recently joined as a member.

The following information will help you decide what type of membership is right for you. When you are ready to join please see the prices below.

Membership Subscriptions

Adult Bowling - Annual (1st Oct – 30th Sept)	£85.00
Junior - Annual (under 18/full time education)	£10.00
Social Membership	£20.00
New Bowling Member	£50.00

Anyone joining as a Social Member wishing to upgrade to Adult Bowling will receive a discount to include the Social Membership fee paid.

Lockers

Locker Deposit	£10.00
Annual Locker Rental	£4.00
Replacement Key for Locker	£6.00
Replacement Membership card	£5.00

How to pay:

By Internet Banking

If this is your preferred method of payment, please ensure the following actions are taken:

1. Payment is made to **St Neots District Indoor Bowling Club**
2. Sort Code 20-74-81, Account Number 70776017
3. The payment reference should be your full name.
4. Please e-mail the club (snibc@outlook.com) when you have made the payment giving full details i.e. Date of payment and amount.
5. Please make sure that your completed membership form is given to either the Club Administrator, Bar Staff or Assistant Treasurer.

By Cheque

Made payable to: **St Neots District Indoor Bowling Club**

Please write name and locker number (if applicable) on the back of the cheque and either hand this to a member of staff listed above with your completed Membership form or post these to the address on the front cover.

By Cash

To be paid to the Club Administrator or Bar Staff with your completed Membership form.

What do I get for my Membership?

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

This gives you access to all areas of St Neots with full and unlimited access to bowling and social activities (at additional cost) including:

- Coaching
- Spoon Drives (organised roll-up sessions)
- League Bowls
- Club Competition Bowls
- National Competition Bowls
- Friendly Matches (See Fixture List)
- Casual roll-up sessions

Full Membership also includes all the activities shown under Social Membership.

Social Membership

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

- Use of the Bar
- Use of the book and jigsaw library
- Ability of watch bowls through the day at the club
- Social Events, such as:
    - Quiz Nights
    - Horse Racing Nights
    - Bingo/Games Nights
    - Ukulele Night

- And much more!

Social Membership – restricted bowling access

- Up to 3 x 2-hour bowling sessions

See the enclosed fixture list for this year's dates and watch the website and boards around the club for additional dates/information.

Equipment

Once you start to play bowls, we would suggest starting to buy your own equipment, but for the first few months we do have sets of bowls and shoes that can be used. (Just ask a member of staff for the key to the coaching cupboard)

Occasionally we have second hand sets of bowls for sale from our current members; this is a great way of starting out as you can pick up bowls at a highly reduced price. The 'for sale' board is located next to the ladies changing rooms.

If you need advice on sets of bowls, then you can discuss this with the Club Administrator or one of the coaches who will be happy to help you.

To buy new equipment, you can contact:

- Bowls Bi-Us who are located in Doddington, March. The Elmore's can offer you great advice from their extensive knowledge and experience.
- Jack&Bowl – run by Mark Royal. They also visit the Club 3 or 4 times a year!
- Riverain Bowls Shop located in Hitchin
- Potters Bowls Shop located in Hopton-on-sea

There are a few other retailers you can find online and Facebook pages that you can purchase equipment from as well as sites like EBAY.

When you are starting out you will need the following:

- A set of bowls (4)
- A bowls carrier
- Flat soled bowls shows

Optional Equipment:

- Bowls Measure
- Chalk

Coaching

All of our coaches' certificates are displayed in the club by the 'coaching' board.

If you are interested in coaching, we will be holding sessions the week after our Open Weekend in September, which you are more than welcome to attend – the date for the Open Days will be advertised nearer the time within the Club and on our Facebook & Website. The sessions will run for 6 weeks leading up to Christmas. We will keep you informed of when these sessions will be, but we aim for 1 daytime session, 1 weekday evening and 1 weekend.

Or alternatively you can contact one of our coaches to organise 1 to 1 sessions.

Sessions are £4.50 and are led by our coaching team; these are great sessions that will guide you on all aspects of the game.

The coaching team will provide you with bowls for these sessions. All you need to bring is shoes.

What to wear

- All events – regulation flat soled bowls shoes in order to protect the carpet.
- Roll ups/Spoon drives/League matches – predominantly white shirt, unless purchased from a bowls manufacturer or red club shirt, grey/black tailored trousers or bowls manufacturer trousers/shorts.
- Friendly Matches – red club shirt, below the waist will be specified on the fixture sheet but it is usually black/grey as listed above.
- National Matches – red club shirt, grey/black below the waist.

Under no circumstances are jeans, chinos or leggings allowed.

Practise

To enhance the skills you have learned at coaching or elsewhere, book a roll up to practise on your own or with a small group. Practise makes perfect!

Once you have joined as a member you can book a rink by…

- Coming into the club to check availability in the rink diary on the ipad, located next to the front desk.
- Phoning the club on 01480 218119
- Emailing the club on snibc@outlook.com
- Once you have received your member number, logging in our online diary using 'Bowlr'

During the winter season we usually have rinks available Monday-Friday during the following sessions:

- 10:30am-12:30pm
- 12:30pm-2:30pm
- 2:30pm-4:30pm
- 4:30pm-6:30pm
- 6:30pm-8:30pm

Weekend sessions are subject to change so please contact a member of staff if you are interested in booking then.

Rink Fees

Rink fees are £4.50 for a 2 hour session. Please put your rink fees in the allocated bag at the end of your rink and hand them in to the bar staff before the start of your session.

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 tactic, rules and etiquette. We have lots of teams who play in various leagues across all time slots and days. We run the following leagues listed below;

League	Day	Time
A.M Triples Div 1	Tuesday	10:30-12:30
A.M Triples Div 2	Monday	10:30-12:30
A.M Triples Div 3	Thursday	10:30-12:30
Tuesday Midday	Tuesday	12:30-14:30
P.M Triples Div 1	Monday	14:30-16:30
P.M Triples Div 2	Wednesday	14:30-16:30
P.M Triples Div 3	Tuesday	14:30-16:30
P.M Pairs	Thursday	16:30-18:30
Early Evening	Monday	18:30-20:30
Wednesday Evening Pairs	Wednesday	18:30-20:30
Invitation Shield (Outdoor Clubs League)	Thursday	18:30-20:30

Please remember that you can only play in 1 division of the same league. For example if you join an A.M Triples Division 3 team you cannot then join an A.M Triples Division 2 or Division 1 team.

How to join an existing team

- You may be approached by a team captain of a league team asking you to join their team
- Putting your name down on the list of members looking for a team, located next to the league tables
- Looking on the list of teams looking for new players, also located next to the league tables.
- Speaking to the Club Administrator.

Setting up a new team

Why not create a new league team with some of your fellow new or existing bowlers.

The deadline for registering a new team is the end of April for the following season. New team forms will usually be available from March, but if you are unsure please speak to the Club Administrator who will gladly assist you with this.

Spoon Drives

Spoon drives are organised social/semi competitive roll up sessions. During the winter we have 1 open spoon drive on a Thursday at 12:30pm.

During the summer spoon drives are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 and Wednesday evenings at 18:30.

No need to book a rink or find others to play with, just turn up!

Spoon Drive Structure

Turn up around 30 minutes before the session. Register and pay your fee at the front desk. Registration will usually close 10 minutes before the start of the session. After we have the number of attendees, the format will be decided (pairs, triples, fours). You will then randomly draw a token from the bag which will tell you which rink you are playing on, which position you are playing (lead, two, three, skip) and whether you are home or away on the scoreboard (red = home, black = away).

During the summer we input the scores into a league table, where you can move up or down the table depending on how well you did that week.

The cost of Spoon Drives in the winter is £4.50 and the cost of Spoon Drives in the summer is £5.00 + £2.00 registration fee per league.

Friendly Matches

We have several home and away friendly matches against other indoor and outdoor clubs. These fixtures are displayed on the fixture list enclosed and on the 'friendly' board by the main entrance.

If you wish to play in these games, please put your name down on the lists located on the 'friendly' board. Each friendly usually consists of 18 players and once the list is filled for a particular date, the first 18 names will be taken and put into teams, which will then be published on the notice board.

The cost of a friendly match is approximately £15.00; this includes a 4-hour match and a hot meal after the match.

Club 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 Men's and Mixed competitions you must submit your entry form by the 31st October which are usually displayed around the club, or you can ask the club administrator for a copy. To enter Ladies Competitions please put your name down on the sign-up sheets located on the ladies notice board.

Once the deadline for competition entries has passed, the competition secretary will draw the competitions and publish the draws on the noticeboards with the times and dates of the matches.

The cost of entry to Club Competitions is £3.00 per person.

National Competitions

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.

The cost of entry to National Competitions is £5.00 per person.

The cost of playing a National Competition at home is £5.50

What membership right for me?

Only you can decide that but as a rough guide consider your goals and attitudes when you decide to join.

Existing bowler, new to St Neots IBC or extra keen beginner?

Join at the start of the season - £85.00 and we will help you join spoon drives, leagues & coaching as desired.

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. You can join the coaching and have a limited number of practise session while you decide. Remember you only pay the difference between Social Membership and Bowling Membership if you upgrade.

Social Membership is only £20!!

Finally, we want to welcome you to St Neots Indoor Bowling Club whether you decide to join or have just enjoyed coming in for the day to see what bowls is all about.

If you have already joined, we wish you many happy hours of bowling where you will meet new friends with whom to enjoy our many social and bowling activities. ☺