

Finance Report for 2025-2026

The last financial year has in many ways been a stabilising year. The expenditure has been more than matched by income. This has brought about a halt to the downward trend in previous years for both subs & rink fees. There have been a number of significant reasons for this, with some listed below

1. The move to introduce the graduated subscriptions has increased the membership activity forcing a rise in the income through subscription & rink fees.
2. The activity by a number of Management Committee members to ensure maximum attendance in the Wednesday Pairs evening & the Monday Triples has also significantly developed income. Closer monitoring of club ties has also aided this.
3. A tentative but useful start to the Outdoor /Indoor Sunday league with the new rink fees income.
4. The contribution from the Aussie Pairs played throughout the summer & the sponsorship from our Honorary President. The result has also increased the playing days in the bounce games, during the summer.
5. Improved return over the bar with a reduction in paid staff hours.
6. External hiring of club facilities including the boardroom.

This has helped to retain the High Interest Account with over £47,000 in this account, & a growth in our easy access deposit account. This has certainly allowed the Management Committee to feel a high level of confidence in moving forward. It is the continued hope that the club will continue to live within its means & see this buffer sustained.

The club continues to be fortunate on the Management side to have members who reduce costs with their personal skills for maintenance & now also for IT, Website & Social media expertise. The use of these skills will become more important to sell the club & its activities to the local communities.

As mentioned in last year's report the rink fees will be maintained at £4 for a two hour session.

There is continually a need to look at our various contracts. The most significant of these are those for power & heat. Our current power & gas suppliers have not always kept on top of our accurate usage & that requires considerable vigilance on our part. This required an accrual in last year's accounts of £7000 which will not be the case going forward. It does still require sensible use of what is a volatile market for energy. Similarly the club has switched its contract for water & sewerage which might bring some reduced invoices as the daily charge is much more attractive. This is with Everflow.

We are again grateful to Kimberly (& Linda) for keeping on top of our daily cash flow & ensuring it is banked on time. The management through Sage is complex, but supplies the Management Committee with important monthly updates.

It is of huge satisfaction that the aim to balance income & expenditure has been met this year & that the increase in income will allow the club to maintain & develop its quality.

The Management Report

Another successful season although the Committee has had issues to resolve, at present all are in hand. We must thank our caterer Ann for all her hard work during the whole season keeping us fed & watered. To Kenny & Billy a grateful thanks as without them the club would not be working as well as it is. We are very fortunate to have a really strong working committee & my grateful thanks to one & all for their input, enthusiasm & dedication in making FIBC a strong & viable club.

We, as I write this, are looking at a new scoring system for the club, hopefully this will be in place by the start of our winter season. This will be partly funded by our 200 club & rental of our boardroom.

The 200 club is going well although we still have plenty numbers available. A personal mention & massive thank you to David Fairweather who has again helped in every area of the club & has been my sounding board on many occasions!

A big congratulations to Falkirk's Martin McCalley & Gary Hutchison for again winning the SIBA 2 bowl pairs.

The Management Committee met on 11 occasions during the year. The attendance of the committee members was as follows:

President Elaine Sellars 10; **Secretary** Linda Crate 7; **Treasurer** Ian Scott 7; **Vice President** Richard O'Grady 9; **Past Pres.** Zander Ness 6; David Fairweather 10; Caitlin Stanners 5; Billy Dougall 7; John Stewart 8; David Orr 10; Kenny Welton 8; Alan Hutchison 6; Ann Paterson 9

Seniors

The team began the season once again with high hopes & started off with a fine away victory at Stirling but followed that up with a bad loss to East Fife at home. A lack of consistency across the remaining games meant that we finished the season in a disappointing fifth place, which is probably the lowest position for several years. We need to find a consistency along with a determination to fight across all the rinks when the games swing away from us, we are also very quiet & accepting in circumstances when crucial situations are not going our way, this needs to change.

As always, we managed to introduce a couple of new faces, we are once again hoping that we will find some more for next season it should also be mentioned that we lost Seona to a bad injury for the whole campaign, we wish her a speedy recovery to full fitness.

Senior Scottish Cup This season's cup was very short & sweet as we lost 6-4 on shots to Stirling at Fintry IBC.

Senior Nationals There were no successes at all in these competitions this year although Zander Ness & Alan Fletcher were beaten in the Semi-finals of the Pairs.

TOP 6 The team started off with a fine 4-2 win over old adversaries Abbeyview at Bainfield, then followed that up in the Quarter final with another 4-2 win over West Lothian at Lanarkshire IBC. This set up a Semi-final which was a repeat of last year's final against Bainfield at Abbeyview unfortunately it wasn't to be & we lost 2-4. It was however a decent campaign.

League Winners: -

Mon A league: W Craigie, J Wilson, A Baird, W Ramsay, G Pyle, M Littlejohn

Mon B League: P Johnston, M Burt, H Gillespie, M McGuire, M Flynn, V Smith

Tues A League: A Coutts, A Fletcher, A Ness, D Thomson, G Sneddon, M Graham

Tues B League: W Barrett, D Bradley, S Marshall, I Clark, M McCallum

Thurs A League: W Craigie, A Ness, N Lewis, I Donaldson, R Reid, J Burt

Thurs B League: M Easton, I Barr, J Scott, D Hallmark, R McWilliams

Senior Competitions Winners: -

Billy Buchanan A Coutts

Walter Falconer Handicap A Ness

3 set Singles A Hutchison

Senior Singles A Ness

4 bowl Pairs A Ness, A Fletcher

Triples M Littlejohn, N Lewis, W Craigie

Fours A Reid, D Thomson, T Russell, I Drylie

Last Chance K Welton, G Ferrier, M Wilson, B McQueen

In the Nationals Martin McCalley & Gary Hutchison were victorious in winning the National 2 Bowl Pairs for the second time in three years. A phenomenal achievement. Martin & Gary also represented Scotland in Belfast at the British Isles Championships.

As for the Gents ties, all were completed this year before the closing of the club & entries in all competitions were up on previous years. Lessons have still been learned & next season will see the ties start a little earlier & be more spread out.

Ladies

We welcome Seona Black as the new Lady President & wish her all the best for the next 3 years. We hope to have a bingo this coming season & any help with prizes etc. will as always be appreciated. The Ladies will drop down to league one in the Inter Club League for 26/27 season and look forward to playing Cumbernauld, Fintry & Glasgow B. Hopefully this will only be temporary & we will be back to the premier league in 27/28.

Tuesday Ladies League winners: - Helen McPhail runner up:- Anne Paterson

Singles: - winner: - Karen Dawson runner up: - Nicola Orr

2 bowl Pairs: - winner: - Margaret Burt / Helen Gillespie runner up: - Nicola Orr/ Linda Crate

4 bowls Pairs:-winner:-Arlene Todd/Karen Dawson runner up: - Heather Wallace/Michaela Stirling

Snr Pairs: - winner: - Karen Dawson/ Maureen McGuire runner up: - Margaret Burt / Helen Gillespie

The ladies wish all the sections every success for the coming season

Gents

The 2025/26 season was very much a season of ups and downs.

The Gents evening leagues were very much a success from the previous year. The Monday Night Triples rose from 6 teams to 10. The Wednesday night Pairs league rose from 5 teams to 16 with only one team dropping out near the end of the season. The introduction of non members playing in these leagues has definitely helped & the extra funds from rink fees has helped with the clubs finances.

The Gents SIBA team was extremely hopeful of qualifying from the Premier League B they were drawn in. Unfortunately, the initial 4 games came one week after the other and the team struggled to get a full team available and we lost all 4 of these games. The high point of the League campaign came in the 50 shot home victory over eventual League winners Glasgow. This gave the team an outside chance of staying up but results didn't go our way and a final home defeat to WoS saw the team relegated into Division 1 for next season.