

Notes re Application for Membership of the Club – ‘what you are signing up to’

INTRODUCTION

Bowls is a game that anyone can enjoy, whether you are fit or unfit, skilled or unskilled, young or elderly; there is a niche for you in our bowling club. You are not compelled to play in any friendly or league matches or other competitions, but it is highly likely you will quickly find yourself joining in friendly matches where friendship and conviviality are more important than winning. In addition to the annual fees there is a rink fee payable of £2.00 for matches and for organised roll-up (practice) sessions both outdoors on the green in the summer and for indoor short mat games in the winter. This is to help cover the cost of maintaining the green and for the heating and lighting of the clubhouse. There is no charge for individual practice sessions.

GETTING STARTED

New members, who are inexperienced in bowling, will be expected to have a short course of instruction in technique, etiquette and care of the green and short mats from one of our coaches or senior members.

DRESS AND EQUIPMENT

You will need to wear flat heel-less shoes for bowling outdoors on the green and indoors on the short mats. For roll-up practice sessions members can wear smart casual clothing of their choice. When you start playing friendly or league matches the dress code is a club shirt and either grey or white trousers/skirt and, if necessary, a white sweater/fleece. The fixture list will indicate which of the friendly and league matches require grey or white trousers/skirt to be worn.

For those new to bowling the Club has a selection of various sets of bowls which you can use for a short period of time. This will allow you to practice the game and identify the correct size and weight of bowl that suits your size of hand. At some point you will be ready to buy your own bowls. As you progress you will find that waterproofs, measuring tape and wedges, will also be desirable.

SOCIAL BOWLING

In the summer the green is normally available for play every day from 1.00 pm until dusk. Organised roll-ups are arranged on Tuesday and Friday afternoons when you can meet and play with club members. At other times, unless a Club six-rink match or event is in progress, at least one rink is always available to play on. Where rink availability is restricted you will be expected to invite other members to join you if they also wish to roll-up. During the winter we play short mat in the Clubhouse. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons are designated for organised roll-ups. However, you can roll up at other times during the week if there are no other activities being held in the clubhouse and if access is available.

A friendly match is usually played every weekend in the summer, either on Saturday or Sunday, with the game being either ‘at home’ on our green or ‘away’ at another club. Occasionally games are arranged for both days. During the winter, short mat friendly matches with other clubs and organisations are played on some weekends and evenings during the week either ‘at home’ or ‘away’.

You may put your name down for any of these friendly games, if you are available, regardless of your ability. Selection is from those members available, including ‘new’ bowlers, usually on a rota basis.

COMPETITIONS

When you feel able, there are Club competitions you may wish to enter and a number of internal one day events when club members can pit their bowling skills against each other.

OTHER MATCH ACTIVITIES

During the summer we have league matches on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and on Thursday afternoons. In the winter, Monday evening is dedicated to our own internal members’ league whilst on Thursday afternoon we compete in the Basingstoke league competition.

HELPING YOUR CLUB TO SUCCEED

The Club has no paid staff so it relies upon members volunteering to do the numerous tasks that need to be done to keep the Club functioning. A committee member is responsible for one of the operational areas mentioned below and any help an individual member can give to help provide and maintain the excellent facilities that we have at the club is appreciated. If you would like to volunteer in one or more of these operational task areas please contact the appropriate committee member (see notice board).

Operational task areas:

- looking after the green, the ground around the green, hedges and flower beds;
- looking after the clubhouse - maintaining the exterior and exterior lighting, maintaining the interior, lighting, fittings and equipment, and keeping it clean and tidy;
- providing catering and bar facilities for friendly and league matches, competitions, tournaments, social events; and
- looking after raising funds for existing facilities and new ones for the benefit of members.