



## **Bellingham Bowling Club**

# **MEMBERS' HANDBOOK**

**Last updated: May 2023**



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## INTRODUCTION TO THE CLUB

Bellingham Bowling Club is formally 'Bellingham Bowling Company Ltd' and is a company limited by guarantee and not having share capital. Membership of the Club is open to any person, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief or ability, who completes a membership application form and pays the relevant subscription/joining fee as determined by the Club.

The Club's aim is to foster and promote the sport of flat green and short mat bowls at all levels, providing opportunities for recreation and competition.

The Club has a number of Sections/membership categories:

- Men's/Ladies' Outdoor Section Member.
- Men's/Ladies' Outdoor Section Junior Member: under 18 years of age.
- Short Mat Section Member.
- Social Member.
- Life Member.
- Country Member (*Playing member whose permanent residence is more than 40 miles from The Club*).

To keep up to date with what's going on at Bellingham see:

[bellinghambowlingclub.co.uk](http://bellinghambowlingclub.co.uk) and [facebook.com/BellinghamBowlingClub.Catford](https://facebook.com/BellinghamBowlingClub.Catford)



## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Directors of the Company act as the Executive Officers of the Club and form its Management Committee.

The Directors are currently:

Ivor Lewis	Company Secretary	07895 498695	ivorlewis@ntlworld.com
Paul Buck	Bar Director	07907 169942	pbucko@virginmedia.com
VACANCY	Bowls Director		
VACANCY	Communications Director		
Lawrie Smith	Development Director	07947 407699	smith.l@ntlworld.com
VACANCY	Entertainments Director		
Bob Cumming	Finance Director	07753 632140	bob.cumming@ntlworld.com
VACANCY	Grounds and Building Facilities Director		
Katharine Dempsey	Without Portfolio	07837 180846	katharinedempsey23@gmail.com

The Management Committee is responsible for such things as governance; financial management; building, grounds and greens maintenance; social events; bar

management; membership records; recruitment; Club development; oversight of the Bowls Sections; safeguarding; Health & Safety – and much more. Members of the Management Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, from and by the members. They are elected for a period not exceeding three years, with one third retiring from office each year or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest one third shall retire from office. A retiring member of the Management Committee is eligible for re-election and may be re-elected to the same role or a different one.



## **SECTIONAL BOWLS COMMITTEES**

Both the Men's and the Ladies Outdoor Sections, together with the Short Mat Section, have their own committees.

Both the Men's and the Ladies Outdoor Section Committee consists of Captain, Vice-Captain, Secretary, Match Secretary and up to four additional members.

The short mat Section Committee consists of Secretary, Match Secretary, Competitions Secretary, Treasurer and up to three additional members

In addition, both the Men's and the Ladies Outdoor Sections have Selection Committees comprising of the Captain, Vice-Captain and three other Section members, who are responsible for all Section team selection throughout the season.

All three Section Committees are responsible for organizing their own Section's Club competitions. The Men's and the Ladies Outdoor Sections liaise with each other to organize all internal casual matches and organized spoons/roll-ups.



## **CLUB PRESIDENT**

The Club also has a President who has an ambassadorial role, representing the Club both in an internal and external capacity.

Current and past Presidents of the Club, as well as the Bowls Sections, have a role in recommending suitable candidates for President to the Management Committee for consideration and approval.



## **CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting for the Club as a whole is held not later than the end of February each year, and at least 21 clear days' written notice will be given to Members of the Annual General Meeting by either a copy of the notice being posted to every member

at their home address or by a notice on the Club Notice Board. The date will also be published in the current Club Fixture handbook. Members must advise the Company Secretary in writing of any business they would like to be considered at the Annual General Meeting at least 28 days before that meeting. The Club Secretary will circulate or give notice of the agenda and propositions for the meeting to members not less than 14 days before the meeting.

Any proposed alterations to the Club's Constitution/Rules and/or Appendices may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any proposition, alteration or amendment must be duly proposed and seconded by at least 10 members or Section Committee. All propositions, alterations or amendments must be submitted to the Club Secretary no later than 28 days prior to the meeting. Such proposals shall be passed by a simple majority of votes from those members attending the meeting.



## **BOWLS SECTIONS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

The Men's and the Ladies Outdoor Section will hold an Annual General Meeting no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> October each year; the Short Mat Section's AGM will be held no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April.

At these meetings, Section members will elect the Section Committee and Selection Committee members (as appropriate). Section/Life Members are entitled to one vote on each matter. Any proposed alterations to the Section's Constitution/Rules may only be considered at an Annual General Meeting with any proposition, alteration or amendment being duly proposed and seconded and submitted to the Section Secretary no later than 28 days prior to the meeting. Such proposals will be passed by a simple majority of votes from those members attending the meeting. Any proposal that impacts on other Bowls Sections of the Club will be submitted to the Club Annual General Meeting for ratification.



## **PLAYING BOWLS OUTDOORS**

Both greens may be used for play during the summer season, with opening and closing dates defined by the Management Committee. From time to time, one of the greens may be closed for such things as maintenance/repair, or because of a major match or competition the following day.

Specifically, both greens are closed for play on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 8.00am and 12 noon for grass cutting and general maintenance.

Organized roll-ups or 'spoons' take place at 2.30pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday throughout the playing season. Players should arrive by 2.15pm to ensure a game. They organize themselves into teams and play usually for two or three hours, often with a break mid-way for a cup of tea.

Informal roll-ups with other members, or non-members, can take place at other times so long as a green is available for play.

All matches must be entered into the rink book located in the lobby prior to play. Should a request for the same rink be made by separate members, the choice of rink will be decided by drawing lots. Where a number of matches are to be played at the same time, the allocation of rinks will be at the direction of the Bowls Director or his/her deputy.

Priority of matches for rink allocation is as follows: National Matches, County Matches, Area Matches, League Matches, Friendly Matches, Club Competitions, Hospital Competitions, Organized Spoons/Roll-Ups, Informal Roll-ups/Casual play/Practice.

Members should ensure that a green fee (£5.00) is paid by non-members/visiting players where required.

No green fee will be paid by Club members. Tea/coffee and chocolate bar/biscuits will be available at a cost of 50p (Fees may be changed from time to time by the Management Committee).



## PLAYING SHORT MAT BOWLS

All games are played under English Short Mat Association Rules and any local rules as defined by the Section Committee.

Play will be during the winter season, opening and closing dates will be defined by the Management Committee.

Play will be on two short mats in the upper level of the Club House and, if numbers attending a session warrant it, one or two additional mats can be laid down on the day in the lower level.

The Club will be open for casual play at the following times: Mondays from 1.30 pm to 4.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.; Wednesdays from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and Saturdays from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Players should arrive 15 minutes early to ensure a game. Play will also be allowed at other times, subject to the Section Committee's agreement in consultation with the Management Committee.

A 20p green fee will be charged for each session. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available at an additional cost of 30p. (Fees may be changed from time to time by the Management Committee).

All matches must be entered into the rink book on the table in the upper hall prior to play. Should a request for the same rink be made by separate members, the choice of rink will be decided by drawing lots. Where a number of matches are to be played at the same time, then allocation of rinks will be at the direction of the Section Committee. Priority of matches for rink allocation is as follows: any individual match defined by the Section Committee as priority; League Matches (if any); Club Competitions; Casual play.

Members should ensure that green fees (20p) are paid by visiting players where required.



## LADIES SECTION DRESS WHEN PLAYING OUTDOORS



All players must wear flat soled bowls shoes on the greens.

Club members are required to wear white or grey trousers/skirts and white above the waist. This includes organized Spoons/Roll-ups on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Club members playing in informal roll-ups or practice sessions at other times may play in any smart casual wear (not jeans or cut downs, etc.).

Members will be informed of all matches that require 'whites' to be worn (i.e.: white trousers/skirts and white above the waist).

When requested by the Section Captain or Club President, members attending certain matches should wear white tops, navy blue or black

blazer and club tie. Any member unable to do so should inform the Section Captain prior to the match.

### Second-hand clothing

There are a number of racks of both men's and ladies' second-hand bowls clothing at the Clubhouse that has been donated by past and current members. If any of it takes your fancy, and can be used by you when playing bowls, please take it. All we ask is that you make a small, but appropriate, donation to the Club. You can do so by giving the money to Paul Buck (Bar Director) who will ensure it's handed to our Treasurer.



## MEN'S SECTION DRESS WHEN PLAYING OUTDOORS

All players must wear flat soled bowls shoes on the greens. Ordinary flat soled trainers may, however, be used by prospective new members whilst playing in organized introductory sessions.

### DEFINITIONS

- "Whites" - In common with the stated note in Bowls England Dress Code regulations, all reference to "White" clothing in our rules may be read as "predominately white".
- "Tailored Shorts" – Shorts made of chino style (or similar) material with a conventional waistband, including belt loops, and conventional hip pockets (as opposed to cargo or patch pockets).
- "Domestic Games" – Games and/or competitions played internally between Bellingham members.



- “Trousers or Shorts” - Club Members are required to wear white or grey trousers. Alternatively, white or grey shorts may be worn and they shall be tailored, or Bowls England approved. Bowls England approved shorts in other colours may be worn in domestic games unless only white trousers or shorts are requested for specific matches. Members will be informed of all matches or games where only white trousers or shorts may be worn.

### **OTHER CLOTHING**

Club-coloured shirts should be worn (where possible) for all League Matches, Friendly Matches or where requested by the Section Captain or Club President. The order form for Club shirts can be found on the Members' Only section of our website. All other clothing worn in play shall be white above the waist. Shirts shall be collared.

Clothing produced by recognized Bowls manufacturers containing more varied colour combinations may be worn in domestic games.



Club members playing informal roll-ups or practice sessions may play in any smart casual wear. This excludes T-shirts or jeans.

Special Match dress: When requested by the Section Captain or President, Club Members playing in certain matches should arrive wearing a white shirt, club tie and navy blue or black blazer. Any member unable to do so should inform the Section Captain prior to the match.

### **Second-hand clothing**

There are a number of racks of both men's and ladies' second-hand bowls clothing at the Clubhouse that has been donated by past and current members. If any of it takes your fancy, and can be used by you when playing bowls, please take it. All we ask is that you make a small, but appropriate, donation to the Club. You can do so by giving the money to Paul Buck (Bar Director) who will ensure it's handed to our Treasurer.



### **SHORT MAT DRESS**

All players must wear flat soled bowls shoes on the mats.

Club members are not required to adhere to any regulated dress code, other than smart casual wear.

When requested by the Section Committee or President, member's attending certain matches may be required to wear greys or whites.





The Club has various sets of bowls (4 per set) which new members can use to begin with.

Once you decide the sport is for you, you will no doubt want to buy your own set of bowls and members will guide you through the process of where to buy and the different sets of bowls on offer (also see the 'Buying second hand bowls' section below)..

As a bowling green is a relatively delicate surface, we do ask that all players wear bowling shoes. However, for trying the sport for the first few times, a pair of flat shoes (e.g. trainers without deep tread marks) are fine.

Once you progress, you will no doubt want to consider other optional accessories, for example:-

- A bag to carry your bowls
- A measure
- Chalk/Spray Chalk
- Drying cloths and grip gels
- Waterproofs

Compared to some sports, lawn bowls is relatively inexpensive and great value for money.

### **Suppliers of bowling clothing & equipment**

There are many places where clothing and equipment can be purchased. Here are some for you to consider, although they are not being recommended or sponsored in any way by the Club. We leave it to you to find the best deals.

Bowls Wear Direct: [bowlsdirect.com](http://bowlsdirect.com)

Bowlswear-Shop: [bowlswear-shop.co.uk](http://bowlswear-shop.co.uk)

Bowls World: [bowlsworld.co.uk](http://bowlsworld.co.uk)

John Forsey Bowls has a shop in Welling and also trades online: [johnforseybowls.co.uk](http://johnforseybowls.co.uk)

Sets of second-hand bowls can be bought on ebay or elsewhere from various internet suppliers.

### **Buying second hand bowls**

Buying second hand bowls is a cost-effective option, especially if you are new to the sport. You will need a set of four bowls. If you are a first time bowler and do not want to pay the full price, one good option is to buy second hand bowls. Some of these bowls are

in great condition and are nearly as good as a brand new set. You can pick up some real bargains on the internet.

Bowls do not wear out, but they can become scratched or chipped over years of play. However, this will not affect the running line of your bowl, unless they become very chipped or cracked. This means you can get some really fantastic second hand bowls, which play just as well as a brand new set.

There are many benefits to investing in your own set of bowls – there is certainly a feel-good factor to owning your own bowls equipment, and it can also improve your game. This is because you get used to your own bowls; their weight and grip and you adapt to playing with them and come to know what to expect from them. This ensures you know how your bowl will react, when you are playing that all important shot! Certainly, once you join the Club, even if you are just playing socially, you will need your own set of bowls.

### **Do's and don'ts when choosing second hand bowls**

If you are a beginner, you may need to know what to look for when choosing your second hand bowls. Here are some tips on buying them:

**Size:** This is the most important thing to get right. A good idea is to try out different sizes provided by the Club before buying anything. Otherwise, and as a general rule, sizes 00, 0, 1 & 2 are the most popular ladies' sizes; and 3, 4 and 5 are the most popular mens' sizes. A bigger handed man will go for the size 5's; and bigger handed ladies' will go for a size 2, or even a size 3.

**Make and Model:** This is not particularly important when buying your first second hand set as you can change when you know exactly what is best for you.

**Age:** Bowls can last a lifetime but must have a Worlds Bowls Official Stamp on them to indicate they have passed the WB test and are approved under their ruling. If you are playing national competitions, they need to be stamped every ten years. However, if you are just playing locally, this is not necessary.

**Grip:** Most players prefer to play with a gripped bowl, which have small indentations around the outside. But, some players prefer to have a plain bowl, which just have rings around the bowl.

**Weight:** Weight is not really important when choosing your first set of second hand bowls. Generally heavyweight bowls are used indoors and medium weight bowls are used outside. However, this is only a rough guide and both weights can be used for both games.

**Colour:** The colour of the bowl that you buy comes down to personal taste and makes no difference to the running of the bowls.

The top tip for buying bowls, second hand or otherwise, is to get the right size. Then you must practice, practice, practice your delivery technique, line and length. Once you have mastered this, you can think about the best make and model that suits you.



## COMPETITIONS

Details for all of the various internal and external competitions our members might enter can be found in a separate document produced by the Club. But, set out below is some information about our own, internal competitions, as that may well be where you first start playing competitively.



### Men's Outdoor Section

There are a number of in-house competitions held throughout the season that members of the Men's Outdoor Section can take part in. There is an opportunity to enter up to seven competitions each year. The dates and times for play are agreed between competitors within the time scales set by the competition committee. The seven competitions are:

Championship Singles  
Handicap Singles  
Selected Pairs  
Club Pairs

Open Singles (men & women)  
Mixed Pairs  
Mixed Triples

An application form will be provided at the start of each season. Once the draw for each competition has taken place, details are put on the Club's notice board, together with the dates by which matches need to be played.

In addition to the in-house competitions listed above, there will usually be the Derby Cup, aimed at new members (men & women); and the Timpson Trophy, a three woods mixed triples competition. Dates can be found in the Club's Fixture Card, with application forms and details made available on the Club's notice board in good time for you to sign up and take part.

**NB:** The finals for the seven in-house competitions and the final of the Derby Cup take place during a 'finals weekend' held in September. You need to be available that weekend in order to play in any of those competitions. The date of the finals weekend can be found in the Fixture Card.

### Ladies Outdoor Section

There are a number of in-house competitions held throughout the season that members of the Ladies Outdoor Section can take part in. You have an opportunity to enter up to seven competitions each year. The dates and times for play are agreed between competitors within the time scales set by the competition committee. The seven competitions are:

Championship Singles  
100 Up Singles  
Selected Pairs  
Club Pairs

Open Singles (men & women)  
Mixed Pairs  
Mixed Triples

An application form will be provided at the start of each season. Once the draw for each competition has taken place, details are put on the Club's notice board, together with the dates by which matches need to be played.

There will also usually be the Derby Cup, aimed at new members (men & women);

together with the Timpson Trophy, a three woods mixed triples competition. Dates can be found in the Club's Fixture Card; with application forms and details made available, where appropriate, on the Club's notice board in good time for you to sign up and take part. You might also be interested in taking part in the following Bellingham internal competitions:

**Win Moon:** A singles competition for un-badged players only (Kent County badged players may not enter).

**Two Wood Singles:** A singles knockout competition.

**Cath Pearce Trophy:** A pairs competition.

**NB:** The finals for the seven in-house competitions and the final of the Derby Cup take place during a 'finals weekend' held in September. You need to be available that weekend in order to play in any of those competitions. The date of the finals weekend can be found in the Fixture Card.



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### Short Mat

The Short Mat Section organizes a number of in-house competitions throughout the season. All members have the opportunity to enter up to six competitions each year. The dates and times for play is agreed between competitors within the time scales set by the competition committee. The six competitions are:

Singles  
Mixed Handicap Singles  
100 Up Singles

3 Wood Selected Pairs  
3 Wood Club Pairs  
3 Wood 100 Up Pairs

An application form will be provided at the start of each season. Once the draw for each competition has taken place, details are put on the Short Mat notice board, together with the dates by which matches need to be played.

In addition, there are other short mat competitions you might like to consider that are held later in the season. These are:

Bert Bush Pairs competition

Triples competition

Dorothy Kendrick Trophy (a match against the Outdoors Section)

Dates can be found in the Club's Fixture Card, with application forms and details made available on the Short Mat notice board in good time for you to sign up and take part.

### **Friday League**

This is an opportunity to play competitively against other Bellingham Short Mat Section members. Those taking part are put into mixed teams of three, with each team electing two of its players on each occasion to play a three woods pairs match against another team. Matches are played on Friday afternoons.



## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Annual Subscriptions are payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> April each year, with exception of the Short Mat Section which should be paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> October each year. The Management Committee determines Annual Subscriptions and method of payment each year, subject to ratification by members at the Club Annual General Meeting. Social Members subscriptions are determined by the Management Committee.

### **When do I pay Membership fees?**

After 4 sessions (maximum) of casual Outdoor or Short Mat bowling you will be approached to see if you wish to become a member.

### **How much are the fees?**

#### **Outdoor Membership:**

£120.00

1st Year: £60.00 introductory fee for new members

#### **Junior Section Membership: under 18**

£25.00

#### **Country Membership for those who live a considerable distance from the Club**

£60.00

#### **Short Mat Membership:**

£75.00

#### **Social Membership:**

£25.00

All prices quoted are subject to any increase agreed at the Club's AGM.

If you join part way through the season, membership fees will be charged on a pro rata basis, and will depend on the number of weeks remaining for the season.

Payment of membership fees in instalments, together with standing orders, can be arranged.



## COACHING

If you are new to bowling and might need some help with the basics, or if you have been playing for a while and, perhaps, need some expert advice about your delivery, how to get the best out of your controlled weighted shots or about finding a consistent line, then our Club Coach/es will be only too happy to help and to offer best advice on improving your game. (As at May 2023 we have two members on the training ladder to become a qualified coach. Details will be published once they have qualified).



## VISITORS

Any member introducing a visitor or visitors to the Club must obtain permission of the respective Section Committee or representative and/or the Management Committee prior to any play. Play will be restricted to practice and or casual roll ups only.

The member should ensure that any casual visitor play is recorded in the rink book and the green fee as set from time to time by the Management Committee (currently £5.00) is collected prior to any play.

Any visitor playing in County, League, Friendly, Open Competition or any other competition authorized by the Club, to which the visitor has been invited to play, shall be exempt from paying a green fee (except where a fee for play is required under the rules of that competition).

Short mat members are eligible to take part in organized roll-ups and spoons outdoors on payment of the requisite green fee prior to play.



## SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP

Social Membership entitles members to patronize the bar and participate in all Club social functions.

To encourage a move to playing membership, social members will be allowed to play up to four times, free of green fees, only in their first year of social membership and subject to Management Committee agreement. Play will be restricted to practice, casual roll-ups, spoons and other similarly organised roll-ups.

Social members have no voting rights on any matters relating to the management of Bellingham Bowling Club or its individual Sections



Social Membership will be at the discretion of the Management Committee, who will reserve the right to withdraw social membership from any individual they believe has acted in a manner that could bring the Club or any of its members into disrepute. The member will be afforded the right of appeal to a panel comprising of the President and two ordinary members nominated by the Management Committee, if their membership is withdrawn.

## SAFEGUARDING

Bellingham Bowling Club has considered its responsibilities to the young people participating in bowls and to adults at risk at our premises and within our Club very carefully, and has produced Safeguarding, Child Protection and Adults at Risk Policies and underpinning procedures in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold. These can be found on the Club's website and on the notice board in the upper hall of the clubhouse, or from the Club's Safeguarding Officer on request.

## APPENDIX 1

### GLOSSARY OF BOWLING TERMS

**Back Bowl:** A bowl that comes to rest beyond the jack.

**Best Back:** This is the bowl at rest beyond the jack nearest the ditch than any opposition bowl.

**Be Up:** Instruction from Skip to bowl longer (don't be short of Jack).

**Bias:** Bowls are not round, they are very slightly egg shaped and one side has a bias. This side is offset to make the bowl curve. The bias side of the bowl is noted by the smaller round ring. Bias is correct when the bowl curves towards the jack.

**Blocker:** A bowl that blocks someone (usually an opponent) from reaching the desired target.

**Centre Line:** This is the line marked at both ends of the rink to determine where the jack and mat is centred.

**Dead End :** When the jack has been knocked out of bounds. The end is not counted and is played again.

**Dead Bowl:** When a 'non toucher' bowl either goes in the ditch or any bowl rests outside the rink field of play. (See Touchers).

**Ditch:** The gully around the green. If a bowl ends up in the ditch and it is not a 'toucher' then it doesn't count.



**Down:** When your team does not have the shot bowl, you are considered to be down. You may be down by one or more shots.



**Draw Shot:** Shots where the bowl is rolled to the jack without disturbing the bowls already at the Head. The classic shot in the game of bowls.

**Drive/Fire:** This involves bowling with considerable force/speed with the aim of knocking either the jack backwards into the ditch or to disrupt the head. Only usually used when the team you are playing for a several shots down or no draw is available.

**End:** Means playing of the jack and all bowls of both opponents in the same direction on a Rink. The number of ends played is decided by club rules. A typical game has 21 ends, or 18 in triples games.

**Foot Fault:** A foot fault occurs when the bowler does not have one foot on or over the mat on release of the bowl. The foot may be on the mat or in the air.

**Forehand Draw:** When the bowl is delivered to the right of the jack, and curves to the left (for right-handed bowlers). Or, backhand draw when the bowl is delivered to the left of the jack, and curves to the right (for left-handed bowlers).

**Grass:** Apart from the surface, the directional line the bowl takes in order for it to curve towards the jack. So a bowl with "too much grass" will be too wide. (See Green).

**Green:** Lawn bowls is played on a square "green" of grass, with directions being alternated to protect the bowling surface. Also this term can be used to indicate the directional line the bowl takes in order for it to curve towards the jack. So a bowl with "too much green" will be wide. (See Grass).

**Hand:** The side on which the bowl is delivered: either forehand or backhand.

**Head:** A group of bowls constitutes a head, which means the bowls that have been played and have come to rest within the boundary of the rink and have not been declared dead.

**Holding Shot:** Team with their bowl(s) closest to jack (see also shot bowl).



**Hog Line:** an imaginary line 21 metres in front of the mat, which is the minimum distance a jack must be thrown in order to start an end. Markers at the edges of the bowling green indicate the hog line, given that a mat is placed 2 metres from the ditch.



Cartoon by Ako - [www.lawnbowlishypnosis.com](http://www.lawnbowlishypnosis.com)

**Hook:** direction a bowl takes when it is slowing down and has just about a metre or two left to roll. Some bowls hook more than others, especially older classic bowls with extreme bias.

**Jack:** White or yellow ball used as a target to play to, which determines point scoring (see points).

**Lead:** The person who starts off the play. Also places the mat and rolls the jack if their team "has the mat".

**Length:** The distance a bowl travels.

**Line:** The trajectory/path the bowl travels towards the jack.

**Mat:** The actual mat that is placed by the team winning the last end, in preparation to start the next end. This is also known as having the mat. The team with the mat always rolls the jack.

**Measure:** When it is uncertain which bowl is closest to the jack, a tape measure is used to determine which bowl(s) is nearer than the oppositions nearest bowl. Players carry a special lawn bowls tape measures to do this.

**Narrow:** The bowler didn't deliver the bowl far enough from the centre line to the jack. It runs too narrow. (Also called not taking enough "Grass/Green").

**Pairs:** Bowls games in which each team has a pair of players (a skip and a lead).

**Promoting a Bowl:** Pushing up one of your team's bowls to a better position.

**Rink:** The lane(s) on the bowling green playing surface. Each rink is defined by markers on the edge to clearly define the edge of each rink. Most bowling greens have 6 rinks, but some can have less.

**Roll Up:** Casual or organized non-competitive games of bowls.

**Rinks game:** A bowling game in which there are 4 players per team a Skip, a number three, a number two and a lead. Each player uses 2 bowls each.

**Skipper/Skip:** Team captain or skip who always plays last. This person is usually (but not always) the most experienced player, who also guides the strategy.





**RollUp**



**Second Bowl/Wood:** The bowl lying second closest to the jack.

**Shot Bowl/Wood:** The bowl closest to the jack.

**Tied end:** When the two closest bowls are both exactly the same distance from the jack and belong to opposing teams, even after measurement, the end is declared a tie.

**Touchers:** Bowls that hit the Jack. These bowls are marked with chalk and remain "live" even if they are knocked into the ditch.

**Trailing the Jack:** The jack is moved by a bowl with the bowl staying with the jack to score. Often used to move the jack to a favourable position scoring several shots.

**Trial Ends:** Only allowed at the start of a game when each

team rolls 2 bowls down and back to get a feel of the green. Such ends do not count in the scoring.

**Triples:** A game in which each team has 3 players - a skip, a number two and a lead. Typically each player uses 3 bowls each.

**Up:** When your team has the shot bowl, you are considered to be 'up'. You may be 'up' by one or more points.

**Weight:** The amount of speed applied in delivering the bowl from the mat to the jack. "Heavy" weight means that the bowl stops beyond the jack, while "Light" means that it stops short of the spot desired.

**Wide:** The bowler delivered the bowl too far from centreline to the jack. It runs too wide. (Also called taking too much "grass/green").

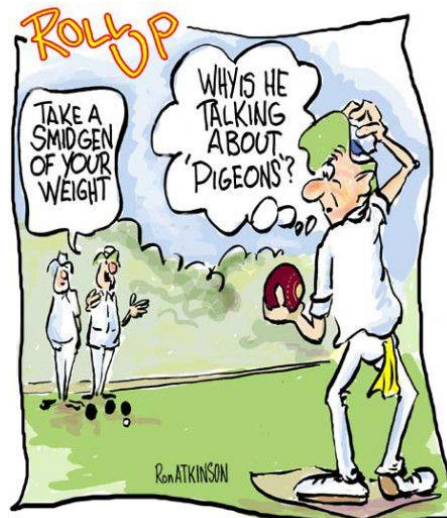
**Wick:** When a bowl bounces off another bowl.

**Woods:** An old term for bowls (although still in use).

**Wrong Bias:** When a bowl is held the wrong way round in your hand and is delivered in the opposite direction to that expected.

**Yard On:** A shot delivered with an extra degree of speed to displace or disturb other bowls in the head or trail the jack. (See Trailing the Jack).

**RollUp**



**RollUp**





## APPENDIX 2

### RULES OF THE GAME

#### The bowls

- Semi-finalists of County competitions must have bowls with a current world bowls stamp, for club and district games, bowls must have a legible stamp dated 1985 or later
- Bowls must only have one set of stickers
- If a bowl is damaged during a match, it should be replaced by one from the same set (if this is not possible, then the whole set must be replaced by another set)
- If a bowl is delivered but does not go beyond 14m, it is a dead bowl and should be removed
- If a bowler drops a bowl when preparing to deliver, this can be picked up and delivered

#### The game

- The first end and any extra end – a coin is tossed and the winner can either keep the mat or give it away (the opposition cannot refuse to accept the mat)
- The winner of the previous end has the mat (you can't give the mat to the opposition)
- Trial ends and number of bowls are agreed by the captains (usually one end in each direction, trial ends allow you to explore the run of the green)
- Position of the mat – centrally placed with the front of the mat between the 2 and 25 metre marks
- The aim is to build the head and have the head mostly built before the skip bowls

#### The jack

- If both players make faulty deliveries, the skip places the jack at the 2m mark and the first player places the mat anywhere between the 2 and 25 metre marks. Before delivery, the player should have one foot fully on the mat. At the moment of delivery, the player should have all or part of one foot on or over the mat. A faulty delivery occurs if:
  - the jack goes in the ditch
  - bounces off the bank back onto the green
  - goes outside the rink boundaries to the side
  - goes less than 23 metres
- Rules about the jack, including touchers
  - When a bowl touches the jack, it stays 'live' even if it goes into the ditch either on its original course or if it's subsequently knocked into the ditch
  - If the bowl falls on the jack after coming to rest, it is a toucher as long as the next bowl has not been delivered (if the last bowl of the end, you can wait 30 seconds to see if it will fall before deciding the result of the end)
  - Touchers should be marked before the next bowl is delivered; if this is not possible, it should be marked before the next bowl enters the head

- A toucher or jack in the ditch should be marked (this identifies the position to bowlers and enables them to be replaced accurately if disturbed by subsequent non-touchers)
- When the jack goes out of play to the sides, this is a dead end – the usual rule is for the end to be replayed
- When it is agreed that there is no winning bowl, this is a tied end and no score is given but the end is counted

## **The players**

### **Skip**

- Will have sole charge of the team
- The team should follow the skip's instructions
- The skip decides all disputed points with the opposing skip and there should be discussion before calling the umpire
- Has responsibility for the score card and this cannot be delegated
- Can delegate all responsibilities except the responsibility for the score card
- The skips need to know the abilities of their players and their bowls
- The skip should encourage and guide in a positive manner to get the best out of the team

### **Lead**

- To place the mat, deliver the jack as instructed by the skip, and get bowls as close as possible to the jack to start building the head

### **Second**

- To draw to any position as instructed by the skip
- If playing triples, the second takes on the responsibilities of the third as well

### **Third**

- To deliver all types of shots (drawing, running and firing)
- Agree the score with the opposition's third, by measuring if necessary
- To inform the skip of the number of shots for or against
- To call the skip if there is a dispute before calling the umpire

## **BOWLS ETIQUETTE**

Bowls is an enjoyable and very sociable sport, but there are a few simple rules that make the game more enjoyable for everyone: a friendly and sporting attitude towards both your team mates and your opponents are appreciated and reciprocated.

'Etiquette of the Game' means to act within the guidelines and laws of the game of bowls, have consideration for your fellow players and to act in a way that is appropriate. New bowlers won't be expected to pick up points of etiquette immediately but will do so through mentoring and during roll-ups. Some examples of good etiquette are set out below.

- For all competitive matches a minimum choice of two rinks should be offered by the challenger to their opponent(s). For national competitions, the challenger need only offer one rink.
- At the start of the game shake hands with your opposition.



- Bowls should not be dropped on the green.
- Players not actually bowling should stand at least one metre behind the mat.
- Each bowler during a game is expected to be ready to bowl when it is their turn and to concentrate on the match.
- Players are expected to be quiet and not move at the head end when a player is preparing to bowl.
- The lead bowler should prepare the wood for his/her opposite number when the latter is placing the jack.
- The lead should also prepare the wood for his/her skip if the latter is the next to bowl at the changeover.
- Avoid obscuring the rink number, rink markers and the jack from the bowler.
- On sunny days ensure that your shadow does not fall on the jack.
- Be aware of players on adjacent rinks. Keep to your own rink and do not become a wanderer and distract other bowlers.
- Do not walk past the end of a rink when somebody is about to bowl.
- Do not walk through the 'head' when changing ends.
- Minimise the distraction and interference with bowlers on adjacent rinks during movement between ends by walking, as far as possible, along the centre of the rink.
- It is the role of the No. 2 in triples and No. 3 in fours to decide if a measure is required and to determine the number of shots won or lost.
- Acknowledge good shots from both sides. It is appropriate to applaud but any applause should be directed at the good shots of either players or both teams, not just the home side or an individual.
- When watching a game of bowls as a spectator, you should also acknowledge good shots from both sides. It is appropriate to applaud, but any applause should be directed at the good shots of either players or both teams, not just the home side or an individual. But, do not be too vocal or loud; and do not offer advice of any sort to those on the green.
- And, as a spectator, you should not make comments to the marker in a singles match, even if you think an error has been made. Leave it to the two players to sort out any issues. In the absence of the umpire, the marker shall control the

game in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls and have responsibility for what happens on the green.

- Do not clap a shot which has rested well if it was the result of a 'lucky' touch or 'wick' off another bowl.
- Encourage and praise the rest of the team including the skip. Don't ridicule a team member who plays a poor shot, and admit a fluke shot with grace.
- Do not wave your opponent's bowls through the head.
- Never criticize your opponents, their bowls green or your own team.
- Be gracious whether you win or lose.
- At the end of the game shake hands with your opposition.
- After matches be prepared to offer your opposite number a drink and socialise with them.
- Do not drink or smoke on the playing surface during a game.
- Mobile phones should be switched off during play and used with discretion while in the vicinity of the green.