

West End Bowls Club - Information for New Members

This note is to provide new members with snippets of essential information. If you are a new member and have a suggestion to add to this page, please advise the Membership Secretary.

Security

Members are issued with a personal key to the club on request, and on payment of a nominal deposit of £5.00. With your key you will receive notes giving instructions on accessing the premises and operating the intruder alarm. Either the membership secretary or another member of the committee will go through these with you. When you are ready to have your own key please ask the membership secretary for it.

The Green

The bowling green opens towards the end of April, and closes in late September. It is closed for mowing and other treatments on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings after which it can be used from 12.00 pm. On other days it is open for play from 10.00 a.m. until dusk.

Occasionally the green keeper may close the green for unforeseen reasons (e.g. flooding) - his instructions must be followed.

Rinks are allocated in advance for club matches, special events, and club or external competitions. These matches and events take priority over informal roll-ups or games, and are shown in the rink book which is on the table just inside the clubhouse door. Members are welcome to use any free rinks for roll-ups, practice, or informal games at any time of day within the green open hours.

The position of the rink markers changes daily and the direction of play changes weekly - the settings for each day are set out in the rink book and must be adhered to.

Green Equipment

All bowling equipment is stored in the equipment shed. The key to this is kept in the key safe and you will have been given the combination by either the person who introduced you to the green or when you received your club key. Please make sure all equipment is put away and the key is replaced after use!

Dress Code

Club shirts are required for competitions and league games. They are optional wear for friendly fixtures but most members choose to wear them. (Club shirts qualify as "white above the waist."). The club fleece is optional wear.

There is an order form for club shirts and fleeces on the web site. Alternatively, contact Dave Turner direct.

Casual wear may be worn for informal play and roll-ups *only* but please be aware that, if you are not wearing bowling clothes when there is a bowling event taking place you may have to leave the green.

Tailored shorts are permissible when playing in matches or competitions as well as for informal play.

Bowling sandals are permissible, at wearer's own risk, when playing at home - they may not be allowed on other greens.

For internal club competitions, and marking, the dress code is greys.

For external competitions the dress code is greys unless otherwise indicated by the team captain.

For club fixtures the dress code is indicated in the fixtures card but please check when confirming your availability for the match:

Greys (G) - grey below the waist, white/club shirt above, bowls shoes

Whites (W) - white below and above the waist, bowls shoes.

Smoking

Smoking is banned on the premises and around the green. The no smoking sign inside the gate must be adhered to.

Bowls Stickers

You need club stickers for each of your bowls. These are available for purchase from the bar. They are required for official club matches (friendly or league) and for external competitions.

Coaching

The club currently has five qualified and registered bowls coaches and some other members are qualified to introduce you to the green and the game. Their names are posted in the clubhouse. If you are a new bowler you will already have had at least one session with a coach before joining the club and have probably booked other sessions.

The coaches are usually available at club evenings, run additional coaching sessions for groups, and hold specialised sessions on particular topics. These are suitable for all levels of ability. Details are posted on the notice board and on the web page. It is useful to know how many people to expect so please put your name on the list.

In addition coaching sessions are available for beginners and improvers on request. Carole Baker and Trevor Lofty lead the coaching team. Ask one of them, or any other coach, to arrange a "one to one" session.

Club Night

Friday evening is club night. People start arriving at 5.00 pm and all members are welcome. Club nights are an opportunity to play a game in an informal environment and to meet members socially. Experienced players are supportive and will offer tips and advice to new bowlers. Sometimes there is a friendly fixture at home on a Wednesday evening; on these occasions there may also be rinks available but be aware of the dress code.

Team Selection

When you understand the rudiments of the game, and know how to set up a rink, lots of practice is the best way forward. The membership list is colour coded to help you link up with other members seeking roll up opportunities. When you have grasped the basics of how a match is played you can start making yourself available for fixtures. The basis of selection will have been discussed with you at your joining meeting; everyone has the opportunity to play friendly fixtures whereas teams for competitive fixtures are selected on the basis of ability and experience. Your "buddy" or any other member will help you find your way around the notice boards. If in doubt - just ask.

Club Competitions/Friendly Fixtures

All members are encouraged to support friendly fixtures and to enter club competitions. To be eligible for club competitions you **must** be available to play on finals day and **must** be available to play a minimum of four club mixed friendlies before 31st July. (Leagues are not mixed friendlies)

The Web Site.

You will have been given access to the members' part of the web site when you joined. It contains a wealth of information including club news, fixtures information, details of social events and of club trips, the club handbook and links to videos which will help you improve your game.

Club Handbook.

You will find all the "off the green" information you need in the club handbook which is on the website. Hard copies of the essential information are also posted in the clubhouse.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please do feel free to speak with the membership secretary, a welfare officer, any coach or any other member of the committee.

Above all -

ENJOY YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND ENJOY YOUR BOWLING