

New Members Guide & Welcome Booklet



HORSHAM PARK BOWLS CLUB

Associate Members of Bowls England and Affiliated to Sussex County Bowls

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1. INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Horsham Park Bowls Club, we are delighted that you have joined, and we hope you will enjoy being a member of this historic club. We want you to get to know us and to ask any questions that this booklet may fail to answer for you.

Our green was established in 1968 as Horsham Park Bowling Club. From 1973 the green was used by two clubs, Horsham Park and Warnham Comrades, until 2002 when the two clubs amalgamated to form the present club. In 2018 we celebrated 50 years of public bowling in the park.

We are a friendly mixed Bowls Club run by our members through its Executive Committee. Our green is owned by Horsham District Council and leased to the Club but is maintained by our own green keeper.

2. PLAYING BOWLS

As a member, you can use the green any time from 11am on Monday to Saturday, (except on mowing days, usually Monday and Friday, when the green would not be ready until at least 12 noon), and from 10am on Sundays. Rinks are normally available unless there is a large Club activity on the green.

We hope that you will enjoy bowling on our green. Please feel free to offer friendly advice and support to any visiting member of the public to ensure we maintain our friendly image and reputation. We encourage you to introduce new members to the Club whenever possible.

3. CLUB SESSIONS



Club sessions are a good opportunity to play with, and get to know, other club members.

The main session is Monday evening 6.30 onwards. This session hosts the Peters Shield. This is a fun running competition open to all members. The format of the evening allows everyone who turns up to join in and practice playing in different team positions in a relaxed and friendly environment. It is particularly suitable for new Club Members to get to know everyone.

Our other club session is Tuesday 10am to 12pm. You can just turn up and play with other members who are there. This is also our main open free session for non-members to have a go, with a bit of coaching. All very relaxed and fun.

4. HELP FOR NEW MEMBERS



Our club has a Training and Development Officer, and other experienced members, to help new members become an integral part of the club and learn the game, as appropriate.

You will be shown around, introduced to other club members, talked through the rules and regulations of the Club and shown important notices etc. We aim to invite and encourage Full Members to play in Club Matches as soon as possible

Information about the club can be found on our website, www.horshamparkbowlsclub.co.uk

5. MATCHES



Friendly Matches

We have a full fixture list of both mid-week and weekend mixed friendly matches against village and town teams in Surrey and Sussex. If you would like to play, please put your name on the availability sheets as early as possible to help the captains pick the teams from adequate numbers. You don't need to be an very experienced bowler to play in these matches. They are very much 'friendly' Friendlies.

Competitive League Matches

You may feel that, as an experienced bowler or as your bowling skills improve, you would like to make yourself available to represent the club in the competitive leagues that we enter.

League matches are played over a 10 week period June – August.

Nellie Mercer League: 2 Ladies' triples

Mid-Sussex League: 3 Mixed rinks (fours)

Players indicating their availability for the leagues will be selected by the club selectors and notified at least two weeks before each game.

In addition, we also enter various cup competitions and other competitive knock-out tournaments.

County & Representative Games or Competitions

At some stage, you may feel that you would like to play in the county competitions or even play for the county at an appropriate level. Should you wish to be considered

for this please feel free to talk to the Club Secretary, Club Captain or County Delegates who will advise you.

Club Competitions

Prior to the start of the season entries are invited for Club Competitions. Lists are also put up on the Club notice board at the start of the season. Many of these competitions are suitable for less experienced bowlers. Details of the competitions and their respective rules are also displayed. Please familiarise yourself with these and if you are still unsure ask the Competition Secretary or another member who will be pleased to offer guidance.

List of Competitions

- Men's' Singles Championship
- Ladies Singles Championship
- Two-Wood Singles
- Handicap Singles
- 101-Up Singles
- Jackson Trophy (for players who have not appeared in a singles final in the previous 3 years). Very suitable for new or less experienced members.
- Triple Seven Singles
- Mixed Pairs
- Two-Wood Pairs, played on one pre-arranged day
- Mixed Triples, played on one pre-arranged day.
- Australian Pairs, played on one pre-arranged day



6. DRESS CODE



Flat-soled shoes must always be worn on the green.

For general play casual dress may be worn.

For all matches against other clubs (friendly or competitive) a club shirt is worn with grey trousers or tailored shorts.

If you would like to purchase a club shirt, or other club wear, please contact the Secretary.

It is advisable to purchase a white waterproof outfit for wet weather. If you need advice, please speak to any of our experienced members.

7. MEMBERS' DUTIES

Our club is fully committed to upholding the traditions of fair play, friendship and integrity that have been associated with the game of bowls for many years and of, course, observance of the rules of the game and all Club Rules. Should you feel you need guidance on any aspect of this a Club Officer will be pleased to help you.

Our members are proud of their club. We have Club Aims and Objectives, which indicate the direction we want to go. Please make yourself familiar with these and ask questions if you are unsure of anything.

All Full Playing Members are required to act as Green Wardens and to help with match teas/suppers during the season (some Associate Members also assist). New members are not normally required to help with this in their first season but offers of help are always welcomed. Duty Rosters are sent out and posted on the notice board at the start of each season. These duties are fully explained on information sheets but should you have any queries about what is expected, or need further guidance, please speak to a Club Officer.

8. MEMBERSHIP

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP	
Full Member	Eligible for all club activities
Life Member with the benefits of Full Membership	Eligible for all club activities
Associate Member (only after 3yrs of Full Membership)	Eligible for all club activities except matches and leagues
Student Member	Eligible for all club activities
Link Member	All club activities except matches, leagues and competitions
Social Member	All non-bowling activities

Each February you will be invited to renew your club membership including renewal of your locker rental (if required).

Lockers can be rented for the season at a cost of £5. Please see the Secretary for further information.

Match fees, for both home and away matches, are £3. Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided for all matches at home.

All fees are decided at the previous year's AGM (see insert).

We normally car share for away matches to save on costs. Suggested contributions to drivers are indicated on a sheet on the club notice board.

Car sharing for home matches is also an option so that players can contribute to the parking fees payable in local car parks.

9. SOCIAL EVENTS

When you join our friendly club, we are sure that you will enjoy the social aspects as well as playing bowls. Some of the following social events may appeal to you:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-Season Coffee Morning• Opening Drive• Charity Drive• Ladies v Gents Match• BBQ• Strawberry tea• President v Captain Day• Finals Day• Council Match	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Horsham Town Challenge match• Fish & Chip Supper• Annual Dinner & Presentation Evening• Christmas Lunch• Winter social events with indoor bowling (at HDIBC) or other activities• Competition days
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The Social events notice board lists the dates and, as you become more familiar with the club, we hope that you will be willing to help the Social Events team headed by our Social Secretary.

10. HOW THE CLUB IS RUN

The Club is run on behalf of its members by the Executive Committee who meet regularly throughout the year (usually monthly) to make decisions affecting the club on your behalf. If you have any issues that you think need to be addressed, please speak to the Club Secretary or a member of the Committee.

We hold an Annual General Meeting, in November, to agree the arrangements for the following season. All members are invited to attend and any issues are discussed and agreed by those present.

We have a set of Club Rules that will be given to you. They are also on the Members Information board. Please make yourself familiar with them. If you have any issues that need to be addressed, please refer them to the Club Secretary.

Most importantly, we want you to enjoy your bowls and friendships, both on and off the green, and we value your views and comments.

11. OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

Executive Officers (Committee)

- Chairman
- Captain
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Ladies Representative
- Social Secretary
- Premises Manager

Non executive Officers

- President
- Vice Captain
- Match Secretary
- Welfare Officer
- Publicity Officer
- Competitions Secretary

A list of the members currently filling these roles is on the club notice board

Our Welfare Officer co-ordinates news regarding anniversaries and health issues etc. of our members, and runs the club Welfare Notice board. So please pass on any news to him/her so we can keep everyone informed.

The main thing is, enjoy your bowling with us!

