

Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club

New Members Information Pack





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Introduction from the President



Dear New Member,

It is my pleasure to welcome you as a member of the club.

Whether you are a new member to the sport of bowling or an established player, I trust you will enjoy the facilities of the club. We pride ourselves on the quality of the club, the green and the size of our membership also the friendliness of the members. I am sure you will soon fit into your level of bowling.

If there is something not covered in this information pack of which you are unsure, please ask me or any officer or member of the management committee.

Good bowling and all success.

Bernard Jones
Club President

Club Captain



I feel very honoured to have been elected Captain of our club. From the day I arrived I was made most welcome and after just a few months felt as if I had been a club member for years. The remarkable condition of the green, the club house facilities, the social events, the internal club competitions, the friendly matches and the County and National team events make our club socially and competitively a membership to die for.

Sawbridgeworth is not a turn up and play club, we all muck in and results of the past years are obvious for all to see. I proudly say I am a member of Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club and new members very quickly form the same opinion. The members will do all they can to make you welcome, reward us by putting your name down for friendly matches and the various events needing your support.

Brian Bird
Club Captain



Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club

We are a mixed bowling club and welcome new members. Our bowling season is from May to the end of September. During the year we have a programme of friendly games against other clubs, league matches and for new member's, periods of instruction and practice games.

Town Fields is adjacent to Bell Street and located in the centre of the Town. Town Fields is an idyllic sporting oasis and houses the Bowling Club, Cricket Club and the Tennis Club.

On 11th July 1922 a Declaration of Trust was signed, forming the Sawbridgeworth Sports Association that also includes the Football Club and the United Services Club, both in separate areas of Sawbridgeworth. The six acre site known as Town Fields was purchased for the sum of £400 in the early 1920, from the Council allotments holders on land which formed part of the garden of the then owners of Sayesbury Manor.

Each Member Club, whilst being a part of the Sawbridgeworth Sports Association, is autonomous in the running of its own affairs but is linked through the Trust. Quarterly meetings of representatives of each member club meet to discuss and agree linked policy matters.

The Bowling Club, being an outdoor club, has a bowling season from May to September each year. During the season a full programme of bowling is arranged of County Matches, East Hertfordshire Association Matches, interclub Matches and a full range of club and external competitions. New members are always welcome, from the local area, and are given instruction in bowling, the laws of bowling and the etiquette of the game.

During the winter months the bowling club buildings are used for social events when quiz nights, various competitions and race nights are organised. These social nights are usually held on the first and third Friday night in each month, October to March.

Bell Street, off Car Park
Town Fields
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Hertfordshire
CM21 9NA

Club Telephone: 01279 726414

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Web site: www.sawbridgeworthbowlingclub.co.uk



The Constitution

RULES April 2004 (rev EGM 2005 and AGM 2006)

1 Name

The club shall be called the **SAWBRIDGEWORTH BOWLING CLUB.**

2 Address

The club premises are located at Town Fields, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.

3 Status

The club shall be a members club and shall consist of those classes of member specified in Rule 6 hereof. Everyone who plays or wishes to play outdoor flat green bowls, or who wishes to be a non playing member, is qualified to be elected a member of the club by the committee.

4 Objects

The object of the club shall be to encourage the playing of Bowls and to promote good fellowship amongst bowlers. The club will be non-profit making. Any surplus income or profit will be reinvested in the club. No surplus or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

5 Rules of play

The rules of the English Bowling Association shall govern all games and competitions, and a copy of the rules shall be placed in the club pavilion.

6 Membership

a) The classes of membership shall be as follows:

- i) Ordinary members. Persons elected to ordinary membership in accordance with subsection 6(b) hereof. Such persons shall be entitled to use and enjoy, in common with other ordinary members, and with the honorary members, the clubs premises and things therein. Such members shall be entitled to vote at all general meetings of the club.
- ii) Honorary members. Persons who have performed valuable service to the club over a period of several years and who have been elected to honorary membership in accordance with subsection 6(b) hereof. Such persons shall be entitled to all the privileges of ordinary membership, but shall be relieved of all liability to pay annual subscriptions.



iii) Social members. Persons elected to social membership in accordance with subsection 6(b) hereof. Such persons shall be entitled to enjoy the facilities of the club with the exception of playing bowls, and shall not be entitled to vote at general meetings of the club and shall have no claim or charge whatsoever upon the club assets. Social membership shall not exceed 33% of ordinary membership.

b The procedure for election to membership shall be as follows:

- i) Every candidate for membership, of whatever class, shall be proposed by one ordinary or honorary member of the club, and seconded by another ordinary or honorary member. The said proposal shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary and shall state the name and address of the candidate. The Secretary shall cause the proposal to be displayed on the club notice board for at least 48 hours thereafter, and objections to the proposal from other members of the club must be delivered to the Secretary in writing.
- ii) Election to membership, except honorary membership, shall be by a majority vote of the committee, whose decision shall be final. No reason shall be given to any candidate in the event of a rejection. Honorary membership may only be created at an Annual General Meeting by a majority of members notified in accordance with rule 10(a).

7 Management

- a) The affairs of the club, except in those matters reserved under these rules for the club in general meeting, shall be managed by the committee of the club.
- b) The committee shall exercise the powers given to it under these rules, and shall consist of officers of the club and elected members, making a total of seventeen members.
- c) The Officers of the club shall be Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Fixture Secretary, Captain and Vice-Captain, Ladies' Captain, Ladies 'Vice-Captain and Ladies' Secretary. Should the duties of any of the Officers of the club be combined in one person, then the number of elected members shall be increased, provided that the total number of members of the committee does not exceed seventeen.
- d) The President, committee members and office bearers shall be elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting of the club. They shall go out of office at the AGM but shall be eligible for re-election. All candidates for election to the committee shall be proposed by an ordinary or honorary member and seconded by another ordinary member. Only ordinary and honorary members shall be eligible for election to the committee. Voting for the election of the committee shall be by ballot. Should there be more than one nomination for the position of office bearer or more than the required number for elected members, then voting shall be by secret ballot. In the case of equality of voting the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. If a casual vacancy occurs in the committee by virtue of the death, resignation or expulsion of a member, the committee shall appoint another member of the club to fill the vacancy, such person to hold office during the remainder of the period of tenure of the member replaced.



e) The committee of the club shall meet at regular intervals, not to exceed two calendar months, to conduct such business as may be necessary and a quorum at such meetings shall consist of six members, which shall include two officers. The club captain shall act as chairman at all meetings of the committee at which he is present; in his absence, the committee shall elect a chairman for that meeting only. The Secretary or Assistant Secretary shall take minutes of all meetings of the committee; in their absence the meeting shall appoint one of its number to take the minutes.

f) The committee may, by the issuing of bylaws, manage the clubs affairs to any extent and degree which is not inconsistent with these rules.

g) The committee may appoint one or more subcommittees to conduct such of the committee's business as the committee shall deem appropriate. Any such sub committees shall consist of not less than three members, two of whom shall form a quorum. All resolutions passed in sub committee shall be subject to ratification by the committee.

8 Subscriptions

a) The annual subscription for members other than Honorary Members shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting.

b) New adult members will be required to pay a joining fee.

c) Members under 18 years of age shall pay an annual fee equal in pounds to their age. Said annual subscription shall be due and payable on election under Rule 6 hereof, and thereafter without demand on 1st April of each year. The committee may terminate the membership of any member whose annual subscription remains unpaid on 1st May of any year.

9 Accounts

The Treasurer shall cause to be kept accurate and proper books of account to allow at every general meeting, or at such other time as may be required by the committee upon reasonable notice, to present to the club, a full and accurate report concerning the finances of the club. The club accounts shall be made up to the 30th September of each year and a statement of the receipts and expenditure, duly audited, shall be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

10 Meetings of the Club

a) A general meeting of the club (to be known as the Annual General Meeting) shall be held in November of each year. The notice and agenda shall be circulated to all club members at least 21 days prior to said meeting. The chairman of the meeting shall be the President of the Club; in the President's absence a member will be elected for the occasion by the meeting before the business of the meeting is opened.



The business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting shall consist of the election of officers, committee members and club delegates, the presentation of audited accounts, the President's, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports on the previous year, and the remainder of the agenda.

b) Additional general meetings of the club may be summoned at any time by the committee following the expiry of 14 days written notice to be displayed by the Secretary on the club notice board.

The Secretary shall summon a general meeting if, required to do so by written request signed by not fewer than ten ordinary or honorary members. Upon receipt of such a request, the Secretary shall cause such a meeting to be summoned by notice displayed on the club notice board within 24 hours, the meeting to be held as soon as possible after the expiry of seven days from the display of the said notice, which shall specify solely the business to be conducted thereto. No such meeting to be held without a quorum of twenty-five per cent of voting members of the club.

11 Intoxicating liquor

a) Intoxicating liquor shall be supplied on the club premises to members and guests signed in under Rule 12 hereof during the following hours: Mondays to Saturdays: 11.00 am to 11.00 pm. Sundays and Good Friday: 12 noon to 3.00 pm, 6.00 pm to 9.30 pm. During said hours members only may purchase intoxicating liquor for consumption off the premises.

b) No person shall be paid at the expense of the club any commission, percentage or similar payment on or with reference to the purchase of intoxicating liquor by the club, and no person shall directly or indirectly derive any financial benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the club to members and guests, apart from any benefit which may thereby accrue to the club as a whole.

c) The supply to the club of intoxicating liquor shall be under the sole control of the bar committee, consisting of four members elected at the Annual General Meeting, who shall arrange for the purchase thereof on behalf of the club.

Persons under the age of 18yrs shall not purchase or consume intoxicating liquor within the club or its grounds

12 Guests of members

a) Members may introduce and entertain guests at the club, and there shall be kept at the club premises a guest book which both the member and the guest shall sign at the time of the introduction of the guest.

b) No member may introduce more than two guests in anyone day and no person may be allowed into the club as a guest on more than three occasions in the same month. The



committee may suspend any member who takes undue advantage of this rule to the detriment of the club.

c) Any member introducing guests under this rule must accompany them while on the club premises, and shall be responsible for their guests behaviour throughout their visit and ensure that their guests comply with the club rules.

13 Visitors

Members of another Bowling Club attending the club's premises for the purpose of taking part in a bowls match or tournament, and their supporters, shall on the day of such event be permitted entry to the club premises and may purchase intoxicating liquor.

Members of local associations attending the club's premises for the purpose of attending a private meeting or club function, authorised by or at the invitation of the committee, may purchase intoxicating liquor. Such meetings or functions shall not exceed a total of ten in number in any period of one year.

The committee reserve the right to refuse admission to any such visitor or supporter at their own discretion.

14 Conduct of members

a) The committee may suspend the membership of any member whose conduct is considered by the committee to be detrimental to the best interests of the club or its reputation.

b) Within seven days of such suspension the committee shall display upon the club notice board a notice stating that a named member has been suspended, and specifying the alleged grounds. A date shall be fixed for a meeting of the committee for the purpose of considering further action, said meeting to be not earlier than 14 days and not later than 21 days from the display of the suspension notice. Members wishing to make representations to the committee concerning the suspension must do so in writing to the Secretary not later than seven days from the display of the suspension notice.

c) The Secretary shall, not later than 14 days before the committee meeting summoned to consider further action, cause written notice of the meeting to be served upon the suspended member at their last address as notified to the Secretary, informing them of their right to be present and legally represented at said meeting if they so desire.

d) At the said meeting of the committee any allegations against the suspended member shall be narrated (in their presence if they elect to attend and in the presence of their representative if they elect to appoint one) and the suspended member and/or their representative shall be afforded the opportunity of being heard in answer thereto. The suspended member may produce such witnesses as they wish and the committee shall not unreasonably refuse any request by the suspended member for an adjournment of the



proceedings to enable them to prepare their answer. After hearing all the evidence, the committee shall if they so wish) retire to consider further action and shall thereafter vote thereon. It shall be in the sole power of the committee to reinstate the suspended member, or to terminate his/her membership; the decision of the committee shall be final.

e) The decision of the committee shall be communicated to the suspended member in writing within three days thereof.

f) Any person whose membership is terminated under this rule or under rule 8 hereof shall immediately be excluded from the club premises, and shall have no claim against the club, the committee or any other member thereof.

15 Alterations of the Rules

These rules may be added to, amended or replaced by a resolution of two-thirds majority of those present at a general meeting of the club called for the purpose under Rule 10 hereof.

16 Play

a) The green shall be open for play at such times as the committee shall decide. A 'No Play' notice signed by the Captain or Secretary for the committee is binding on all members.

b) No person shall be allowed on the green unless wearing footwear with flat soles (heel-less) or wearing slippers. Only players are permitted on the green.

c) Any ordinary or honorary member may introduce a 'green visitor' who may play upon payment of a fee of £1 on each occasion. Such member shall enter the visitor's name in the 'green visitors' book and shall be responsible for the payment. No 'green visitor' to the club shall pay for any refreshment whatsoever.

d) No person shall be allowed on the green when a four rink match is in progress without the authority of the club captain, or captain of the day.

17 Ladies section

a) In addition to enjoying the full facilities of the club, lady members shall be entitled to have their own committee for the purpose of arranging and playing ladies matches and organising events. The committee shall consist of 3 officers elected at the Clubs Annual General Meeting and 6 members elected at the Ladies General Meeting to be held following the Club AGM. The rules of the club shall equally apply to all matters.

b) The Ladies' Section Committee shall not have any powers other than contained in subsection (a) hereof, and shall not be entitled to make any decision which affects the club as a whole, but shall be entitled to forward proposals to the main committee for consideration



18 Disputes.

Any dispute arising out of, or not covered by, these rules, shall be referred to the committee whose decision shall be final.

19 Dissolution

a) The affairs of the Club can only be wound up at an Annual General Meeting or an Additional General Meeting called in accordance with rule 10 by a majority vote of full members attending at the same time.

b) In the event of the club being wound up in accordance with rule 19(a) then any remaining assets of the club, after discharge of debts and liabilities will be applied for approved sporting or charitable purposes to comply with the requirements of CASC legislation (Schedule 18 of the Finance Act 2002). Decisions about the transfer of assets will be taken at a General Meeting of the club.

(Last amended at the AGM 2006)

Club Officers

Club President
Bernard Jones



Honorary Treasurer
Paul Neale



Club Captain
Brian Bird



Honorary Fixture
Secretary
Brian Pellant



Vice Captain
Ken Bovaird



Ladies Section
Captain
Jackie Jones



Honorary Secretary
Basil Black



Ladies Sect. Vice
Captain
Pat Bovaird



Honorary Asst.
Secretary
Len Suiter



Ladies Sect.
Secretary
Anita Nicholson





Club Matches and Club Competitions

Club Matches, Friendly Cup and League Fixtures

The fixtures programme is published on the web site www.sawbridgeworthbowlingclub.co.uk and in the Club Handbook provided to members each year on the Subscriptions night in April. Details of all matches, together with the registration sheet to register your interest in playing in a particular match, can be found on the notice boards in the dressing rooms nearer the date of the match.

External Competitions

Both the Hertfordshire and East Hertfordshire Bowling Associations arrange competitions each year that are open to all members of the club.

Forms for entry to these competitions are posted on the notice board in the Club House in the autumn of the year prior to the start of the competition.

Internal Competitions

The club organises a number of internal competitions for members each year, these include both knockout and league competitions.

Details of all the competitions can be found in a file under the telephone next to the bar.

Knockout Competitions

Forms for entry to these competitions are circulated to all members prior to the subscriptions night and are accepted by the competition secretaries on that night.

Partners for pairs and triples knockout competitions plus the order of play are determined in an open draw evening at the club early in May.

League Competitions

There are two league competitions played throughout the season. The Men's Evening Triples League and the Mixed Afternoon Triples League. Members wishing to enter or join teams should enter their names on the forms listed on the mail notice board by the bar during April.



Subscriptions

The joining fee is a one-off payment when joining the club. The subscription rate for each year is determined by the Committee and notified to the members at the Annual general Meeting held in November. The payment of the subscriptions falls due for payment in April each year. Members who have not paid their subscription by the 1st May will no longer be recognised as members and will no longer be entitled to the benefits of membership.

The current subscription rates are listed below:

Joining fee: £25.00

Full playing member: £60.00

Social member: £8.00

Social Events

From the close of the season until the opening in May the following year, we organise regular social events. Starting in October and finishing in April, on the second Friday of each month we run an informal Crib League: on the third Friday of each month there is a social event such as a Quiz Night or a Race Night and annually a special seasonal event either a Christmas Party or a New Years Eve Party.

Every Friday night throughout the year the bar is always open as well as a number of other social events such as Dog Racing, Coffee mornings etc. Please see notices displayed from time-to-time throughout the club.

Licensed Bar

The club has its own bar facility that is run by a small committee of four members who are elected at the AGM. During the bowling season the bar is manned for club matches and is open most evenings from 7.30 pm until closing. During the closed season it is open on Friday evenings from 7.30 pm until 11.00 pm. It is also open for social events as required. The club bar is manned by volunteers (approximately 12 in number) throughout the year who provide their services free of charge.

Dress Code

Gentlemen

Roll ups & Internal Leagues

Plain White Polo/Shirts with or without club badge.
Grey Trousers or Tailored Shorts

External Leagues

Plain White Polo Shirts with Embroidered Club Badge.
Grey Trousers

Club Matches

Plain White Polo Shirts with Embroidered Club Badge. White Trousers. Blazers required to be worn for arrival & at the meal.



Ladies

Roll ups & Internal Leagues	Plain White Polo Shirts with or without club badge. Grey Skirts or Trousers
External Leagues	Plain White Polo Shirts with Embroidered Club Badge. Grey Skirt or Trousers.
Club Matches	Plain White Polo Shirts with Embroidered Club Badge White Skirt or Trousers, full or $\frac{3}{4}$ length (approved style). Yellow Waistcoats or Jackets. Blazers to be worn for away matches
County or Association Matches	Comply with their dress code when participating in the match.

Use of the Green

The Green Committee have agreed to the following times for the use of the Green:

2.pm to 5.30 pm and 5.30 pm to dusk for general bowling.

Additionally, 11.am to 2.pm for Mondays & Tuesdays also Thursdays & Fridays, for competition use only. Competitions must be completed by 2.pm.

Saturday and Sunday mornings can be used for County and East Herts. Competitions by prior arrangement with the Green Committee.

All arrangements above are subject to rink availability and have to be checked with and entered into the Rink Booking log situated in the clubhouse.

Security for the Club

Each playing member will be issued with a key to allow access to the club premises. (If you have to leave the club for whatever reason, the key must be returned to the club Treasurer).

It is the responsibility of each member to ensure the security of the club is maintained at all times.

Access to the changing rooms and other club buildings will be explained to each member by an officer or committee member of the club.

It is a fire regulation that all fire exit doors must be unlocked when the club is in use no matter how few or many people are using the premises.

When leaving the club please make sure that someone has the responsibility to lock up and leave the club secure.

If you are the last to vacate the club, ensure that the lights and heaters are turned off. Also, all the doors and windows on the buildings are locked including the two external gates.



Coaching

Coaching for new and existing members starts at 5.30 Tuesday evenings throughout the summer season starting in May with 2 rinks set aside especially for this purpose so come along any time.

Individual coaching can be arranged with a qualified coach if required

Please contact Brian Bird on 01279 793385.

Green Etiquette

Many of our older players will say that twenty or thirty years ago much more attention was paid to bowling green etiquette but lawn bowls remains one of the few sports where common courtesy and etiquette is still prevalent. We should be proud of this and in order to make the game as enjoyable as possible, bowling green etiquette should be promoted to members old and new. Much of this is common sense but here are some of the main rules of etiquette.

Dress appropriately and ensure that you know the dress code for each game or match in which you are participating. Do not show disrespect for your opponent(s) by arriving late, ensure that you leave sufficient time to change before the game. If you are representing the club on another bowling green you should remember that you are an ambassador for Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club and you are expected to behave appropriately.

Do not walk across rinks that other people are using and do not stand or sit on the banks while waiting to play. Note that it is not the banks that are the problem but people sitting on the banks tend to place their feet on the edge of the green causing serious damage.

Introduce yourself and shake hands with your opponent(s) both before play commences and after the game is complete.

During the game do not move around the head when your opponent is about to deliver his bowl. Stand well back from the head, keep quiet and do not do anything that would distract your opponent. Wait until the bowl has been delivered before moving.

If you are at the same end as the player delivering a bowl you must stand behind the mat thus staying out of the player's line of vision. Here is what the rules say about this. "Players of each team not in the act of playing or controlling play shall stand behind the jack and away from the head or 1m behind the mat".

Bear in mind that some people like to see the rink boundary markers and the centre pin while playing so make sure that you are not obscuring them. On sunny days you must also ensure that your shadow does not fall on the jack.



Spectators who are in the player's line of vision should also keep still while bowls are being delivered and they should not distract players on the green. For example if you need to arrange a tie with another member don't try to do this while he is playing someone else!

At Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club we are privileged to have one of the best bowling greens in the area. Look after it! Don't drop your bowls onto the green and ensure that your delivery is not causing scuffmarks or otherwise damaging the green.

Place litter and cigarette ends in the bins and ashtrays provided for this and do not spit on the green.

Observe the rules for possession of the rink on the Bowling Green!

Here is the ruling on this.

"Possession of the rink shall belong to the team whose bowl is being played. The players in Possession of the rink for the time being shall not be interfered with, annoyed, or have their attention distracted in any way by their opponents.

As soon as each bowl shall have come to rest, possession of the rink shall be transferred to the other team, time being allowed for marking a "Toucher".

After you have delivered a bowl and before it has come to rest you have two options. If you want to track your bowl's progress you must be behind the head as it stops. In other words you must beat it to the head. If you don't go to the head you must be behind the mat as your bowl stops. This ruling is quite clear but unfortunately many players, *including many of those who should know better*, show disrespect for their opponents by failing to observe it.

How many times have you been on the mat, ready to play your bowl, when you have had to wait for your opponent to complete his stroll up the green or back to the mat? If your opponent is guilty of this you should ask him to stop. Remember that it is he who is in the wrong.

After the game you should once again shake hands with your opponent(s) and congratulate or commiserate with them appropriately.

It is also customary to offer to buy them a drink if you have won or are hosting the game. Where a marker has been involved in a singles game you should also offer him a drink.

Knowledge of the above will make you a more respected bowler, keep things friendly and contribute towards the enjoyment of the game for everyone involved, both on and off the green.



HINTS FOR BEGINNERS

- Bowls should not be dropped on the Green.
- Do not stand on the edge of the Green.
- Cigarette ends, etc., should be placed in the litter-baskets and not in the Ditches.
- Bowls should not be kicked in until the shot has been decided.
- After delivering a bowl, a player should either retire behind the Mat or advance to the head. He should not take up a position in between.
- Don't delay the game.
- Don't wander around or move about the head when a player is about to deliver a bowl.
- In a Fours Game, the 'second' keeps the score; in a Pairs Game the 'Skip' keeps the score.
- Bowling is a friendly game and all players should show courtesy and good sportsmanship.
- All Bowlers should know the Rules as laid down by the World Bowls Board.
- Mobile Phones should not be used on or around the green.

The Players' Roles in Team Games

In all team games it is the skip's job to direct the play. Other players should play the shot directed by the skip even if they don't agree with it. In fours games the 'third' should direct the skip when required to do so. In Triples or Pairs the Second or Lead may do this. Other players should not interfere unless invited to do so.

Here is what the rules say about players' roles.

The Skip

The Skip shall have sole charge of his team and his players shall observe his instructions. With the opposing Skip he shall decide all disputed points, and when both agree, their decision shall be final.

If both Skips cannot agree, the point in dispute shall be referred to and considered by an Umpire whose decision shall be final.

A Skip may at any time delegate his powers or any of his duties to other members of his team provided that such delegation is notified to the opposing Skip.



The Third

The third player may have deputed to him the duty of measuring any and all disputed shots.

The Second

The Second player shall keep a record of all shots scored for and against his team and shall at all times retain possession of the score card whilst play is in progress. He shall see that the names of all the players are entered on the score card; shall compare his record of the game with that of the opposing Second player as each end is declared, and at the close of the game shall hand his score card to his Skip.

The Lead

The Lead shall place the mat and shall deliver the jack ensuring that the jack is properly centered before playing his first bowl. In addition to the duties specified in the preceding clauses any player may undertake such duties as may be assigned to him by the skip.

It is also worth emphasising that any player must not disturb the head until the shots have been finally agreed. When the Thirds or Skips are deciding the shots the other players should stand well back from the head and give them the space to do so.

During the game encourage your team mates do not criticize them. Commend good shots and learn to accept that flukes are a part of the game. Sometimes they go for you, sometimes against.

Etiquette for Markers

***"So if you would a Marker be
Then make it worth your while
To do the job quite capably
And do it with a smile."***

During the season, when we are heavily involved in matches, markers are required on a number of occasions. Consider making yourself available as a marker whenever you can. We all know that there is nothing worse than playing an important tie without a marker. Traditionally, Sawbridgeworth Bowls Club has been one of the clubs where markers were always available but recently ties without markers seem to be becoming more common. It is not good etiquette to watch games from the sidelines or from the clubhouse while there are people playing without markers. If you have the time, get out there and mark.

A marker is serving two people. If we all marked one tie for every two we played there would not be a problem. We are fortunate at Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club to have a few people who happen to like marking ties and they are seen on the bowling green regularly. There is also a list of members who are prepared to mark on the notice board in the gentlemen's changing room.



If you are marking a tie the following rules should be observed. (These rules are what are expected of a marker in Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club in domestic tournaments.)

When a player has delivered the jack the marker should centre it then stand back and to one side, ensuring that all rink markers are visible to the players.

He should answer any specific question (from the player in possession of the rink) about the state of the head. He should not offer any additional information that has not been requested. For example if someone asks, "Who is holding the shot?", you should just answer that question, eg. "you are" or "he is". You should not say anything like, "You are holding two shots".

If you are unsure of the situation, for example you cannot decide who is "holding shot", don't guess. You can offer an opinion but make sure that the player who is asking the question is made aware of this.

The marker should mark all touchers immediately they come to rest and remove chalk marks from non-touchers. He should also remove all dead bowls from the rink with the players' agreement. He should also mark the position of touchers and or the jack which are in the ditch.

The marker should not move any bowls until the end is complete and the players have agreed the number of shots.

He shall measure disputed shots when required but once again he should not move the bowls until the players agree. If an Umpire is available then he may be called upon for a decision. Where no Umpire is available the marker may select one. Both players may also agree that the marker should make the decision. This is acceptable at local level.

Useful Organisations

Hertfordshire Bowls Association

Web site: www.hertsba.com

Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club

Bush Fair
Harlow
Essex
CM18 6LY

Tel: 01279 419030

Web site: www.tyegreenibc.co.uk



Rules of Bowls

In the simplest bowls game, singles, one of the two opponents begins a segment of the competition (in bowling parlance, an "end"), by placing the mat and rolling the jack to the other end of the green, at least 23 yards, as a target. Once it has come to rest and has been centered, the players take turns to roll their bowls from the mat towards the jack and thereby build up the "head".

Bowls reaching the ditch are dead and removed from play, except in the event when one has "touched" the jack on its way. "Touchers" are marked with chalk and remain alive in play even though they are in the ditch. Similarly if the jack is knocked into the ditch it is still alive unless it is out of bounds to the side resulting in a "dead end" which is then replayed.

After each competitor has delivered all of their bowls (four each in singles), the distance of the closest bowl to the jack is determined (the jack may have been displaced) and points are awarded for each bowl which a competitor has closer than the opponent's nearest to the jack. For instance, if a competitor has bowled two bowls closer to the jack than their competitor's nearest, they are awarded two points. The exercise is then repeated for the next end.

Particularly in a bowls team competition there can be a large number of bowls on the green towards the conclusion of the end, and this gives rise to complex tactics. Teams "holding shot" with the closest bowl will often make their subsequent shots not with the goal of placing the bowl near the jack, but in positions to make it difficult for opponents to get their bowls into the head, or to places where the jack might be deflected to if the opponent attempts to disturb the head.

Bowls Delivery

There are several different types of delivery when playing bowls. "Draw" shots are those where the bowl is rolled to a specific location without causing too much disturbance of bowls already in the head. For a right-handed bowler, "forehand draw" is initially aimed to the right of the jack, and curves in to the left. The same bowler can deliver a "backhand draw" by turning the bowl over in his hand and curving it the opposite way, from left to right. In both cases, the bowl is rolled as close to the jack as possible, unless tactics demand otherwise.

A "drive" involves bowling with considerable force with the aim of knocking either the jack or a specific bowl out of play - and with the drive's speed, there is virtually no noticeable curve on the shot. An "upshot" or "yard on" shot involves delivering the bowl with an extra degree of weight, enough to displace the jack or disturb other bowls in the head without killing the end.

The challenge in all these shots is to be able to adjust line and length accordingly, the faster the delivery, the narrower the line or "green".



Bowls Tactics

Bowls is a highly tactical game. This is one of its attractions. It is not always about "drawing" closest the jack. Players must constantly anticipate what shot their opponents may play. For example when a team has a few bowls behind the head, (behind the jack) the opposing team may see the need to place a bowl amongst these to cover the possibility of the jack being moved.

Similarly, if one side is already laying the shot, they may elect play a guarding shot short of the target area to prevent their opponents from moving anything. These are only two examples and there are many other situations, too many to discuss here, where tactics come into play.

Types of Shots in Bowling

There are basically four different types of shot or delivery in Lawn Bowling. These are:

The Draw

A Drawing Shot is the most common and it is really what the game is all about. This shot is the one in which the player attempts to play with the exact weight required to finish closest to the jack or to a point on the green dictated by strategy or tactics. This shot is often considered to the most skillful.

The Yard On

The "Yard On" shot is when the player plays his bowl with the weight that will carry it a yard or two past the target. The objective of this shot is usually to drag the jack away from the opponent's bowls towards your own or to push a bowl out of the "head" and take its place.

The Running Shot or Ditch Length Shot

The Running Shot is one which uses more weight than the Yard On. The object of this shot is to remove your opponent's bowls from the head, to move the jack to the ditch or to seek some other result that requires the bowl to be played with weight. This can be a difficult shot to play as the line (bias) required for the bowl to reach the target changes with different weight.

The Drive

The Drive is probably the most spectacular shot on the bowling green. A drive is when the player delivers the bowl at high speed and with maximum weight so that he can strike the head or the target with full force. The object of this shot can be to completely remove opponent's bowls from the head or from the rink or to drive the jack into the ditch. It is also commonly used when a player has a few shots against him. In this case the object is to destroy the head or to "burn" the end by driving the jack out of the rink. This can be a very effective and intimidating shot to have in your armory but many players have difficulty controlling their direction when concentrating their efforts on so much weight.



Protection of the Bowls Green

To protect the surface of the green, bowlers should wear flat and smooth footwear; avoid standing close to the edge of the green and never run on the green. When releasing the bowl during play this should be done as close to the green surface as possible to avoid damage to the green.

Placing a Mat

The Mat provides a base for delivering the jack and bowls. It provides some protection against local wear and tear of the green surface. Players may not relocate the mat during an end but may straighten it.

Bowls size and Bias

A bowl is about twice the diameter and six times the weight of a Jack. Bowls are designed to travel in a curved path, referred to as a bias, and was originally produced by inserting weights to one side of the bowl. This is no longer permitted by the rules and bias is now produced entirely by the shape of the bowl.

A bowler can recognise the bias direction of the bowl in his hand by a dimple or symbol on one side. Regulations determine minimum and maximum curvature characteristics allowed, but within these rules bowlers can and do choose lawn bowls to suit their own preference.

Bowling Glossary

BIAS

Bias is the amount of curve that a bowl will take during its course to the jack. Bowls are available with several different biases for use in different conditions and competitions.

BURNED END

A Burned or "Burnt" End is one where the jack has been moved outside the boundaries of the rink by a bowl in play. In normal competition Burned Ends must be replayed.

DELIVER/DELIVERY

Deliver is the term used for throwing or rolling a bowl. The delivery is the action of delivering a bowl. A bowler with a good delivery can be compared to a golfer with a good swing.

DRAW

The term draw can have several meanings in bowling. As a noun it can refer to the type of shot being played. A "dead draw" is an attempt to deliver the bowl as close as possible to



the target (generally the jack). It can also be used as a verb. You may hear a skip issuing an instruction such as, "Just draw to the jack".

DRIVE

A drive is a type of shot in bowling where the player delivers the bowl with maximum force toward the target.

END

An end of bowls comprises the placing of the mat, the delivery of the jack and the playing of all the required bowls of all of the opponents in one direction on the rink.

GREEN OR LINE

The Line or Road is the curved route taken to the jack. E.g. "You are a yard short but your line was good."

GUARD

A Guard is a bowl played to a position that restricts the opposition from getting to the target.

HEAD

The Head refers collectively to the jack and the bowls that have been delivered and come to rest within the boundaries of the rink.

HEAVY

When a player unintentionally delivers a bowl beyond the jack or the intended target it is described as being Heavy.

JACK

The Jack is the small white or yellow ball that is the target in bowls. You may also hear it referred to colloquially as the "White", the "Kitty" or the "Sweetie".

JACK HIGH

If a bowl is Jack High it means that it has reached a position such that its nearest part is laterally aligned with the jack. Effectively it means that the bowl and jack are level.

LEAD

A Lead is the person who plays first in pair's triples or fours (rinks) game. The lead is responsible for setting the mat and delivering the jack to start the end.



LINE OR GREEN

The Line or Road is the curved route taken to the jack. E.g. "You are a yard short but your line was good."

SECOND

The Second in a triples or rinks (fours) game is the player who plays second. In the rinks game the second is responsible for marking the scorecard.

SHORT

A bowl that does not reach the jack or the intended target is described as being short.

SHOT

Shot can have several meanings. The shot or shots are the number of points scored in an end. It can also mean the type of delivery, e.g. a drawing shot, and during an end, the bowl that is currently nearest the jack.

SKIP

The Skip is the captain of a team in pairs, triples or rinks play. The Skip is always last to play and is responsible for directing the play during an end. The other players in a team must follow the Skip's instructions.

THIRD

The third is the third player to play in a rinks game. The third is normally responsible, with his corresponding opponent, for deciding the result of an end, i.e. who is holding the shot and how many shots have been scored. The skips however have the final say in this in the event of any dispute.

TOUCHER

A Toucher is a bowl that during its course touches the jack before finishing within the boundaries of the rink. A Toucher remains live even if it finishes in the ditch.

WEIGHT

Weight is the term used to refer to the power applied to a delivery.

WOODS

Before the introduction of plastic composition bowls they were made from the heaviest and most dense wood available, Lignum Vitae. At this time bowls were often called Woods and some people still use this as a generic term for bowls.