

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Historical Notes</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Control and Organisation</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>3 - 4</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>6 - 7</i>
<i>How the Club Operates</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Leagues</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>9 - 10</i>
<i>Friendly Games</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Competitions</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Green Fees</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Questions and Answers</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>14 - 18</i>
<i>Conclusion</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Application Forms</i>		

Introduction

Rushmoor Indoor Bowls Club was founded in 1976 by bowlers who began using the recently opened Council Recreation Centre.

This booklet has been produced by the Club for those who wish to consider joining the Indoor Club. It does not matter whether you are a bowler of some years experience or are relatively new to the game. All are welcome.

It is meant to be an informative guide, to give you an insight as to how the Club operates and how it differs from outdoor clubs and to some degree other indoor clubs which are privately run.

The Officers of the Club hope you will find it of some interest and assistance in helping to reach a decision on whether to join. Should you decide to join please complete the necessary application form and send it to the clubs Hon Treasurer, together with the necessary remittance.

Historical Notes

When the indoor green was originally planned, nobody could have foreseen the growth in the games popularity. Facilities now commonplace in the modern Centres, were not included by the Council whose plan was to provide a basic but functional playing area. The original bowlers, who decided to organise a club for those using the facility, came from the bordering areas of Surrey and Berkshire, as well as a wide area of North Hampshire. The two nearest other indoor clubs were Wey Valley at Guildford and Whiteknights at Reading, both privately run clubs.

The number of members involved in the late seventies is not recorded but is believed to be around 300. Membership increased gradually as the indoor game became popular. Television coverage helped and the recorded membership for 1986 was 592. The current figure is 650.

Two private clubs opened within a twenty mile radius at Camberley and Loddon Vale in the late 80's and early 90's. Whilst we lost members to both these clubs, our own membership actually increased to 620 and in 1996 our membership reached a high of 711. 1997 saw Chawton Park at Alton open, again with little impact on our membership total.

In 1998 the Council in partnership with the Bowls Club applied for a National Lottery Grant to improve the facilities. The bid was successful and the start of the 1999 season will see the club with a wooden base floor improved lighting and a small lounge. The cost being in the region of £75,000. The club put up £10,000 of its funds in support the project.

Control and Organisation

The club controls its own affairs and finances. This responsibility being vested in duly elected members to be Officers of the Clubs. These Officers form the Executive Committee, in addition two ladies and two gentlemen are also elected to serve as members of the Committee. In a liaison capacity either the Manager or the Commercial Operations Manager from the Centre attend our meetings. There are various Sub-Committees, who are delegated to deal with specific aspects of the day to day management of club affairs. These Committees are:-

Emergency Sub Committee. To deal with urgent matters which cannot wait until the next full Committee meeting.

Finance Sub Committee. Considers and recommends financial matters for the approval of the full Committee.

League Sub Committee. Deals with problems and disputes relating to the leagues.

Competition Committee. The ladies and gentlemen each have their own committee to look after and deal with matters relating to the Clubs Competitions

Selection Committee. The ladies and gentlemen each have their own and are responsible for selecting members to represent the Club in National and County Competitions.

Whilst the Committee controls all club activities, it must out of common courtesy, keep the Centres Management aware of matters which may affect them and where necessary seek their approval. We are after all using their facilities.

The Council actually own the green and are responsible for the fixtures and fittings. The Recreation Centre, in line with Government policy, is operated under contract.

The Club leases the green from them, under a block booking arrangement. This block booking for the whole of the bowls season in effect constitutes a contract between the Club and the Centre.

It is essential, for the well being of the club and its members, that a good working relationship exists between the Club and the Centres' Management and their staff.

Any complaints that a member may have relating to bowls or the management should be referred to the Committee to avoid possible problems or unpleasantness. If such a matter is urgent and is purely a centre problem the duty manager of the Centre should be contacted to deal with the matter. The cause for the complaint must be passed on to the club Secretary or Chairman to ensure that the left hand and right hand know what is going on. It may well be an ongoing problem which the club committee wish to get resolved and by ensuring that they are told can help to speed matters along.

Membership

Anyone may apply to join, the Executive Committee do however reserve the right to refuse an applicant membership without giving their reasons for doing so.

The Bowls Club fee for New Membership is £23.00.
Renewal of Membership is £20.00

The Bowls Club fee is set by the Executive Committee annually and notified to members at its Annual General Meeting in April.

All renewals of membership have to made by the 30th September. Anyone who has not renewed by that date will be barred from all club events until payment is made. In comparison these fees are the most reasonable to be found in the area.

The fee paid to the Bowls Club is for membership to the club and does not afford entitlement to use any of the other facilities available in the Centre without paying the appropriate charge for doing so, to the Centre.

Facilities

In the historical notes, mention was made that the bowls facilities did not compare with the modern day clubs.

Since this booklet was first produced some six years ago, quite a few changes have taken place.
The Committee have managed to rent the two locker rooms, located outside the bowls hall. Whilst they are small they do offer somewhere to change and protection of property with the doors being operated by means of a swipe card security system.

Mention of the club in partnership with Rushmoor Borough Council applying for and getting a grant from the National Lottery Board was made earlier in the booklet. The club committee has been pressing for improvements for a long time and now we shall see the bowls surface being replaced by a wooden floor, which will give us a more consistent playing surface. The current lighting is to be replaced and designed to comply with EIBA specifications. Finally, the conversion of the bar area adjacent to rink six, is to be refurbished as a small lounge area.

The new facilities come into use for start of the 1999/2000 indoor season. A nice Millennium present for all our members. The club has no purpose made drinks or catering facilities. Food and snacks and alcoholic and soft drinks can be purchased at their outlets in the main reception area.

Members are advised that no drinks facilities are available in the hall. Members do tend to bring their own.

Leagues

Throughout the season the club operates from Monday to Friday with 19 different Leagues. Each League has between 7 and 13 teams some of the popular leagues are divided into two divisions with up to a maximum of eight teams in each.

The leagues can be either:-

Open: That is, the team can be made up of a mixture of ladies and gentlemen, or all of one gender.

Mixed: The team shall consist of at least one gentleman or one lady in each match played.

There are also gentlemen and ladies only leagues.

Each team must have at least six playing members. The Captain may only play bona fide club members. Any team found to have played a non club member will forfeit the game, incurring a penalty of points and shots to their opponents.

Teams can be expected to play each other two or three times in the course of the season. Whilst trophies have been awarded in the past to the winners of each league, or division where the league is split. (Six per team). To try and please everyone with the type of trophy to be presented each year is difficult. The current trend is to award the winning team in each league or division of a league a cash prize. They then have the opportunity to keep the cash or buy a trophy of their own choosing.

All league matches are, with the exception of the Mens' National League of 18 ends or two hours maximum duration. The Mens' National League is played to a full 21 ends.

Any member may enter a team into a league. Sometimes, team vacancies occur at the beginning of the season for one reason or another and late entries can be accepted to fill the vacancy.

Sunday Double Rinks League. This league was started many years ago, with the object to encourage local outdoor clubs to participate in the indoor game. Each participating club produces two rinks, the combined scores are then added together, to produce a winner. The league is very popular and in the event that more than fourteen clubs enter then the league is split into two divisions. The winner of each division will then play each other in a "Final" for the "Edna Woodward" Trophy.

There are currently fourteen clubs participating in this league. The winning club of the league or in the case of two divisions receive a cheque for £50 a certificate listing those players who played in the team and the trophy. Perhaps your club is one of those playing in this league!!

Friendly Games

During the indoor season, most Saturday and Sunday afternoons, the club arranges friendly games. These are often played against local outdoor clubs as well as some fifteen home and away against other indoor clubs. There are also a number of mid-week games, these are played on a Tuesday or a Wednesday afternoon.

It has been the policy of the club, to include a number of new members in each game. Should you find you have been selected you are required to put a tick against your name, indicating you are still available to play.

It is also club policy, if having been selected as a reserve for a game and not having been told before the day that you are required to play, to turn up at the club, ready to play if you are required. This ensures that the Captain can field a full team, or, let the opposition have a player if they arrive short of players. Whichever way you could still end up getting a game.

If you are not required to play, the Captain will take note of your attendance and will ensure that the next game that your name appears as available for a game that you get priority for selection.

Competitions

There are numerous competitions available to members. It is not intended to list them all in detail. There are the usual Club Singles, Pairs, Triples and Rinks for both Ladies and Gentlemen. Plus a Mixed Pairs and Mixed Rinks. In addition there is a Senior Two Wood Triples, open to men who are over 60 years of age. Entries are submitted towards the close of the current season for the following season. All competitions are fixed dates on a Sunday.

National Competitions. Any member may enter but the Executive Committee reserve the right to limit the number of entries if necessary. Entries are again done towards the end of the season.

There Ladies, Mens and Mixed National and Inter County Competitions. The Club enters all available competitions. Players for these representative games are selected by the various Competition Selection Committees.

Note: The two finalists in the mens' club competitions also qualify to go forward to the Hampshire County Finals.

Green Fees

Whenever you play, you will be required to pay a Green Fee. Fees are set annually, by the Executive Committee. They are considered to be a reasonable charge for the time and amenity you receive.

They are set to cover the cost of the hire of the rinks from the Centre and to give a profit to the Club, to help defray the costs and subsidies of club events.

The level of Green Fees set for the present time are given

as per person per game:	£1.20
Morning and Afternoon Leagues	£1.40
Evening Leagues	£2.00
Wednesday Afternoon (3 hours)	£1.50
Morning Triples	£1.60
Evening Triples	£2.00
Tuesday National League	£1.50
Sunday Double Rink	£2.00
Friendlies Saturday/Sunday (No Meal)	£7.00
Friendlies Saturday/Sunday (Meal)	£2.00
Midweek Friendlies (3 hour)	£2.50
Midweek Friendlies (Tea & Biscuits)	£2.00
Club Competitions	£3.00
National Competitions	£2.00

These fees to be paid for as a team and not individually, to the Green Steward well before the game commences.

Some Questions and Answers to Problems Previously Encountered by New Members

This section is for the beginner and those who have one or two years experience of outdoor bowling. For those who have belonged to an indoor club you will have come across many of these points.

Most new members have either heard about the indoor game from members of their outdoor club, or will have made enquiries, at the Centre.

In the latter category, some may well have taken the opportunity to learn about the game, on one of the Centres' Bowls Courses.

Lastly, there are those that have been persuaded to join by an existing member.

What everyone wants to know, is what opportunities there are available to the new member. This will depend on which of these categories you come into. The member who is brought in by a friend has probably been offered a place in one or more of his/her teams.

For the person who hardly knows anyone at the club or very little on how an indoor club is organised it can be very confusing. If you have read the section on how the club operates you will have realised that there are no facilities just to come along for a roll-up in club time.

There are however a few opportunities to try and get into a league. At the beginning of the season, two lists are put up onto the notice board, one is for new members to put their name down who want to find a place in a league team and the other is for captains of teams who have vacancies for players.

Set out below are some of the questions that have been asked by prospective new members.

Question. Are there any times when I can play or get in some practice?

Answer. The only time when members can get to play a relaxed game is on a Wednesday afternoon between 1.30 and 4.30

This is a semi organised session which has been set up for new members to play.

This session would normally have up to six rinks available which will allow up to 48 players to participate.

For this session a list is put on the notice board, it is on a first come first served basis, although people do drop out and places do become available. You need to check the list and also with the organiser.

If you are able to play on Wednesday afternoons this is an ideal time to play and enjoy yourself.

Question. I would like to join to learn how to play. Do you cater for beginners?

Answer. We are sorry but the answer is no. The opportunity to learn to play bowls can be done by making enquiries at the Reception Desk of the Centre. They do run courses for beginners and a follow on course which is for those with limited experience.

Question. I joined an outdoor club this year and I would like to continue indoors. I would like to play as often as possible. What is available to me?

Answer. This is not the easiest of questions to answer.

All indoor Clubs run on a set programme of Leagues, Friendly Games and its Club Competitions. Unlike private clubs we do not have spare rinks for roll-ups. You can be sure of a welcome on the Wednesday afternoon sessions and at the weekend and mid-week friendly games. Or by making enthusiastic enquiries to get into a league team.

Question. How then can I get into a league team?

In conclusion, the Executive Committee of Rushmoor Indoor Bowls Club, hope that you have found this guide to have been of some use to you. It may well be that the clubs playing arrangements as they are, are not what you had in mind when thinking of joining an indoor club.

It has certainly not been the intention to put you off from joining us, far from it. It is surely better for you to be aware of the difficulties that can be encountered in your first season, than to join and then be disillusioned, by not knowing the facts.

Should you decide to join us, please complete the joining cards enclosed and return them to the Club Treasurer, in the addressed envelope enclosed. Membership for new members will cost £23. This is broken down as follows.

- a. £ 20.00. Membership to the Bowls Club
- b. £ 3.00. To cover Club administration costs.

The Club Officers will hope to meet you on the green and sincerely hope that you will, above all else enjoy yourself.