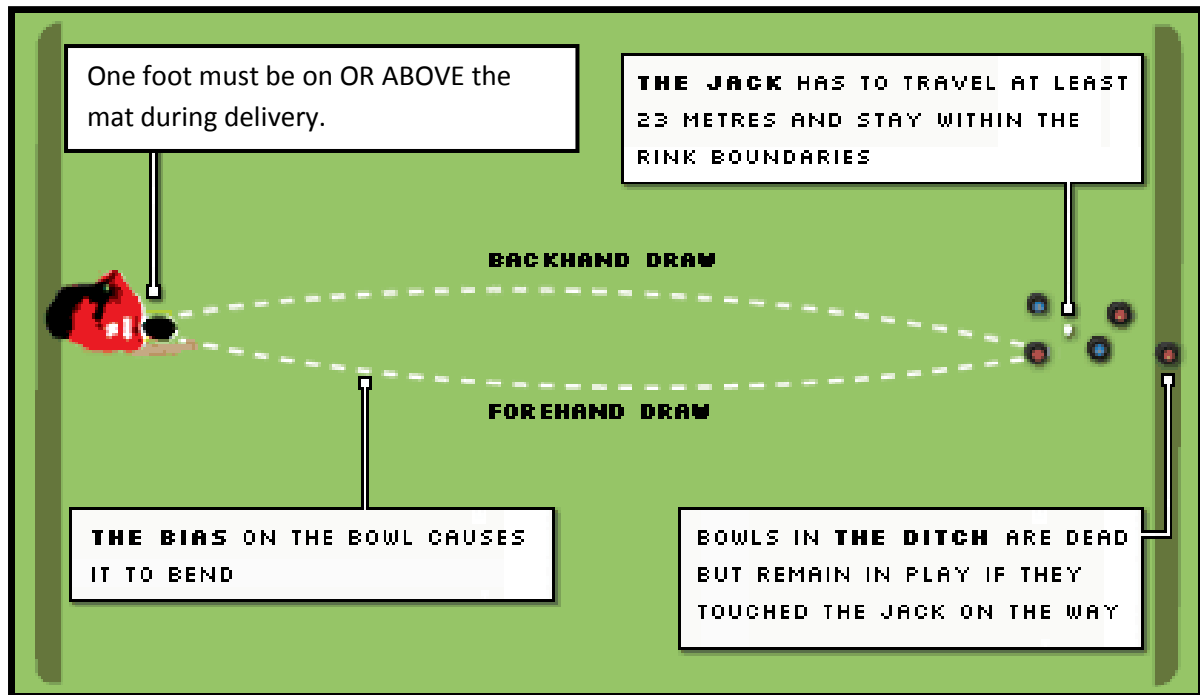


Kirby Maxloe Bowls Club

A Guide for New Members

January 2016



The aim of the game is simple. Get your bowls as close as possible to a small white (or yellow) ball called the 'jack'.

It might sound easy, but the fact that the bowls do not travel in a straight line seriously adds to the tactical challenge.

Bowls can be played indoors or outdoors, and the rules are the same.



Welcome to **Kirby Muxloe Bowling Club!** We are delighted you have decided to join us and hope you will enjoy many happy years bowling and socialising with us. We have put together this information as a reference which we hope will help you to settle in quickly and make the most of the Club's facilities.

What should I wear?

At all times bowls shoes with a completely flat sole should be worn on the Green. The Green is expensive to maintain and obviously the flat surface needs treating with care so the right footwear is essential.



For casual bowling and practising you can wear any comfortable clothing. The dress code for matches is white trousers (or skirts for ladies) and a white or Club shirt. You may need a white jumper for cooler days and a white waterproof jacket in windy or wet weather. Evening matches and the preliminary rounds of competitions are played wearing grey trousers/skirts instead of white. Dark blue blazers are optional for new members. They are worn on more formal occasions and to away matches. They can usually be bought second hand so look out for the sale rails!

What sort of bowls should I buy?

There is a large stock of bowls in the visitors' changing rooms which you are welcome to borrow for as long as you like. Don't rush into



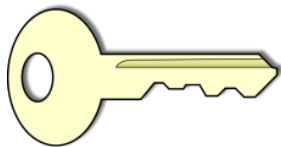
buying any until you are sure what size, weight and make you prefer. Second hand bowls are often available and you can usually try before you buy if they are advertised at the Club. There are many different bags on the market for keeping your bowls, footwear etc. neatly stored and easy to transport.

When can I bowl?

There is usually no bowling in the mornings, as this is the time when the Greenkeeper carries out his duties. If there is a match on (check in the fixture booklet) it is etiquette to wait until the match has started before you bowl and to try to keep away from the rinks being used for the match. If there is a competition being played those involved will have the first choice of rinks. Throughout the bowling season there is someone at the clubhouse most afternoons who would be happy to help you if you need anything.



How do I get into the Club?



A key can be obtained from the treasurer for a £5 deposit. This key opens the main gate lock, the changing rooms, the clubhouse and the kit shed, so please keep it safe. The whole building has an alarm system so you will be given a code to put into the alarm box which is just inside the main door to the clubhouse, on the left hand side as you go in. There is also a hook next to the alarm for the gate lock. Unlock and open the door to the clubhouse, the alarm will start to sound, enter the code and the alarm will stop. Please do not open any other doors first or you will set off the alarm and a Club member will be alerted and come down to the Club to see if there is a problem!



Can I keep anything at the Club?

Lockers are available to hire for a small annual fee. The secretary will be able to tell you how to obtain a key.

Is coaching available?

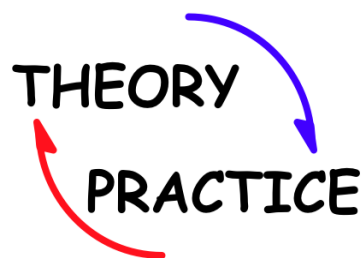
There are two qualified coaches who will be happy to help you to learn the basics and help you to improve your game. Please contact them to organise a coaching session or to ask any questions. The service is free of charge.



How do I improve my game?

THEORY

PRACTICE



Whilst there is some theory to the game there is nothing like practise. A few tips on practising are to vary the length of the jack, do not always centre the jack and practise both backhand and forehand. You can also move the mat up and down the green.

If there are other people practising consider asking to join them or asking new arrivals to join you. You will learn a lot from practising with other players especially if they are more experienced than you and the more experienced players are always pleased to pass on tips and guidance. Try and end each practise session with a few "competitive" ends as this always helps with your overall game.

Games, competitions and matches, what's the difference?

Having a "game" usually refers to an informal session where you will be practising either on your own or with other Club members. A "competition" usually refers to in-club organised competitions that take place each year. They are fun and not compulsory but you are encouraged to enter them as the experience of these improves your game. "Matches" are organised events between Kirby Muxloe Bowling Club and other bowling clubs, although sometimes only Kirby Muxloe members will play. Matches are often arranged for the enjoyment of the sport but some matches are more formal as part of local leagues. Players of all levels play in matches so do not think that you are not good enough, however league matches offer more competitive games.



How can I be selected to play in a match?

There are "availability boards" situated in the clubhouse where you can sign up for selection in any matches for which you are available. They are separated into the different types of matches, so you might want to enter your availability on more than one sheet. Beginners will be most welcome on Sunday, Saturday, Thursday and most Ladies matches.



Look at the availability boards and indicate if you are available. Approximately one week prior to each match a team will be selected. The team sheets are displayed in the cabinets on the outside of the clubhouse. To help the captains for each team you are asked to confirm your availability on the team sheet by just ticking next to your name. On the team

sheet it will also confirm the time of the match, provide details of the meeting times, dress code for the match, any costs (for example for travel) and any other information that you may need for the day, so please read all of the details.

How is the Club run?



The Club is managed by a committee that comprises of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and current President along with a representative from the Ladies' section and from the four sub-committees (Bowling, Bar, Facilities and Social). The Club is run entirely by the members who carry out a variety of jobs to keep the Club functioning.

How can I help?

Hopefully you will offer your time and effort to support the Club. Officers are elected annually and you may feel you can offer to fill one of these positions. Practical help is always needed and volunteers for bar personnel, gardening, painting and general maintenance would be gratefully accepted.



Setting up and clearing away on match days will be a big help to captains. As with most Clubs we run on a tight budget so your support at Social Events, Coffee Mornings and the 100 Club would be appreciated.

How do I sign up for Kirby Muxloe Bowling Club and what does it cost?



In your first season at Kirby Muxloe a Club member will help you sign up and make sure that the Club knows that you have arrived. At

the beginning of future seasons you will be sent a renewal form for you to sign for the next season. This form will also give you the opportunity to enter Club competitions. Fees are reviewed annually by the Management Committee. Actual fees are not given within this document so please ask a member of the Management Committee for the latest figures.

What facilities are there at the Club?

There are facilities for ladies and gentlemen and both home and away teams. The gent's toilet are at the back of the gentlemen's changing room and the ladies can be found off the main hall. The Club has both a kitchen and a bar, which both serve members of the Club. The "bowls shed", which contains all the playing equipment, is located at the opposite end of the clubhouse to the entrance gate. It is most important that if you are last to leave that you check that this, as well as the clubhouse, is locked.



The Club runs a series of social events throughout the year and these are published on a separate sheet. Please feel able to come forward with suggestions for any additional type of event that you feel would be supported.

You are able to bring visitors and/or prospective new members to the club and non-members can join in the social events.

The outdoor season is from April to September. Some members also play indoors during the rest of the year. In the main they play at the sports centre in Enderby. If you are interested in indoor play then you should contact the indoor

captain. There is an informal practise on Thursday mornings starting at 9:30 am and players are welcome to join in.

Here are a few tips for players completely new to the game.



What makes up a team?

A "full" team is made up of 4 players. Each has two bowls. The players are known as the Lead, the second, the third and the Skip.

"Triples" is when only three players play in each team. They have three bowls each and are the Lead, second

and Skip

Pairs is when two players make up the team. They have 4 bowls each and are the Lead and Skip.

Singles is when you are on your own and again you have 4 bowls.

What are the responsibilities of the players?

At each end, the Lead of the team that did not score on the previous end collects the bowls ready to start again. The Lead from the team that did score places the mat, rolls the Jack and starts play.

In a 4 player team the second keeps the score, the third agrees with the opposing third the number of shots, and therefore points won, and by which team. They also measure, if required, to see which bowls are closest. The Skip directs play for the team.

In Triples the Skip also keeps the score leaving the middle player, the second, to agree the scores and measure.

In Pairs the Skip directs play and scores and the Lead does the rest.

In singles, well you guessed it, you do the lot!

Where do I stand?

When at the bowling end stand behind the person bowling, i.e. behind the mat. When at the "head" end you should stand behind the head, that is behind the furthest bowl played. Try not to block the bowlers' view of the rink number and rink markers. Please do not move when someone is about to bowl. When you bowl stay on the mat until your bowl has stopped. Your Skip may want to tell you how well you did or the position of your bowl. This and the direction your bowl took may help you when you have your next turn.

There is a beginner's guide to lawn bowling on the BBC web site:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/other_sports/bowls/4747148.stm

The score card.

This is a simple record of the play as it proceeds. When you are interested in seeing how it works just ask.

The full rules.



As with all sports there is a comprehensive set of rules but you really can read these at your leisure, if you are so inclined. It is not necessary to do so. A copy is pinned to the notice board in the clubhouse and a complete copy is available on the Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club web site.

The Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club Web Site.

This contains valuable information about the game and the club. Visit www.kirbymuxloebowls.club

