



## ***A Brief Guide to the Game of Bowls***

Bowls is the sport for all - all ages, all sexes and all abilities.

The game is played on a square of closely cut grass called 'the green', which is divided into playing areas called rinks.

The green is surrounded by a small ditch to catch bowls which leave the green, and a bank upon which markers indicate the boundary and centrelines of each rink.

Players take turns to deliver their bowls from a mat at one end of the rink towards a small white ball called the jack at the other end. The bowls are shaped so that they take a curved path towards the jack. To be successful the bowl must be delivered with the correct weight, along the correct line.

The object is to get one or more of your bowls closer to the jack than those of your opponents on each end - one point is scored for each counting bowl.

Lawn bowls are not spherical; they are shaped on one side such that they follow a curved track to the jack. They carry a mark to indicate to which side the bias is applied.

The bowls can be delivered on the "forehand" or the "backhand" depending on the player's preference or where bowls that have already been played are located.

The players must stand on a rubber mat when delivering their bowl. The mat is placed on the centreline of the rink with its front end no less than 2m from the rear ditch or less than 25m from the far ditch. Its position is chosen by the player who throws the jack to start the end.

During an end the bowl nearest to the Jack is referred to as "the shot". The player who first delivers the jack must ensure that it is properly centred. If it comes to rest within two metres from the front edge of the green it must be moved out to a mark at that distance. The player delivering the jack can choose the length to play it, but it must finish at least 23m in a straight line of play from the front edge of the mat.

The players then take turns to deliver their bowls. When all the bowls have been delivered the number of "shots" is counted. A shot is a bowl which is nearer the jack than any of your opponent's bowls. For example, if you have three shots nearer the jack than any of your opponents bowls you score three shots at that end.

### **Types of Lawn Bowls Games and Matches**

Games of bowls can involve singles play or teams of two in pairs, three in triples or fours in "rinks" games. Matches generally involve number of teams from one club playing another club. For example a match could involve five rinks or 20 players (5x4) per team.