

# Glastonbury (Wyrral Park) Bowls

## New Members Handbook



**Do come and join us for bowls, and / or just socialisation, on club nights between 6 pm and 8 pm during the months April to September.**

**We are found next to Tor Leisure, Street Road, Glastonbury BA6 9EF**

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/wyrral-park-bowls-club-glastonbury-18646/home>

Facebook: Wyrral Park Bowls Club group

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## MOST IMPORTANT

Please don't be put off if any of the contents of this document seem complicated at first.

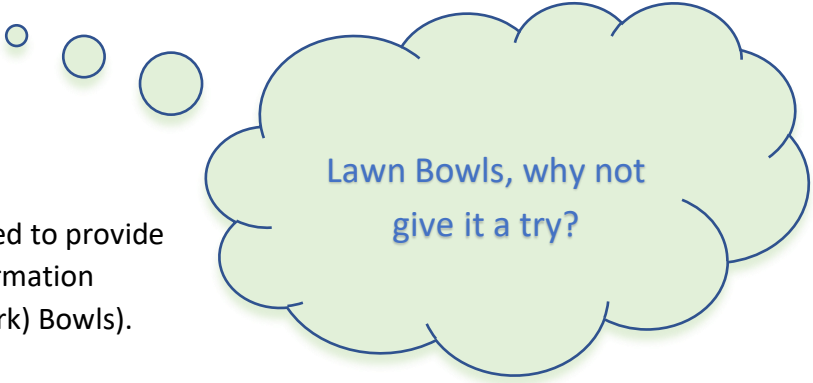
All current members will be willing to help newcomers.

We all learned through experience and the occasional error - *or more*.



## INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been produced to provide new members with basic information about Glastonbury (Wyrral Park) Bowls).



Lawn Bowls, why not  
give it a try?

First of all, you are most welcome and we hope that this information helps you to rapidly become an integral part of the club and enable you to have an enjoyable and fulfilling time with us.

'Lawn Green' bowling has been prospering in Glastonbury since 1929. Originally, we were founded as Morlands Bowls Club but became Wyrral Park Bowls Club Glastonbury in 1987, and established as an Incorporated Charitable Body - Glastonbury (Wyrral Park) Bowls in 2021.

We like to think that we are a friendly club that welcomes new members at any time of the year. If not the season for 'Lawn Green' bowling we also have a thriving 'Short Mat' bowls section that plays indoors during the winter months.

Coaching is available to newcomers and all are encouraged to participate in club events, club tournaments and friendly matches. More experienced members engage with a variety of Ladies, Men's or Mixed League and Cup competitions in Somerset.

The club administration is managed by volunteers who willingly give their time to ensure the club runs smoothly. Please refer to the club website (*see front cover*) for current contacts. All will willingly offer help and support on matters relating to the club. As time passes the current volunteers need to be replaced by other members. In this way the workload is shared and the club will continue to prosper. Please let us know if you have skills that you think may help us.

You can also keep in touch with club activities via the club's Facebook page as shown on the front cover.

IF IN DOUBT ABOUT ANYTHING PLEASE SPEAK DIRECTLY TO ANY OF THE CLUB OFFICERS.  
The names of Officers are shown on the website and on the current seasons Fixture Card.

**Please note that smoking is not permitted on club premises or grounds.**

## COACHING

The club provides free coaching to new members, to existing members, or to any member of the public who wishes to try bowls.

Our single most important requirement of newcomers is that they wear flat (heelless) shoes to prevent damage to the bowling green.

We will facilitate access to club bowls for trial purposes, but once hooked, new members will obtain their own set of bowls. *Familiarity with a set of bowls is important in developing the skill of bowling.*

During the summer season coaching sessions are usually available on Monday evenings between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm but other options can be arranged through the Club Coach – Ralph Packer.

## ROUTINE BOWLING MATTERS

All members of a team are responsible for ensuring that Jacks, Mats, Bowls Gatherers and Scoreboards are returned to their rightful place at the end of any play on the green.

All members playing in a match should wear the club shirt. They must also ensure they have club stickers on their bowls.

It is preferable for genuine bowls shoes be worn. But considering that other forms of footwear can be so much cheaper, the main requirement is that all shoes must have a totally flat sole.

The use of mobile phones for texting, calls, internet access or social media contact is NOT ALLOWED on the bowls green or surrounding walkways. They must be set to silent during the formalities before and after a match.

Every person playing in a representative match must pay a rink fee to cover the cost of catering. This will be collected by your skip after each match. Offers of help with catering are encouraged and always welcome.

The general rule is that the green belongs to the Green Keeper until 12 noon and is available for play after that time

It is necessary when playing on the green in a competition that a rink booking is made. The rink booking board is on the outside of the ladies changing room and you must show the commencement time of the game. This avoids clashes with the games of others.

Informal practise, “roll ups” are free and available from 2.00pm until dusk when a rink has not been previously booked.

Every Monday evening throughout the season is Club Night at the green for bowls and social activity in the Club House.

## COMPETITIONS

A range of club competitions are planned each year. They are totally optional but are designed to ensure that novices as well as experienced bowlers have a chance to win silverware. Sign-up sheets are displayed on the club notice board early in each season. The Competition Secretary will provide a programme of play for **all who indicate an interest in playing** and this is displayed on the notice board. Competitors must ensure that matches are completed by the published dates.

When playing club competitions, it must be noted that County and National competitions take priority when choosing rinks to play on.

Members are eligible to enter all County and National competitions. Details regarding these can be found by exploring the Somerset Bowls Association website - <https://somerseibowls.org.uk/>.



## LEAGUE AND FRIENDLY MATCHES

Details of dates and venues for these matches are found on the Fixtures Card issued to all members. They are also published on our website.

All the matches arranged by the Fixture Secretaries are open to club members. Some are Men's teams, some Ladies teams, and some are Mixed teams.

The relevant Captain places notices in the clubhouse for members to register their interest in playing. The Captain then selects the team and displays this on the notice board.

**Newcomers are especially encouraged to engage in friendlies as a way of building up confidence and experience.**

**Note** - practising on a rink due to be played on, on the day of a match or a competition is considered unsporting.

## DRESS CODE FOR REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

A reminder of the dress code is published on the fixtures card issued to all club members, and also, on the selection lists for matches published on the club notice board. In general, for afternoon matches the dress code for bowls clothing is for all items to be white: tops, and trousers for men and tops, skirts or trousers, for ladies. For evening matches grey trousers or skirts are worn rather than white. All players in league and friendly matches are expected to wear the recognised club top.

## ETIQUETTE

An area that members need to be aware of is the etiquette of bowls. It is a sport with a long tradition of sporting behaviour. This section is included to help new members understand the expected behaviour of themselves and others.

1. At the start of the game shake hands with your opposition (*Covid 19 permitting*).
2. Each bowler during a game is expected to be ready to bowl when it is their turn and to concentrate on the match.
3. Players are expected to be quiet and not move at the head end when a player is preparing to bowl. Avoid obscuring the rink number and rink markers from the bowler.
4. Be aware of players on adjacent rinks. Keep to your own rink and do not become a wanderer and distract other bowlers. Do not walk past the end of a rink when somebody is about to bowl.
5. Encourage and praise the rest of the team including the skip. Don't ridicule a team member who plays a poor shot, and admit a fluke shot with grace.
6. Compliment your opponent's bowls and don't wave your opponent's bowls through the head.
7. Minimise the distraction and interference with bowlers on adjacent rinks during movement between ends by walking, as far as possible, along the centre of the rink.
8. Be gracious whether you win or lose.
9. At the end of the game shake hands with your opposition (*Covid 19 permitting*).
10. After matches be prepared to offer your opposite number a drink and socialise with them. Most League and Friendly matches also provide food of some sort after the game so don't rush off unless it is essential.
11. NEVER CRITICISE YOUR OPPONENTS, THEIR BOWLS GREEN, OR YOUR OWN TEAM.

**Note** - All members are recommended to read the 'Laws of Lawn Bowls' to gain a greater understanding of the sport. A copy is kept in the club house or a search on the internet should help you.

## PARTICIPATING IN THE GAME OF BOWLS

- Always arrive in good time and be aware that equipment must be set out before the scheduled start of the game. Help with this is always appreciated.
- Before a competitive match the Captain will normally stand on the green and welcome the opposing team and clarify which team has won the toss of a coin so deciding who starts the game. *In Friendlies it is common practice to give the Away team the option to start.* Make sure that you are on the appropriate rink and shake hands (*unless otherwise advised*) with everybody on both teams wishing them good luck for the match ahead.
- It should be noted that the person standing on the mat and their skip have possession of the rink from the moment that the previous wood came to rest until their own wood comes to rest. Once the wood has come to rest possession of the mat transfers to the opposing team. When you are not in possession of the rink you must retire away from the head.
- The role of the lead is to deliver the jack to the length requested by the skip and then to deliver their bowl to rest as close as possible to the jack.
- The number 2s follow suit by delivering their bowls as close to the jack as possible unless the skip asks them to do something else. They will normally also record the score on the scorecard. *Sometimes the skip will decide otherwise.*
- The number 3s will be asked by the skip to either continue to build the head, play defensive bowls to cover positions where if the jack is moved the opponents could score many shots or to play attacking shots to either remove opposition bowls or move the jack.
- The skips will play similar shots to the number 3 carrying the ultimate responsibility for the result of each end as they play the last bowls. Between shots the number 3 will advise the skip of any changes in position or strategy.
- Once all the bowls have been delivered the number 3, with their opposite number will determine how many shots are to be awarded to the team whose bowl was closest to the jack. If the bowls are a similar distance from the jack then the person who challenges the number of shots claimed will measure the distance between the jack and the bowls. **No bowls are to be disturbed until these people have agreed the number of shots and they will then communicate the score to their skips.**

**No other players are to become involved in the measuring process and must stand away from the head and not comment.**

- As soon as the score has been decided the lead of the unsuccessful team is expected to use the bowls gatherer to collect the bowls and place them behind the mat position. If a bowls gatherer is not used other players will help to push the bowls back using their feet. The home skip or home number 2 will update the scoreboard, whichever is at the end the scoreboard is located.



- The lead of the successful team should then place the mat as quickly as possible and commence bowling the jack as directed by the skip.

**Note** – the foregoing relates to teams of four if triples are being played the second player undertakes the role of 2 and 3 above. If pairs are being played the lead takes on all roles other than skip.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB**

Club trustees / officers are responsible for the activities at the club and meet regularly to address all matters relating to the club. Current officers are displayed on the club website and on the current fixtures card issued to members. Members determine who undertakes these roles through a process of nominations and votes at an annual general meeting.

Each officer carries out their allocated duty on a voluntary basis.

The officers can also ask any other member to help the club with a voluntary duty, especially if they have an expertise that the club needs at any given time.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The club aims to ensure that members are kept fully aware of all relevant activities and events.

Members are advised to check the club notice board regularly for general notices and opportunities to participate in matches or other events.

The Secretary issues updates on a regular basis by email or post, to ensure that members know what is happening in the club.

The Treasurer submits an up-to-date financial statement at every trustee meeting.

We aim to keep the website and Facebook pages up to date but **we do need help from members in keeping us in touch with interesting news.**

## MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions are due by the end May each year. It is very helpful to have the fees paid by mid-April to help the captains with selection for teams. If not paid by the end May then membership lapses.

The amount is determined by the previous year's AGM. The subscription entitles you to play bowls or any other activity provided by the club. It also covers affiliation fees to the Somerset Bowls Association.

## SHORT MAT BOWLS

During the winter months, when play outside is not possible, many members enjoy this form of bowls. It is played on long mats each of which is 45 feet long and 6 feet wide. It is played in much the same way as outdoors but there is a wooden block in the middle of the mat that must be negotiated so providing a new type of challenge.

Please refer to our website <a href="https://www.hugofox.com/community/wyrral-park-bowls-club-glastonbury-18646/home">https://www.hugofox.com/community/wyrral-park-bowls-club-glastonbury-18646/home</a>
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to get more information and see a video demonstration of the game.

As with the outdoor club, we have club sessions which are excellent opportunities to develop one's skills and also to enjoy each other's company.

We also compete in the Mendip Short Mat League <http://www.mendip-league-smba.com/> giving those who enjoy a bit more competition some extra challenge.