



Helpful Information For New Members

Version February 2022

Olveston and District Bowling Club

Helpful information for new members

Introduction

Bowls is a simple game but it can take years to understand all the intricacies and variations that are part of the game, especially within a large and diverse club such as ours at Olveston. Behind the smooth running of the Club there are rules and regulations set out in a constitution and there are committees, instructions and a dress code! Initially, this is a lot to take in, so we have produced this booklet/information as a general guide to help new members and possibly remind existing ones of the basics of how the Club works.

How does the club work?

- The Club is run by the General Committee who are appointed each year at the AGM. They meet at regular intervals throughout the season and during the winter months. This committee oversee all aspects of the Club and the Minutes of these meetings can be found on the ODBC website.
- The ladies and men's teams have a Playing Committee who meet at regular intervals during the playing season and oversee all playing activity.
- The maintenance of the buildings, green and surrounding areas



is carried out by Club volunteers. This group of people work incredibly hard all year round and provide us with one of the best bowling greens in the area. The Club welcomes anyone at anytime to volunteer their help in this area of the Club's management. Please don't wait to be asked.

- Refreshment is provided during or after most of our friendly matches by volunteers from a catering rota.
- The Bar is an essential part of the Club where we socialise with other Club members and visiting teams. It is also an essential source of income and is run totally by Club volunteers.
- If you wish to volunteer for helping with maintenance, the green, the bar and catering please contact the post holders whose contact details are in your club handbook and can be identified by their photographs on the wall next to the door to the rear corridor.
- At the end of the season we hold our AGM where officers and post holders are nominated and voted in, along with other matters that need to be discussed for the following season.
- At the beginning of the season we hold the Spring Meeting where everyone is brought up to date with what has been happening during the winter months. Club Fees and Competition forms need to be completed by this date.

How do I gain access to the club and green?

All members are given a code which will allow you to open the padlocks for the entry gate and the key safe box on the front of the changing rooms. Safelock padlock has a button in the base which has to be pressed after code entry. All the other keys for the general access areas are located in a box on the wall in the Office. These include the club house, equipment barn, side door to the toilets.

- Once used, any key bunches and padlock keys are to be returned to the key cabinet and single door keys can be left in the respective key hole. Padlocks should be left on the hook next to their respective hasp.
- When opening up, please be very careful not to put any keys down, in your bag or pocket.
- If you are last out and have checked that no one else is on the premises, even if you didn't open any doors, you must check all doors and locks and return the keys to their home before leaving.
- Do not forget to unset and reset the alarm.

Playing Opportunities

Internal

- Club night takes place on most Monday evenings. This is a fun, more casual affair with members turning up when available, playing in different positions making the evening entertaining and the chance to meet other members of the Club.
- Look out for internal Club bowls drives, often on bank holidays or to replace a cancelled friendly. Normally run on a Club night format and often involve refreshments and there will be a sign-on list on the notice board.
- On Fridays we run an internal triples league. This is open to all playing members but could be ideal for new and inexperienced members to play more competitive bowls. It is included in the club competitions.
- Practising or having a 'roll-up' is possible from 10 am provided there is a rink available. Before taking to the green for a roll-up it is necessary to check the rink booking folder in the Office.
- Rinks are booked for all scheduled home fixtures and individuals who are playing club or county competitions. When booking a rink, it is important to observe the rink 'priority' list which is found in the fixture booklet.
- Members are allowed to invite visitors for a 'roll-up'. To record this there is a visitors' book and there is a jar for the fee (presently £2.50 per person) in the Office.

Friendly Matches

- There is an extensive fixture list both for ladies and men as well as mixed matches. The ladies play mid week games on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Men's friendly matches are usually Saturday afternoon with mixed matches being on a Sunday afternoon. Midweek men's and mixed friendly matches vary in day and time.
- If you want to be considered to play any of these games, please put your name on the availability sheets on the Club's website. The Captain will select the team's from those names and will post the team and game details on the website and send out an email to the players.
- You must then confirm your availability by return email. If you become unavailable, you must call the captain or relevant team manager for that game as soon as possible so a replacement can be organised. This also applies to any league or cup match.
- For Home games players should arrive half an hour before the start of play. The team sheet will display the dress code, but if in any doubt always consult the Captain or Vice Captain or refer to the Fixture Booklet.



League and Cup Team Matches

- League and cup games are selected by the League Managers from the strongest players in the Club taking into consideration their availability and eligibility. Team sheets and game details are posted on the respective notice boards.
- The ladies have three league teams (a, b and c) with home games played on a Wednesday evening and away games played on varying evenings throughout the week.
- The men have eight league teams in total. Four of the teams play on Thursday evenings. Two teams play in the South Cotswold League on Tuesday evenings and the two in the Gloucester Two Rink League on Sunday Mornings. The league managers/ selectors will know who have made themselves available for selection and have an idea of availability. If you are new and are interested in being considered for selection, please talk to one of the managers.
- There are numerous Club team competitions played during the season and selection is carried out by the league managers. The times and format of these competitions are often varied and not in the fixture book so it is wise to check the notice board for dates and times as well as the rink booking forms if you are unsure about rink availability for rolling up. Team sheets and game details are posted on the respective notice boards.

Individual Competitions

- Internal Club competitions are entered at the beginning of the season and the draws are posted on the notice boards in the changing rooms along with play by dates for each round. The finals are played over a weekend at the end of the season and the winners of these find their name's on the honours boards in the clubhouse.
- The player at the top of the draw is the challenger and responsible for contacting their opponent to arrange a day and time to play. For singles matches, the challenger or home player is also responsible for organising a marker who will umpire the match.
- Rinks must be booked on the rink booking sheets which are found in the main changing room. There is a rink priority list in the fixture booklet.
- County and Bristol competitions are played throughout the season. Entry for these competitions is normally made at the end of each season. The draws are printed in the respective handbooks and also websites.



What do I wear?

- As a general guide, matches played during the day are played in whites (White below the waist and Club shirt) and those played in the evening are played in navy blue (navy blue below the waist and Club shirt). If in any doubt check the fixture book, team sheet or contact the Captain.

- For ladies when wearing whites, they wear their Club shirt, blue jacket, white trousers (full length or cropped) or skirt and when wearing navy blue, the above apply but replace white trousers or skirt with navy blue.
- Most internal Club night, 'Club night' style games or non-club representation games, including Club competitions the dress code is navy blue below the waist and white above, i.e. not Club shirts!
- For rolling up it is important to be smart and respectful of any other activity at the Club especially if there is a Club representative game being hosted at the Club. If in doubt, refer to the club rules or the fixture list which gives the dress code 'Wh' or 'Gr' in the last column of the fixture list. Both can be found in your club handbook along with the club constitution list of officers / post holders.

How do I improve?

- We have 6 Club coaches, Trevor Graham, Ken Tudor, John Paton, Dave Wiggall, Alan Lambourne and Jean Lambourne who are happy to give help and advice at any time.
- There are coaching sessions organised throughout the season. A four-week beginner's course is organised at the beginning of the season. There is a 'Back to Basics' session, usually held at the beginning of the season. A session for 'Reading the Head', 'Options' and 'Playing the Running Wood' is also organised and advertised on the main notice board.



What else goes on?

- The summer season is always incredibly busy with rarely a week going by without a representative match taking place either at home or away. Details are often posted on the notice board, emailed or found in the newsletter.
- We host County matches for both men's and ladies' teams which generate extra money for the Club, but this also means a vast amount of extra work for the Club, which we rely greatly on volunteers helping out at these events.
- During the winter months we have a monthly event which can vary from a social event to an indoor match against other clubs.

How do I find out more?

Fortunately, there are places and people that you can go to in order to find out more about the Club, it's games, organisation and bowls in general.

- The members' hand book is precious with the information about fixtures and green usage, committee members and post holders, members contact details, club constitution and rules.

- If you have any issues or questions, please direct them to the secretary or the welfare officer who will be pleased to deal with them or take them forward to the General Committee as appropriate.
- The notice boards during the season provide us with a wealth of up-to-date information about Club activities and bowling around the county.
- If you have an email address and have registered it with the Club membership secretary, it may be useful to check it on a regular basis for Club information that is delivered in this way.
- Our newsletter “2-Wide 2-Heavy” is produced on a regular basis throughout the season and will be emailed and posted on the notice boards and is certainly worth reading.
- If you are a Facebook user you can also join our “friends” on our Facebook Page, just search for Olveston and District Bowling Club.
- Probably the best way of all to get to know about bowling and what the Club has to offer is to get down to the Club, play bowls and talk to the other members.



Enjoy your bowls!

