

ASH BOWLING CLUB

NEW MEMBERS HANDBOOK

Your Executive Committee

Chair – Shirley Taylor (07471 198803)

Secretary – Roy Allen (07877 974703)

Treasurer – Glenn Stephenson (07966 284209)

Club Captain – John Kirtley (07973 433584)

Fixtures & Competitions Secretary – Judy Martin
(07977 018210)

Members Representative – Shirley Harris
(07791 912714)

#####

Safeguarding Officer – Sarah Stephenson
(07970 669448)

Welfare Officer – Shirley Harris (07791 912714)

Contact Us

The Pavilion

Moat Lane, Ash. Canterbury. CT3 2DG

Pavilion: 07732 345080

Secretary: 07877 974703

Email: secretary.ashbowlsclub@gmail.com

www.ashbowlsclub.org.uk



NAME:

A message from the Chair

A WARM WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Ash Bowling Club. We are delighted to have you as part of our bowling community.

Bowls is not just about competition, but about friendship, camaraderie, and enjoying time together both on and off the green.

We will appreciate your support and assistance with all our bowling and social events throughout this season. Our club depends on this support to maintain its progress toward our overall objectives.

This booklet is designed to assist you to settle into the Club, make you aware of our facilities and to give you some guidance about the game of bowls. I do hope you find it useful. You will also be able to find further information on our website:

www.ashbowlsclub.org.uk

Included in this guide is some contact information – please do use it should you need to, it's important to us that you have the information you need and get to know our members as well as getting to grips with the game!

I wish you an enjoyable and successful season, and I look forward to seeing you on the green and around the pavilion throughout the year.

Shirley Taylor.

Our Objectives

To offer facilities for flat green and short mat bowling at all levels, promoting recreation and competition in a collaborative, sportsmanlike environment that encourages both sporting and social friendships.

To foster excellence in bowling by encouraging skill development in a supportive and inclusive environment.

To continue to robustly manage our financial position, so as to invest in areas that will increase our financial security.

To promote all our sporting and social activities, with the clear aim of increasing membership and fostering engagement within our local community in Ash and the neighbouring villages.

To organise an ambitious but practical sports and social events calendar to raise revenue for the Club.

- **Stance** | Position adopted on the mat prior to delivery.
- **Shot** | The bowl that is nearest the jack at any stage of play.
- **Toucher** | A bowl that hits the jack during its original course. The bowl is marked with chalk and still counts even if it ends up in the ditch.

Notes

Table of Contents

Message from our Chair	1
Table of contents.....	2
How to use this booklet	3
Our facilities.....	4
Our facilities cont.....	5
Our facilities cont.....	6
Your membership	7
Dress code	8
Bowling	9
Bowling cont	10
Safeguarding	11
Notes.....	12
Indoor short mat bowling.....	13
Lets get bowling	14
Your coaching program	15
Notes.....	16
Your coaching program cont.....	17
Notes.....	18
Bowling – quick checklist	19
Common terminology.....	20
Notes.....	21
Our objectives.....	22

How to use this booklet

As you progress through this booklet tick the sections as you go but you shouldn't stop there – use the booklet to refresh yourself should you need to and if you think something is missing or spot an error then please let us know. Your bowling coach will sign off your progress as you play.

Tick as you go...

Lets tour our facilities

The pavilion features comfortable seating and a dining area dependant on whatever activities are planned. During the winter both indoor short mats are laid out for play unless we have a social event planned. In summer only 1 mat is used.

*Please avoid walking on the indoor mats
to prevent damage – unless you are
playing of course...*

Locker Rooms & Kitchen

There are Men's and Ladies Locker rooms for changing. Secure lockers are available on a first come first served basis for storing personal belongings, please contact Glenn Stephenson for details. Feel free to make yourself a tea or coffee in the kitchen, you will need to bring your own milk and just pop 50p into the box on the worktop and please clear up after yourself.

Common terminology

- **Bowl** | May also be referred to as a 'wood'.
- **Backhand** | When (for a right-handed player) the bowl is delivered so the curve of the bowl is from the left to right.
- **Bias** | The shape of the bowl which causes it to curve.
- **Delivery** | The moment the bowl leaves the hand.
- **Ditch** | The gully around the green. If a bowl ends up in the ditch and it is not a 'toucher' then it doesn't count.
- **Draw** | A bowl delivered at the correct weight, and with correct line, to arrive exactly where you want.
- **End** | The sequence of play from the moment the mat is placed down until all bowls have been delivered and you know who has won. A bit like a game in tennis!
- **Foot fault** | If you don't deliver the bowl with part of your foot on or over the mat.
- **Forehand** | When (for the right-handed player) the bowl is delivered so that the curve of the bowl is from the right to left.
- **Green** | The total playing area.
- **Jack** | The target ball to which you're trying to get your bowls closest.
- **Mat** | The rectangular shaped mat from which the bowler must deliver the jack and/or bowl.
- **Weight** | The amount of force with which the bowl is delivered to execute a particular shot.
- **Rink** | The rectangular strip of the green on which the game takes place.

Bowling – quick checklist

- ✓ Mobile phone on silent
- ✓ Flat shoes on
- ✓ Get your equipment out
- ✓ Centre mat to rink markers
- ✓ Check mat distance (at least 2 meters from the rear ditch and at least 25 meters from the front ditch – use the side rink markers to help)
- ✓ Deliver and centre the Jack – minimum distance 23 metres
- ✓ Take it in turn to bowl
- ✓ Mark any touchers
- ✓ Score the end

Most of all, enjoy your game!

Toilets

There are Gents and Ladies toilets and also a mixed gender accessible toilet beside the kitchen.

***Please remember to turn off the lights
when you're finished...***

Noticeboards

There are various noticeboards on the walls in the pavilion. They will have details of all our friendly matches as well as our latest club newsletter, Dover League information, internal competitions, open competition invites from other clubs, and important information on the Executive Committee Board. Please do keep up to date with all the information provided. You will also get most information emailed to you.

Your Executive Committee are:

Shirley Taylor – Chair

Roy Allen – Secretary

Glenn Stephenson – Treasurer

John Kirtley – Club Captain

Judy Martin – Fixtures & Competitions Secretary

Shirley Harris - Members Representative

***Do take the time to have a look at the
boards periodically to keep yourself
updated...***

**SMOKING OR VAPING IS ONLY PERMITTED IN THE
DESIGNATED OUTSIDE AREA.**

Notes

We share our driveway with our neighbour, so we ask that you are considerate, watch your speed and take care when entering or leaving the club by car. Moat Lane is also quite narrow and there is some local traffic that uses it.

You will have received a door key and barrier fob. Simply put the fob to the little black box below the key pad and you will hear a beep – the barrier will then open (it will close automatically behind you).

The car park is to the rear of the buliding. Please park considerately.

Wait for the barrier to fully open before you drive through and take care in case there are other cars using Moat Lane...

All outdoor bowling equipment is in the outside shed. The keys can be found on the inside of the cupboard (beside the fridge) in the kitchen – they are clearly marked 'shed'. Please take care when removing or returning items. Club bowls are available for you to use until you purchase your own. Mat's, Jacks, pushers and chairs are also stored in the shed. Your coach will give you more information relating to all of the equipment and how it's used.

Only ever walk on the green with flat shoes...

[illegible]

Your coaching program cont...

Common Techniques:

- Draw shot: A gentle roll aiming to stop near the jack.
- Drive shot: A fast, powerful roll aiming to hit opponent's bowls out of the way.
- Blocking shot: Place a bowl in a strategic position to block your opponent's path.
- Making your shot selection and understanding positional play.

Roles within a team:

- Lead
- Second
- Skip

Etiquette:

- Respect other players and the game.
- Leave your mobile phone in the locker or place it on silent – Never answer a call or message during a match.
- Stand still and quiet while others are delivering their bowls.
- Congratulate your opponent on good shots.

Tips for Beginners:

- Practice regularly to improve your control and understanding of bias.
- Watch experienced players to learn different techniques and strategies.
- Stay relaxed and focused – consistency and practice is key.

Your coach will use different techniques to help you develop both your aim and pace...

First Aid

A first aid box is well stocked and can be found on the wall just before the kitchen hatch. An accident book is also located there. In the unlikely event you need to use any items, please write a description of the injury, how it occurred and any items used, together with your name in the book so that we can arrange for any risk assessments to be reviewed and equipment replaced swiftly.

A defibrillator is available by the door. Simply take it out of the bag and open it – it will prompt you as to exactly what to do.

Please do take care when walking around the facilities. If you have any Health & Safety concerns please raise with any member of the Executive Committee...

Social events

Our social events take place in the pavilion or outside by the green, if we are enjoying better weather.

We do have a Club Premises Certificate which allows us to provide alcohol to members and their guests. Please always make sure your guests are signed in as this is a licensing requirement. Bar opening times will always be advertised.

Anyone who appears to be under 25 when buying alcohol will be challenged and asked to provide ID.

Your Membership

Full Membership - £125

This entitles you to play both indoor and outdoor. You will be registered and able to play in county, club competitions, league and friendly matches should you wish as well as free practice (roll ups) at any time when the green is open, and matches are not being played. You will receive the Club Newsletters and invitations to all social events enjoying a discount as a perk of being a member! You may bring guests to club to watch games, for social events or to try out bowling (paying a green fee £3), please ensure they are signed in as this is a licensing requirement.

Family Membership – Fee by agreement

This entitles a family (Adults + Children) to play both indoor and outdoor and enjoy all the benefits as listed in the full membership above. The Club Secretary & Treasurer will agree your membership fee with you.

Junior Membership – Free for U18's

This entitles Under 18's to play both indoor and outdoor and enjoy all the benefits as listed in the full membership above. If you remain in education/training up to the age of 21 your membership fee will be discounted by 50% (£62.50).

Associate Membership - £10

You may bowl up to a total number of 6 sessions (indoor/outdoor) paying a green fee of £3 on each occasion.

You will receive the Club Newsletters and invitations to all social events enjoying a discount as a perk of being a member!
(Associate Members do not have voting rights at the AGM).

***If you would like to discuss payment of your fees
please do come and talk to us...***

Notes

[illegible]

Your coaching program

Introduction to Bowls:

- Understand the objective of bowls.
- Basic equipment: a set of bowls, a jack, a mat, chalk, and a measuring tape (all available at the club for new members).
- Safe access and egress to the green.
- The importance of wearing the correct footwear (flat shoes).
- Understand the set-up of the green – purpose and significance of rink and side markers.

Understanding Bias:

- Bowls are not perfectly round; they have a bias (weighted side) which causes them to curve.
- Learn to identify the bias side and account for the curve in your aim.
- Delivering the bowl: play your bowls alternately with your opponent's, aiming to get as close to the jack as possible.

The Basics:

- Placing the mat straight, in line with the rink markers and within the min/max defined limits.
- Delivering and centering the jack within the min/max defined limits.
- Bowls grip: Hold the bowl comfortably.
- Stance: Stand with feet shoulder-width apart, facing the direction of play.
- Delivery: Swing your arm back smoothly, then forward, releasing the bowl gently onto the green and follow through with your hand pointing in the direction of the bowl's intended path.
- Understanding the order of play.

Scoring:

- Measure which bowl is closest to the jack after all bowls have been delivered. Points are awarded based on the number of bowls closer to the jack than the opponent's closest bowl.
- Practice how to agree the shot visually and measure using the different types of measuring devices.
- Using a scoreboard and scorecard.

Dress code

Flat shoes must be worn on the green at all times...

A dress code promotes a sense of unity and professionalism among members, creating a more welcoming and respectful environment. It helps maintain a standard of appearance that reflects the club's values and traditions, ensuring players feel part of a community. Additionally, it will enhance the overall experience by fostering an atmosphere of fairness and equality, allowing everyone to focus on the game rather than distractions related to attire.

All clothing must be free from both any Health & Safety concerns and inappropriate or offensive language. Swimming shorts are NOT acceptable.

Roll up & practice

Casual dress. Shorts may be worn.

Friendly Matches

Club shirt with white trousers or shorts.

Dover League

Club shirt with grey trousers or shorts.

Internal Club Competitions

Casual dress. Shorts may be worn.
Club shirts are entirely optional.

Cup / Tournament Events

Club shirt with white trousers or shorts.

Around the Pavilion

Casual dress. Shorts may be worn.

Bowling

Full membership entitles you to play both indoor and outdoor.

Our Coaches

The club has 4 qualified coaches:

Phyllis (Phyl) Castle (01304 611213)

John Kirtley (07973 433584 - johnkirtley8@hotmail.com)

Judy Martin (07977 018210 - judymartin154@gmail.com)

Garry Huse (07967 206336 - garry.huse@yahoo.co.uk)

All our coaches are ready and willing to assist you. Prior to you playing in any friendlies or competitions, a coach will satisfy themselves that you are competent for individual and team play. You will be coached through all the basic elements as noted in this handbook and then you can enjoy free practice.

Should you want to have any additional coaching, please approach any of our coaches who will be happy to arrange some personal time with you.

***Our coaches are here to help...
A champion isn't made of muscle: a
champion is made of heart.***

Lets get bowling

Your coach will take you through all the necessary elements of bowling to start you on your journey – tick the sections off as you go...

Bowls is played on a square of grass called a green, which is divided into lanes called rinks. Players take turns to deliver their bowls from a mat at one end of the rink towards a small white or yellow target ball, often referred to as the 'jack', situated near the other end. The bowls are shaped so that they take a curved path towards the jack, known as the bias.

The aim of the game is to get your bowls closest to the jack. One shot (point) is awarded for each bowl nearer the jack than the nearest bowl of your opponent. For example, if you or your team has three bowls closer to the jack than your opponent's nearest bowl then you will score three shots for that end.

Each game is split into individual ends. After playing all the bowls in one direction and agreeing the score, the next end is played back down the rink in the opposite direction. The winner of the previous end will deliver the jack.

There are different formats of the game. You can play singles or as part of a team, and a match can vary in end lengths. The winner can either be the one who has scored the most shots after a specified number of ends or the first to reach a designated score.

***Success is built on the foundation of
consistent practice...***

Indoor Short Mat bowling

There are some subtle differences between short mat and outdoor green bowling.

Position of the mat:

- The delivery mat is positioned within the outline on the indoor mat.
- Your foot should be on or over the mat on delivery of the bowl, and both feet should be within, and not touching the white guidelines.

The Centre block:

- Halfway up the mat is the centre block – if you hit it, your bowl is removed from play and the block is put back in place.
- If your bowl rolls off the mat then it is removed from play.

The position of the jack:

- The jack is much heavier than an outdoors jack.
- The winning team on each end will position the jack on the line wherever they desire – the jack isn't rolled up the mat.

Common Techniques:

- Your coach will talk you through and demonstrate the different bowling techniques applicable to the short mat format.

Indoor Short Mat

During the Winter, 2 mats are laid and 1 during the outdoor season. You can come & play at anytime however there are organised games for those who want to come on the following days:

Monday 2-4pm

Wednesday 2-4pm

Thursday 7-9pm

Saturday 10-12 (winter months only)

All you need to bring is 50p for your tea/coffee. Teams are drawn and you will really enjoy some great games with other members of the club. Don't be worried about being a beginner – all skill levels are catered for.

Bill King, Mervyn & Brenda Baker will always give you any help or guidance you need. Judy Martin is a club coach and plays short mat as well.

Outdoor

The outdoor season runs from April to September with the opening and closing dates listed in your Fixture Book.

The green needs constant attention, so, it is closed every morning until midday except a Saturday when it is open from 10am. There are internal club competitions, league and friendly games organised throughout the season, check the noticeboards for information, put your name up and join in!

On Friday evenings there is a good social gathering with casual bowls, coaching, some alternative gameplay and drinks on the pavilion terrace.

***Only flat shoes can be worn on the mats
and the green...***

Safeguarding

Our Club is committed to ensuring that all members, visitors, and participants, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults, can enjoy the sport of bowls in a safe and supportive environment.

We recognize our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all individuals, and we adhere to the safeguarding policies set out by Bowls England and relevant UK legislation.

To uphold this commitment:

- We have a designated safeguarding officer responsible for implementing and overseeing safeguarding procedures.
- We have clear procedures for reporting and responding to concerns, ensuring they are handled appropriately and confidentially.
- We promote an inclusive and welcoming environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, please contact our Safeguarding Officer.

Should you know of a member who is unwell, please contact our Welfare Officer.

Safeguarding Officer – Sarah Stephenson
(07970 669448)

Welfare Officer – Shirley Harris
(07791 912714)

Notes

[illegible]