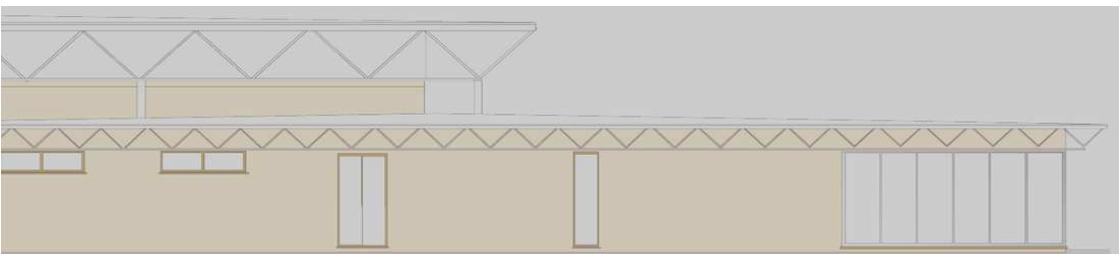




Horsham Indoor Bowls Club

A Guide For New Members



On behalf of the Board of Directors & Club Committee we would like to welcome you to the Horsham District Indoor Bowls Club, and hope that your association with the club and the various activities it provides will give you much enjoyment over the coming years.

This booklet has been produced to describe how the Club operates; the basic rules of the sport, and to help you to get the most out of your membership.

A print out of the complete HDIBC Constitution Regulations & Rules is fixed to the wall, below and to the right of the video display screen adjacent the reception desk.

For new members wanting to learn more detail about the rules and technicalities of competitive bowling there are many fully illustrated booklets to suit individual needs available from the library, bowls shops and the web.

The 'Road Show' poster adjacent the exit doors from the club gives details of when the next sale of a whole range of bowls items will take place at the club. If what you need isn't there, please ask and in most cases it will be provided for you at the subsequent Road Show.

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Built in 1995, the building provides a purpose built 8 rink facility in which the bowls club has to make available two rinks for hire by the general public.

As part of the renewal of the new Leisure complex, the bowls club was threatened with relocation into the new leisure complex, with just four rinks, followed by complete closure of the existing building with its 8 rink facility. Following intense lobbying from the Board of Directors; support from the EIBA and club members, including a protest march through the town centre Horsham District Council withdrew the proposal and a new lease has been drawn up giving the club security of tenure beyond 2030.

Volunteering & how the club operates

All the bowling and associated social activities and facilities of the club are run, serviced and managed by volunteer members of the club. Only the general cleaning, franchised catering and specialised engineering maintenance is carried out by external resources.

Volunteers are always needed to share the workload and help the club continue to function and prosper. For new members who are able, volunteering is a quick way to become integrated into the club and get to know other members.

Please consider offering some of your time to help in any way you feel able. You should never feel under pressure to do or give more than you want to. It is not in the club's interest to alienate any of its volunteers.

A list of currently needed volunteer roles is displayed on the 'Volunteers' notice board adjacent the reception desk.

Mentoring scheme for new members

The club has a mentoring scheme for newcomers. This aims to provide a dedicated, named point of contact able to help you understand and discover the many activities the club offers to help you integrate into the club at your own pace.

You will be contacted after first joining the club to see if you would like to participate in the scheme.

STRUCTURE & ORGANISATION

The club is a Limited Company with a Board of Directors which meets monthly and is mainly involved with finance, legal and club policy. The Club Committee (CC) is responsible for the overall structure and general management of the club as well as the club's internal and external bowling activities.

Between late September & early April (Winter period) all full members play bowls indoors. Member interests are served over this period by a Club Committee (CC) and separate Mens Committee and a Ladies Committee.

Between April & September about 75% of members take up bowling outdoors, while the remaining members stay indoors, during which time reduced indoor bowling activity is managed by a Summer Committee.

Membership

Full Membership Benefits

Member fee rates apply for most bowls playing as below.

Lower rink hire fees (*approximately 55% lower than public rink hire charges*)

Three free coaching sessions (*with a qualified bowls coach*)

Participation in organised friendly roll-ups

Participation in competitive internal leagues

Participation in Club competitions

Participation in friendly matches against other clubs

Participation in League matches against other clubs

Participation in County & National competitions

Optional locker (*annual fee payable and upon joining*)

All the social membership benefits

Social Membership Benefits

Use of members bar & restaurant

Club social events & Bridge evenings

Quiz games and non-bowling social competitions and events

For full details of up and coming events see the Social notice board

Note: Anyone, including members and non-members can hire the restaurant and Bar for any event, subject to the agreement of and by arrangement with the Events co-ordinator.

GENERAL INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

New members may play in leagues as soon as they feel ready, and shouldn't feel the need to be 'expert bowlers'. However Team Leaders put their teams together before the start of each Winter & Summer season and, outside of these times, you may experience a delay if wishing to join a league team.

To apply for a locker, please ask for an application form at the reception desk, or take an application form from the relevant box on the desk.

Only flat soled bowling shoes may be worn when stepping onto or playing on the bowling green. No running on the green.

Avoid taking mobile phones onto the rink and walkways. When special circumstances mean your phone has to be with you please set it to silent mode.

Bowls bags are not allowed on the green or the adjacent walkways.

When moving across the walkway or gallery, or spectating at the end of the green, please avoid creating any disturbance and noisy conversation. This can often be a great distraction to players on the green especially when they are about to bowl during competitive games.

Drinks from the bar, restaurant or machine may be kept on the tables at the end of the green during a game, but shouldn't be taken onto the green. Food should not be consumed on the green or adjacent walkways.

Remember to check the mail rack (*opposite the reception desk*) from time to time. There may be something needing your attention.

Food, including snacks, should only be consumed in the bar area or the restaurant. When the restaurant is open, only food bought in the restaurant may be consumed on the premises.

The hot drinks machine opposite the bar seating area is a coin operated self-service machine providing a range of drinks. If you have difficulty using the machine, feel free to ask another member for help.

In the event that any consumables appear to have run out, check in the cupboard below for stock and top up the appropriate receptacle.

The water chiller is also self-service and free for members'

ETIQUETTE DURING GAMES

The following is a summary of what can best be called 'Good Manners' and 'Consideration of Others' that has been adopted by the sport to help ensure games run smoothly without unnecessary irritation to other players.

- It's customary to shake hands with the opposing team before the start and at the end of a game, and to congratulate them if they have won.
- During game-play try not to cause a distraction – especially when other players, on your own and adjacent rinks, are on the mat and about to bowl.
- Keep track of where bowls finish, to help you prepare for which shot to play, if directed to bowl differently by the team member at the head, then bowl as directed.
- Unless the position of your delivered bowl is obvious, the skip may show with hand signals how far behind or in front of the jack your bowl has stopped. The indicated distance should exclude any sideways offset.
- When changing ends always try to walk in the centre of the rink to avoid disrupting play on an adjacent rink, and always walk around the head and not through it.
- If standing at the jack end, try to avoid standing in front of aiming points. These may be adjacent rink numbers and boundary lines of the green.
- If standing at the jack end the number 2 (*triples*) & number 3 (*fours*) should stand about 1m behind and to the side of the jack. The other players stand behind them.
- At the jack end, only the number 2 (*triples*) & number 3 (*fours*) give the skip instructions – and only if asked for. Other bowlers should resist interfering!
- When the last bowl delivered stops - the head (*the group of delivered bowls*) should not be disturbed until both number 2s (*in a game of triples*) or number 3s (*in a game of fours*) have measured if necessary, and finally agreed the score.
- Once the score has been agreed, all players should help to move the bowls to the end of the green ready for the next end. Then the score is entered on the card and the score board. This helps keep up the pace of the game.
- Scoreboards should be switched off at the end of the game.

COACHING, PRACTISING & CASUAL IN-CLUB BOWLING

Coaching

Please check with the green steward for available coaches and convenient times. A beginners course of 3 – 1 hour sessions with a qualified coach is available free of charge to new and prospective members.

Practice playing & casual roll-ups

Members can book an available rink for practice. The booking should be made with the green steward, no more than seven days in advance, to ensure the rink remains allocated. Member rink fees apply. Please use a brown envelope and paying in slip and place in the honesty box if no green steward is present.

Organised roll-ups

These 'turn up and play' games comprise teams of 4, 3 or 2 players depending on numbers. Less competitive than Leagues, they give new members an opportunity to play different positions and practise different types of delivery. Normal rink fees apply. See your programme time table or look up details on the club's website.

Dress code for Organised Roll-ups is:- Smart casual or greys and whites.

'BOWL 4 FUN'

These are weekly organised roll-ups aimed at incentivising members of the public to try bowls. Existing members who join in these fun roll-ups also help to show how bowls can be fun. Standard rink fees apply for members and time limited concessions apply for members of the public. All '1st timers' are entitled to two free taster sessions throughout the season covering the basics of bowling.

Winter Bowl 4 Fun roll-ups are:-

Wednesdays 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Summer Bowl 4 Fun roll-ups are:-

Tuesdays 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Dress code for Fun Roll-ups is:-
dress.

Bowls shoes or socks plus informal

Organised games: Try to arrive at least 15 minutes before start of play.

Friends & Family playing opportunities

Members can bring friends, family or neighbours to try bowling. Two sessions are (*1 session = 2 1/2 hrs or less than*) entirely free of charge, and should be booked in with the Green Steward using the reference FFFR-UP. If further sessions are required then normal club rules apply. ie. They can be signed in 3 times as a guest of the member, paying £1 more than the member's rate.

INTERNAL CLUB LEAGUES – FOURS, TRIPLES & PAIRS

League teams are generally made up of 6 to 10 members playing in rotation.

Dress code for internal club league games is: – White/club shirts and
Grey trousers/skirts

Fours- the basic game - (4 against 4 players using 2 bowls each)

No 1 player – Home The Lead player places the mat & delivers the jack to as near to where the skip is standing as he / she can and then bowls.

The **Away** Lead (No 1 player) bowls in turn after each one of the home player's bowls is delivered

No 2 Player (*home team*) keeps the scorecard & (*away team*) the scoreboard. If instructed by the skip where to bowl to – aims to bowl as requested. Ensures the skips sign the scorecard and then puts the card into the correct slot in the card rack under the 'INTERNAL CLUB LEAGUES' board

No 3 Player If instructed by the skip where to bowl to – aims to bowl as requested. Decides with his/her opposite number the winning bowl/bowls and measures if necessary if the distances are not obvious. Also advises the skip on the best way to bowl (but only if requested by the skip) Ensures the skips sign the scorecard and then puts the card into the correct slot in the card rack under the 'INTERNAL CLUB LEAGUES' board.

No 4 Player (*Skip*) usually the player best able to read & understand the head in order to secure winning an end. Both skips sign the scorecard at the end of the game.

Triples – the basic game - (3 against 3 players using 3 bowls each)

No 1 player – Home The Lead player places the mat & delivers the jack to as near to where the skip is standing as he / she can, and then bowls.

The **Away** Lead (No 1 player) bowls in turn after each one of the home player's bowls is delivered.

No 2 Player (*home team*) keeps the scorecard & (*away team*) the scoreboard & measures when required. If instructed by the skip where to bowl to – aims to bowl as requested. Advises the skip on the best way to bowl (*only if requested by the skip*) Ensures the skips sign the scorecard and then puts the card into the correct slot in the card rack under the 'INTERNAL CLUB LEAGUES' board.

No 3 Player (*Skip*) usually the player best able to read & understand the head in order to secure winning an end. Both skips sign the scorecard at the end of the game.

Continued/-

Pairs – the basic game - (2 against 2 players using 4 bowls each)

No 1 player – Home Plays first and combines the roles of players 1 – 3 as described in the Fours game on page 7 – directing the skip if and when required.

No 2 player – Skip usually the player best able to read & understand the head in order to secure winning an end - normally keeps the scorecard.

OTHER BOWLING

Open mens & ladies competitions

The club also stages many different types of mens and ladies and mens/ladies competitions. Some of these are aimed at new/inexperienced bowlers

When you feel ready to participate in any of these you should complete the form sent out with your membership pack, or if you have any questions, contact the competition secretary. A competition may be booked 14 days in advance.

Dress codes: Club shirts - Grey trousers/skirts - up to finals
and for Finals - Whites

Matches against other clubs

The dress code is: Club shirts - Grey or white trousers/skirts
(*Dependent on the match – see notice board*)

Lists of matches and sheets for entering names are displayed on the Notice board opposite the reception desk.

When you feel ready to play in any matches please enter your name and details on a sheet. The arrangement of teams, playing positions and other details regarding the match will be prepared and advised by the captain.

County and nationals competitions

If you would like to know more about either of these please speak to a Club Committee Member

Travel to away league games & matches

When playing away games or matches, and travelling by car, and taking other club players with you, the club may make a contribution to travelling expenses.