

Welcome to The **HASLEMERE BOWLING CLUB**

This booklet introduces you to all that the Club offers. We hope that you will spare a minute to read it and that you will then decide to join us as a new Member.

PLAYBOWLS4FUN



Everyone will be welcome at our yearly open days



The team who won
The prestigious Holbrook
Cup in 2017

OUR CLUB OFFICERS

President
Vice-President
Captain
Vice-Captain
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Membership Secretary
Match Secretary
Competitions Secretary
Three Counties Representative

See our website for current officers and contact information

Our website is: www.haslemere-bowling.org.uk

Here you can see a list of our fixtures, an application form to join the Club and lots of other useful information.

Our green is located at -

Haslemere Recreation Ground, Old Haslemere Road, Haslemere, GU27 2NN



Sir Francis Drake 'set the ball rolling' in 1588

Club History

In 1660, Thomas Mayne, a butcher by trade, laid out and levelled a bowling green at the top of Shepherd's Hill in Haslemere.

Our present Club was founded 250 years later in 1911 and has been located on the Recreation Ground since 1921. In 1994 we built our new pavilion.



**Judy Rix our current
Club President**

About Us

The Club celebrated its Centenary in 2011. We are delighted to welcome new members, whether beginners or experienced players. We play to a good standard. In 2017 we were successful in winning both the Holbrook Cup and the Three Counties Presidents Cup.

We play matches from April until the end of September. Mondays and Thursdays tend to be our main club roll-up afternoons starting at 2:00pm and players may stay on for an informal social and a drink at our bar.

We aim to keep our membership numbers around 40. You can join as a full playing member or as a Social Member. For the first year there is a reduced subscription.

At present we do not have a Junior Section but welcome players from teenage upwards. We are always on the look-out for new members and each year we have a special open day when anyone can come and have a go and “play for Fun”.

Social Events

We like to organise a number of social events for you to join in, and we have a well-stocked bar.

Our website and Application Form

Full details about how to join the Club can be found on our Application Form. This can be downloaded from the website or sent to you.

Our website is full of useful and interesting information. The website is particularly useful once you are a member as it provides maps and directions for all the Clubs that we play against. Some of these are hidden down small side-roads and you really do need help to find them.

Club Etiquette

Unsurprisingly, the Club exists to play bowls well. There is a certain etiquette about playing bowls, and the main thing is to be friendly and courteous to other players. We always shake hands with opponents whether we win or lose. A few other do's and don'ts are listed on the final page of this booklet. Some Clubs have a list twice as long which sounds quite daunting! We don't.

Dress Code

It does not cost a lot to play bowls. Your biggest outlay may be for clothes and a set of bowls. In Haslemere Bowling Club we like to look smart when we play, but not overly so.

Some bowling terms -

Shot bowl

The bowl closest to the jack.

We're holding shot

Our team currently holds the shot bowl.

Wick

When a bowl bounces off another.

Draw shot

A shot aimed at a particular place in the head.

Drive

A bowl delivered with force to disturb the head.

Promoting a bowl

Pushing one of your team's bowls to a better position.

Touchers

Bowls that touch the Jack. They remain live even in the Ditch.

For matches and competitions we wear either grey tailored trousers, shorts or skirts, together with a white and blue Club shirt. The shirts can be ordered direct, or you may be able to purchase one via a committee member.

When on occasions Whites are specified for a particular match, our trousers and skirts are also white.

You must always wear flat- soled shoes on the green.

Our roll-ups and social events are less formal.

We do not often play when it is raining heavily, but League matches do tend to keep going. Wet weather gear is available from bowls shops and internet sites.

Don't forget a cap or hat to protect your head when its sunny.

Our fixtures

Once you have joined the Club you will be given or have access to a Fixture List for matches with other clubs. This information can also be found on our website and a club Google calender The fixture list shows all our matches and club events.

We play so-called 'Friendly' matches against other local clubs. Taking part in these is one of the best ways to make friends with other members and to gain experience.

At our Club events we often start off by placing a bowl and the club spider in the centre of the bowling green. Members standing round the green edges then bowl together and the member's bowl coming to rest closest to the spider is presented with a bottle of wine.



If you have a Google account you can indicate your wish to play in 'Friendly' matches of your choice by added your name to our HBC Diary events. Alternatively add your name to a sign up sheet in our pavilion.

Our captain selects the teams ensuring everyone has a fair opportunity to play in these home or away matches during the club's season and notifies the selected players of their team positions.

Please note that even if your name is first on the list, it does not guarantee you a place, but there is a good chance that it will do so. The club would expect you to sign up for as many friendlies as possible during the season. Have a word with the Captain if you are unsure.

Club Competitions

At the beginning of the season you will be given details of our Club competitions which start in May and go on until August. The closing date for entries is shortly after each year's enrolment day. You may find yourself drawn against a previous Club champion but don't worry as our Competition Secretary endeavours to match member's playing skills where possible. As a beginner in the Handicap Singles you may well start with a high handicap number, so at the start of play you are already well on your way to the winning score of 21. You will have been given an entry form – so give it a go if you join the Club in April or May.

Three Counties League

On the far right of the notice-board you will find information on the Three Counties League which we enter. During the season we play 14 matches on Tuesday evenings against strong competition. Our best players are invited to play in these league matches.

Getting to know you

We want you to make friends and feel welcome in the Club. Immediately inside the Club entrance is a list of all current members with addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. If not sent to you, there should be a spare copy for you to take away. If you have given us an email address, this list will be emailed to you to print out. We are a friendly club so other members will welcome your call.

When can you play?

Members can play on weekdays from noon until dusk. On Saturdays and Sundays you can play from sunrise to sunset providing that the green rinks are not all occupied by an inter club match or a club competition.

At roll ups you can come alone for practice or you can play another member. It's up to you. If you are first to arrive at the Club you will need to use your key to open the pavilion and the equipment shed. You should always use a mat on the green even for a roll-up on your own.

There are instructions in the pavilion and the equipment shed telling you which way to play, along or across the green. Please try to get this right.

Club Events

During the season we hold a number events which are listed in our website and fixture card provided to members at enrolment.

The pavilion bar is available at these events, during home matches and usually after roll ups to be enjoyed by members and visiting clubs our sponsors and other organisations.

Social events have included a Christmas party in December and a Valentines Day Party. Please do take advantage of these enjoyable events.

When weather has permitted we have introduced other delights such as a barbecue.



Club events for all

There are several events at the Club each season which are open to all members. First is Green Opening Day at the end of April. Second is 'Memorial Charity Day', typically at the end of June.

These events are all fun and where bowls are played, you will play in different positions including Skip. It is not mandatory to join in, but most members like to take part.

To end the season there are Captain vs President matches for all members to play and is traditionally followed by a fish and chip supper. This is usually the same day that the green closes in late September.

After the bowling season is finished we have our annual Lunch or Dinner open to all members and their partners. At the end of an enjoyable meal and good company, we invite our sponsor or prominent local representative to present the club trophies to the winners of the season's club competitions.

Winter bowling activities

What do you do during the winter? Some members only thrive on fresh air and sunshine and do not play during the winter. Here are some ideas as to where you can play and keep fit.

Midhurst Indoor Bowling Club organises matches against other bowling clubs at the Grange Leisure Centre in Midhurst. MIDC

Chawton Park Indoor Bowls Club in Alton play bowls all year round.

Wey Valley Indoor Bowls Club in Guildford. Both play to a good level. See their websites for more information.

Other playing opportunities

Haslemere Bowling Club is affiliated to Surrey Bowls Association, Bowls England, and the Three Counties Bowls Fellowship, Surrey County Bowls Association and Bowls England.

This is the upwards route to good quality bowls. Our men's Club Champion is encouraged to enter into the Surrey Bowls competitions in November each year. If he wins, he will become 'Badged'.

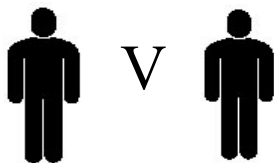
Each year there are competitions of a high standard and you do not need to be Badged to enter. The Club Captain can assist you in entering. Lady members can participate in the Surrey Women's County Bowls Association.

Bowls England also organises matches which are open to all good players. However, these are extremely competitive and are only for the talented who might be chosen to play for England.

The Three Counties League is well known to most members. Playing is by invitation of the Club's Selection Committee. There is a programme of League competitions which club teams enter.

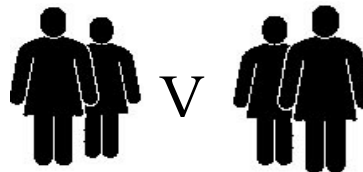
How matches are played and who does what

SINGLES Requires a Marker



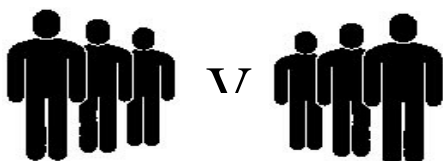
**FIRST PLAYER TO REACH
21 SHOTS WINS MATCH**

PAIRS



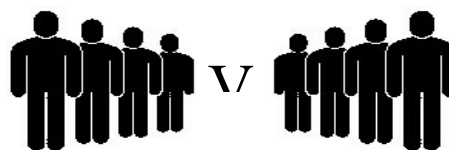
**HIGHEST PAIR SCORE AFTER
21 Ends Wins Match**

TRIPLES



**HIGHEST SCORE AFTER
18 ENDS WINS MATCH**

RINKS (or Fours)



**HIGHEST SCORE AFTER
21 ENDS WINS MATCH**

The Lead Player

The lead will place the mat and deliver the jack to the length of their choice. This player should be adept at jack delivery and the ability to draw close to the jack.

The Marker

When playing a singles game a marker may be enrolled to keep score, measure and communicate to the players. They will centre the jack once it has been delivered. They will only communicate when asked by a player, only answer the question asked, and remain impartial.

The Second Position Player

This player will maintain the score boards throughout the game and in conjunction with the opposing number two will examine the head at the end of each game and signal the score to the Skip. As a bowler they must be skilled to protect a lead from the Lead or draw to overturn a negative position.

The Third Position Player

In the Rinks game this player may be required to measure any disputed shots once all bowls have been delivered. As a bowler they should be very flexible and able to play a variety of shots to impact the outcome in their team's favour. This player will also give directions and communicate to the Skip when they are bowling.

The Skip

The skip is in charge of their team and rink and will hold the scorecard throughout the game and must record player names, record all shots for and against their side, and compare and confer with their opposing Skip. They will position themselves at the head while their team mates play their shots. They will centre the jack after it has been delivered by their Lead. They will decide on tactics and strategy while in the game.

Privacy Policy

The Club has a strict Privacy Policy and when you apply to join or re-join the Club you are asked to sign-up to receive communications from us. Normally these are by mail or email.

The policy allows you to opt out of having your name listed in the Clubhouse and only to be sent communications by email blind copy.

Communications

Please note that the Club expects all members to provide their contact information and stay in touch.

Try to visit the Pavilion regularly and look at the notice- board and club website.

Do look at your emails daily as this is the primary way of keeping in contact with members.

Make use of the website. Just Google 'www/Haslemere-Bowling.org.uk'. It has photographs of club activities, a news page, lots of other information including links to maps and directions when planning a visit to another club for a match.

FINALLY

Some Bowling Etiquette

Bowling etiquette just means being considerate to other players but here are a few very important points

1. **Do not talk** when another player is about to bowl.
2. **Stand behind the delivery mat** until it's your turn to bowl.
3. **Do not move about** when a player is bowling towards you.
4. **Do not rush up to the head** whilst the last bowl is still moving.
5. **Stand behind the head** when you are at the head end.
6. **In sunshine** be careful that your shadow is not near the jack.
7. **Roll-up and shut-up** is good advice when playing as lead which you will soon get used to and appreciate.
8. **Remember in Triples** that the skip determines his first shot.
If the head is displaced, he may then seek the help of the number 2 to decide his next shot. The skip is entitled to visit the head to look for himself before bowling.
9. **Do not argue** with the skip. Try to make the shots which he/she asks for.
10. **In Triples** if you are playing lead and you lose an end, it's your job to round up the bowls with a pusher.