



Information for New Members

1 Welcome

Welcome to Great Hollands Bowls Club. We are delighted that you have decided to join us and hope that you will enjoy being a member.

2 Types of Membership

We have two types of membership. Bowling members may use the green when available for private practice, informal games, friendly matches with other clubs, club competitions and County leagues. They may also participate in all Social activities.

Social members do not bowl but may use the club and bar and participate in all the social activities. These include short mat bowling and cribbage during the winter season, Sunday lunchtimes and any other social events which may be organised.

Guest bowlers may bowl, on payment of a guest bowling fee. Guests need to be signed in by a member. Members are responsible for their guests.

These fees are approved by the Executive Committee and are posted in the clubhouse. [Click here to see a copy of the latest charges.](#)

3 Access to the club and green

All bowlers are welcome to come and play at any time when the green is open.

The gates to the car park, the gate to the green, the clubhouse and the equipment sheds are all accessed during the summer by means of combination locks. You will be provided with the combinations by the Membership Officer.

Play closes at dusk. If the weather is good, then the bar staff will lock up around 8pm. An opportunity will be given for any remaining players to use the honesty bar before the club is locked up. The disabled toilet will be available. If members stay after the bar staff have left, then they are responsible for putting the equipment away, locking the disabled toilet and putting the key back in the equipment shed, locking both sheds, the side gate and the car park gates. David Harnden will issue codes to the new members.

During the winter, the combinations are replaced by padlocks and keys. The building will be opened for activities as required by key holders.

There is a First Aid box on the wall just inside the double doors, and a defibrillator on the front wall of the pavilion (facing the cricket pitch).

4 Bowling Members

4.1 The green

The green normally opens for play around the end of April. Maintenance is undertaken by Bracknell Town Council (BTC) and takes place Monday-Friday until 12 noon. The green is available for play after 12 on weekdays and after 10am at weekends.

There are five rinks available for club play. Rink 6 is a public rink is managed by BTC. There is a rink booking diary for use by members. Arranged matches and county competitions



take precedence over informal play. There are no charges for practice and informal play with other members.

4.2 Informal play

You may arrange a practice with other members (called a roll-up), or practice on your own. If several people are practicing, it is common to be asked to join with others. You may also decide to score – equipment is available in the equipment shed for this.

You may dress informally for roll-ups, providing that your shoes are appropriate for bowling.

4.3 Booking rinks

You are welcome to turn up for a roll-up whenever the green is open, subject to any prior bookings that have been made. Please check with the rink book to ensure that rinks are available for roll-up.

4.4 Training

Training is offered to new members on a Saturday morning from 10am. Bowls are provided. You just need to wear flat-soled shoes.

4.5 How games are organised

You will receive a diary of events, which will contain the contact details for Committee members and other useful information.

The club has a programme of matches with other clubs. These are normally at the weekends and typically offer a home match and an away match on both Saturday and Sunday and some Wednesday evenings and Ladies' friendly games on Tuesday afternoons.

Friendly Matches are advertised on-line (by email) and posted on the noticeboards in the clubhouse. We have a selection committee which meets regularly to select the players for each match. The selection will be sent out by email and also posted on the noticeboards. If you are selected, please tick your name on the team sheet to confirm that you can play. If notified by email, then opening the email will automatically confirm that you can play. If you subsequently have problems playing, then you need to call the Captain of the day for that match.

Arrive half an hour before the start time of the match. You may be asked to help set out the equipment for home matches by the green steward. There is a match fee payable to cover food and we normally contribute £1 for the raffle afterwards. For home games, it is normal to buy your opposite number a drink.

4.6 County Leagues

We are affiliated to the [Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association](#). All members are eligible to play in the various County Leagues.

The men have two teams in the KLV (over 55) leagues and one team in the Kennet League (KL). The KLV league consists of teams of three triples. We normally play on Friday



afternoons from 2pm-5pm. The KL league consists of four rinks (i.e. teams of four) and is played on Tuesday evenings.

The ladies have two teams in the Thames Valley League (TVL) consisting of three triples in each team, playing at 2.00/2.30 on Thursday afternoons

If you are interested in playing in the County leagues, please contact the Men's Captain for KL and KLV, and the Ladies' Captain for TVL.

4.7 County Competitions

County Competitions are available to all members. The entries for these are normally submitted around October of the previous season. The sign-up sheet is normally posted in the clubhouse.

4.8 Club Competitions

The club normally organises internal competitions for club members. Winners of these may be entitled to go on to enter Champion of Champion competitions at County level. An invitation is normally circulated at the beginning of the season for members to sign up. A small charge is made for each entry to pay for the trophies. These are normally awarded at our Presentation Evening in November.

4.9 Dress code

For playing matches, you will eventually need:

- Approved bowling shoes with flat soles
- A pair of grey and a pair of white trousers or approved cropped trousers or shorts.
- One or more club shirts
- A white jumper.
- A set of 4 bowls

Useful extras:

- A warm white fleece or jacket. Ladies have green fleeces.
- Waterproof jacket and over trousers in white
- Cloth to wipe bowls
- Bowls bag, carrier, chalk and a measure

Please wear regulation bowls wear for all organised matches. Casual wear may be worn for roll-ups.

You will not need all this from the start. The club has some (second-hand) garments which you may wish to purchase. You can get second-hand sets of bowls quite cheaply, and it is a good idea to wait a while before buying a new set, as there are many weights and biases available.

David Harnden manages the clothing.

4.10 Etiquette

Bowls is a polite game and there is a fair amount of etiquette. [Click here to learn more.](#)

GREAT HOLLANDS BOWLS CLUB



Green: Recreation Ground, South Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 3EE

Tel: 01344 300105

4.11 Training

We provide training to new members, normally on a Saturday morning between 10-12. This provides an opportunity to develop your bowling skills and to ask any questions you may have.

4.12 Other duties

Men are required to do clubhouse cleaning duties during the year. These take a couple of hours.

Ladies are required to do tea duties.

4.13 Further information

Our website is www.greathollandsbowlsclub.co.uk

The nearest bowls shops is [Cotswold Bowls Centre](#) at Mortimer.

You can buy bowls equipment on-line at [Bowlsweat Direct](#). The bowls manufacturers also have their own websites.

5 Social Members

During the winter, all members are welcome at the club when open. Short Mat bowling sessions are available during the week, and the Cribbage League meets on Monday evenings. These activities are included in your membership fee. You are welcome to visit the club Sunday lunchtimes, and for any social activities. We do not charge for entry to social events, but there may be a small charge to cover food or other additional costs, such as hire of equipment.

6 Constitution and Rules

[The Constitution, Club Rules and other useful documents are available on the club website.](#)

These provide a lot more detail on the topics covered in this short introduction.