

Addendum to Newsletter.

Even if you don't read the Newsletter – this bit is IMPORTANT!

We had many new members last year and how the club works was not explained to them. This caused a lot of confusion and upset. So – this year we are adding this bit of paper. We will also be checking 'face-to-face' that members know how the club works!

Club Competitions.

We organise various Club Competitions during the year. All members are encouraged to enter these, but it is not compulsory. "You don't have to if you don't want to". We would though, encourage ALL members who are physically able to enter. Yes, you might get knocked out in the first round (I do!), but it helps other members in their learning and forges friendship with other people. And it also helps you to learn more about the game we play.

Competitions are organised mainly as SINGLES. This means two people playing against each other. In these there is the "Challenger" and the "Challenged". How do you know which is which? Well, the Challenger is the player listed first (or above) in the playing lists. It is their responsibility to organise the date and time of the match. And only then - put those details in the club diary held in the clubhouse. One of the reasons we issue details of **all** members to each member is so you can ring, email, etc. to organise a match against someone during the season. (OH, so that's why?!). And all SINGLES matches need a Marker. And the Challengers should organise this. Except Pairs, these matches don't need a Marker...

In a **PAIRS** match there are FOUR people to organise. Which can be difficult!! **BUT** the Challengers needs to make sure **ALL FOUR** know when the match will be held.

In entering matches, you are committing to be available to play during the season. It is especially important you will be available to play on the **FINALS** days. Assuming you make it that far. And it is **really important in the case of PAIRS matches**. If you are not available, you will be letting down your partner!! Which is why we ask you to "**opt In**" to these matches. In singles matches you will be included unless you "**opt out**" in the forms sent out already.

So, if you plan to be away on holiday for around 6 or 8 weeks during the playing season, think carefully before you commit yourself! **Especially as we will be enforcing stricter deadlines this year as to when each round of competitions are completed!!**

We also have a 'mini league' competition played on Friday afternoons. Last year we had only 4 teams in this, and it lasted 6 weeks. This year we hope to have more teams (6) and have it start earlier. This is a more relaxed competition and, though we have rules, they are a little more flexible. But only a little!! As both the winning team and the

‘runners up’ get a trophy with all their names on, it is a chance for absolute beginners to get their name on a trophy. **IF you are part of a winning team that is...**

Roll Ups

This is the name of the practice sessions we hold every Tuesday and Friday afternoon during the season. We will also try to hold some evening sessions. Any member can use the green for practice sessions on their own as long as green maintenance is not taking place. For example, we cut the grass every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings.

In order to play, markers are put out to show the width of each rink, and its centre. As well as “limit” markers at the side. Members will note that, on alternate days we play either from the clubhouse towards the trees, or from the cemetery towards the café. This is to even wear and tear on the grass. Also to help this we ‘shift’ the markers sideways according to colours marked on the edge of the green. Blue, red, and yellow. Centre lane markers are triangles, edge markers are straight blocks, about the size of dominoes. The colour for the day is marked in the club diary. In addition to this we put out mats at each end of the rinks, pushers, score boards, and jacks.

ALL THIS EQUIPMENT DOES NOT MOVE ITSELF! And it does not put itself away either. Members who wish to ‘roll up’ are expected to arrive in good time to help with this and stay afterwards to help put everything away after play has finished. This also applies to matches in the evening. Don’t worry if you don’t know where everything goes – someone will show you.

Although Roll Ups are more relaxed than serious competitions, the same team rules apply. So, we will be teaching new members the rules of each game, as well as how to communicate across the length of the rink.

Catering – or Tea, Coffee, Biscuits, etc.

Last year we lost our Catering Officer – Jean Goldsmith. After 44 years being a member of the club she finally “hung up her bowling shoes”. And is now taking a well-earned rest. (Although she still bowls indoors!).

This means we have no dedicated catering officer. Which also means **we are all responsible for catering!** On roll up days we will choose someone to be responsible for putting the kettles on and getting out the biscuits, tea, coffee, cups, etc. This could be **anybody**, we don’t discriminate. Two people will need to sort this out before we start bowling, and someone will stop around 2:55 to switch the kettles on. We will also designate people to wash up and clear away.

With regard to catering after matches (mainly 2 rink Men’s County matches on Wednesday evenings) there will be a rota issued.