



# Blossom Way Bowling Club

## Helpful information for new members

### Introduction

Bowls is a simple game but it can take years to understand all the intricacies and variations that are part of the game, especially within a large and diverse club such as ours at Blossom Way. Behind the smooth running of the club there are rules and regulations set out in a constitution and there are committees, instructions and a dress code! Initially, this is a lot to take in, so we have produced this leaflet as a general guide to help new members and possibly remind existing ones of the basics of how the club works.

### How does the Club work?

Blossom Way Bowling Club is affiliated to the Sports and Social Club, of which you need to be a member to join our section. This membership is to be paid annually by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

The club is run by the 'general committee' who are appointed each year at the AGM. They meet at regular intervals throughout the season and during the winter months. This committee oversee all aspects of the club and the minutes of these meetings are available to view, on request.

The maintenance of the buildings, green and surrounding areas is carried out by club members. This group of people work incredibly hard all year round and provide us with one of the best bowling greens in the area. Our club welcomes anyone at any time to volunteer their time in this area of the club's management. Please don't wait to be asked.

Refreshments are provided free during or after most of our matches. We also have cans of soft drinks, crisps and chocolate available for a small charge. This provides an essential source of income and is run totally by club members.

If you wish to volunteer for helping with maintenance, the green, or catering please let us know.

At the end of the season, we hold our AGM where officers, team captains and post holders are nominated and voted in, along with other matters that need to be discussed for the following season.

At the beginning of the season, we hold a pre-season meeting where everyone is brought up to date with what has been happening during the winter months. All club membership and competition fees are collected on this evening.



### What should I wear?

At all times shoes with flat soles should be worn on the green (no heels). The green is expensive to maintain and obviously the flat surface needs treating with care so the right footwear is essential.

For casual bowling and practicing you can wear comfortable clothing. The dress code for matches is our red/black club kit and you may need a white waterproof jacket in wet weather. Official club trousers/shorts, tops, hoodies and windproof jackets can be purchased.

### What sort of bowls should I buy?

There is a small stock of bowls in the pavilion which you are welcome to borrow for as long as you like. Don't rush into buying any until you are sure what size, weight and make you prefer. Second hand bowls are often available and you can usually try before you buy. There are many different bags on the market for keeping your bowls, footwear etc. neatly stored and easy to transport.

### When can I bowl?

There is usually very little bowling in the mornings during the week, as this is when the green is cut and maintained. The club's league matches and individual competitions will be displayed on the chalk board in the pavilion and in the 'events' section of our club website - [www.bwbc.co.uk](http://www.bwbc.co.uk). You are welcome to play any time that rinks are available. Throughout the bowling season there is usually someone at the club most afternoons who would be happy to help you if you need anything.

### How do I get into the Club?

All members are given a code which will allow you to open the key safe box on front of the pavilion, next to the door. The key safe has a button on the top which has to be pressed after code entry to gain access to the key.

The whole building has an alarm system so you will be given a code to put into the alarm box which is just inside the main door to the pavilion.

If you are last out, please ensure that no one else is on the premises, reset the alarm and check all doors are locked before replacing the key and locking the key safe box.

### Is coaching available?

There are qualified coaches and experienced club members who will be happy to help you to learn the basics and help you to improve your game. Please contact them if you would like to organise a coaching session or to ask any questions. The service is free of charge.

We also hold regular training sessions and friendly roll-ups on some Saturday mornings. This will be advertised on the club WhatsApp group.



## How do I improve my game?

Whilst there is some theory in the game there is nothing like practice. A few tips on practicing are to vary the length of the jack, do not always centre the jack and practice both backhand and forehand. You can also move the mat up and down the green.

If there are other people practicing consider asking to join them or asking new arrivals to join you. You will learn a lot from playing with other players, especially if they are more experienced than you, as they can pass on tips and guidance. Try and end each practice session with a few 'competitive' ends as this always helps with your overall game.

## Games, competitions and matches – what's the difference?

Having a 'game' or roll-up usually refers to an informal session where you will be practicing either on your own or with other club members. A 'competition' usually refers to in-club organised competitions or county/national competitions that take place every year. These are not compulsory but you are encouraged to enter them as the experience of these improve your game. 'Matches' are organised between Blossom Way Bowling Club and other bowling clubs in the surrounding area. Matches are often arranged for enjoyment of the sport but some matches are more formal as part of a local league or county. Players of all levels play in matches so do not think that you are not good enough, however league/county matches offer more competitive games.

## How can I be selected to play in a match?

There are 'availability boards' situated in the pavilion where you can sign up for selection in any match for which you are available. We play in six different leagues within the Grimsby & District area and cup games are selected by the league managers from their pool of players.

Internal club competitions are entered at the beginning of the season and the draws are posted on the notice boards in the pavilion, on the WhatsApp group and on the club's website along with play by dates for each round. The finals are played over a weekend at the end of the season and the winners of these find their name on the honours board in the pavilion.

The player at the top of the draw is the challenger and responsible for contacting their opponent to arrange a day and time to play. For singles matches, the challenger or home player is also responsible for organising a marker who will umpire the match.

Rinks must be booked on the rink booking sheet via the WhatsApp group.



### What else goes on?

The summer season is always incredibly busy with rarely a week going by without a representative match taking place either at home or away. Details will be posted on the notice board, WhatsApp group and club Facebook page.

We do try to hold regular social events throughout the summer season including quiz nights, tenpin bowling and fundraisers. We are also hoping to organise a day trip to Market Rasen Racecourse for Ladies Day. All these events are advertised through the WhatsApp group and on the club Facebook page. If you have any suggestions or are happy to help with any social activities, please let us know.

### How do I find out more?

Fortunately, there are places and people that you can go to in order to find out more about the club, its games, our organisation and bowls in general.

Our club fixture book and website have important information about upcoming fixtures, green usage, committee members and team captains.

If you have any issues or questions, please direct them to the Secretary or the Safeguarding Officer who will be pleased to deal with them or take them forward to the general committee as appropriate.

The best way of all to get to know about bowling and what the club has to offer is to get down to the green, play bowls and talk to the other members.



**Enjoy your bowls**