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How do I join and pay?

If you are interested in taking up Bowls and playing at Rock Park Bowling Club then you can obtain a Bowling Membership Application Form from either within the Club or accessed from the Club Website - Give it a go! page.
https://www.rockparkbowlingclub.co.uk/rpbc-give-it-a-go.html

Once your application form has been received by the Club Secretary, it will be discussed by the Management Committee to determine if your application for Membership is approved. Once approved you will get an email from the Club

Treasurer with all the information necessary to help you join. If, for any reason, your application has been rejected, you will be notified by the Club Secretary advising why the application has not been accepted.

How much does it cost to join?

Once your application has been approved you will get an email from the Club Treasurer with all the information necessary to help you join including your joining fee.

Depending on when in the season you have applied to join will determine whether any prorated fees will apply.

If you have not played before, then for your first season, your fees will be 50% that of normal Full membership fees, and again depending on when in the season you join will determine whether any prorated fees apply.

There are also reduced membership fees for 'Juniors' at rates currently; Aged 8 to 12 years 70% reduction; aged 13 to 14 years 60%; aged 15 to 16 years 50% and aged 17 to 18 years 25%.

All membership fees are discussed and agreed on by the Membership at the AGM held in October and if agreed, will be the rate applied from the following April.

This current season (2026/2027) the cost for Full Membership is £80 and Social Membership £15. You can pay by Cash, Card, Cheque or BACS.

Part of the joining fee is a levy towards 'Affiliation' to Bowls England paid through the Bowls Devon administration which is currently set at a cost of £12.85 (affiliated contribution to Bowls England is £7.35, to Bowls Devon is £4.00 and Bowls Devon Section One is £1.50 per playing member).

What is Affiliation?

Affiliation is the method by which a club "joins" with Bowls England and contributes to the growth and governance of the sport. Once a club is affiliated, it can benefit from the numerous partnerships, programmes and support packages available – hence it is the club that enjoys the benefit rather than the individual. Therefore a club needs to contribute on behalf of all of its playing* members, each season to qualify for those benefits.

**It is important to clarify, an affiliation is not linked to competition. Any member of a bowls club who participates in any form of bowling (whether competition, in a league, or just social roll ups), contributes a small fee to help ensure the future of the sport.*

Club affiliations are a vital part of bowls, and member affiliation fees are the lifeblood of the sport. They bring great benefits that allow the sport to function effectively and fairly. When a club member pays an affiliation fee to their county and to Bowls England, they are in effect contributing to the health of the game, and ensuring the sport has a bright future.

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What size / type of bowls do I need and where can I get them from?

To determine what size of bowl is most suitable for you, it would be best to try out the selection of bowls available for use at the Club, but generally speaking if you can touch your thumbs and middle fingers of both hands around the largest diameter of the bowl this would be a good indication of the size required. There are many types of bowls based on weight and bias but would recommend obtaining a 'Second hand' set based on the trial bowls used from your selection of bowls at the Club. Bowls are available from Bowls specialists on the internet or from Bond Bowls (link from our Website).

What clothing /footwear do I need?

Once your application has been approved you will get an email from the Club Treasurer with all the information necessary to help you join including the Dress Code for matches/roll ups/competitions.

Club Shirts and Jackets are available to purchase.

Flat bottom shoes are expected to be used on the green when playing matches, practicing or being coached. Bowls shoes are available from Bowls specialists on the internet or from Bond Bowls (link from our Website).

How can I access coaching?

The Club has a number of qualified Coaches and they are available for your coaching needs. The Club also has Coaching days throughout the season which will be identified in the Club Fixture booklet and on the Club website.

The names of the Coaches are displayed on the Club Notice Board.

Julie Cooper - (Lapsed but experienced bowlers are Mark Lavercombe, Peter Dymond, Shaun Watts, and Hilary Richards)

What are the basics of bowling?

The Club has a number of qualified Coaches and experienced bowlers and they are available for your coaching needs. They will teach you the basics of bowling. There is also a 'Lawn Bowls - Guidance for Beginners" document available. New bowlers will be given a hand out at their first coaching lesson.

What are the recommended reading / instructional websites?

There are several methods of obtaining instructional advice on bowling if you feel that this is what you need above coaching. The Internet / You Tube has lots of specific advice on how to play / tactics involved / shot selection etc. Books are widely available from the internet. There is also a 'Lawn Bowls - Guidance for Beginners" document available. See also:

https://www.bowlsworld.co.uk/blogs/lawn-bowls/the-ultimate-beginner-s-guide-to-lawn-bowls-rules-equipment-and-strategy (Note - some of the information on this website page is incorrect - see Rock Park Bowling Club's 'Lawn Bowls - Guidance for Beginners' document for more accurate guidance..

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Who's who within the Club?

The current Management Committee members' photos are displayed on the Club Notice Board. The Full List of members voted into various roles is also displayed on the Club Notice Board.

How do I access the club for practice?

Once your application has been approved you will get an email from the Club Treasurer with all the information necessary to help you join including access codes to enable you to enter the Grounds and Equipment Store. Ensure that the Equipment Store is locked and the numbers scrambled and that the main gate is locked before you leave if no-one else is playing.

How do I know if rinks are free?

Generally the Club Fixture booklet identifies when the green is being used for games and how many rinks allocated. There is also a Club Diary located in the shelving unit under the Club Notice Board which will also identify those games, but also can be used to 'book rinks' by adding your name(s) in the time slots that are vacant.

What are the Access codes / lock up procedures?

Once your application has been approved you will get an email from the Club Treasurer with all the information necessary to help you join including access codes to enable you to enter the Grounds and the Equipment Store. Should you need to access the Clubhouse for any reason when it is locked then contact the Secretary, Treasurer or either one of the Captain's. Their contact details can be found in the Club Fixture booklet or on the Club website. They will give you the access code for the key safe. On leaving the Clubhouse ensure that all windows and internal doors are closed and external doors are locked. Return the key to the key safe and scrambled the numbers.

Please note that there are security cameras both external and internal to Clubhouse. Please read the CCTV Policy posted on the Notice Board and Club Website.

How do I get considered for Club Friendlies?

All Club games are published in the Club Fixture Book and on the Website. Should you be interested in playing in any of the Club Friendlies the 'Expression of Interest' sheet will be displayed on the Fixture Notice Board for you to add your name. If you have been selected to play the 'Team Selection' Sheet will be displayed on the Fixture Notice Board. If selected, tick your name to show your availability for that game.

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Who do I contact if picked for a game but cannot play?

If you are unable to play a game that you have been selected for and can give reasonable advance notice then put N/A against your name on the 'Team Selection' Sheet. If you are unable to play at short notice then contact the Club Captain (Ladies Captain for Ladies games, Men's Captain for Men's games, either for Mixed games). Both the Captain's details can be found in the Club Fixture booklet and on the Club Website.

How much are match fees?

Match fees will be determined by the type of game and distance involved and may be displayed on the 'Expression of Interest' and 'Team Selection' Sheets. Generally all home games are free unless there is a buffet or food provided where a contribution is expected, whilst away games that are dependent on coach travel, a fee is charged.

What are the roles of team members?

The Club has a number of qualified Coaches and they are available for your coaching needs. They will teach you the roles of the team members, but the following are the roles, depending on the format of the game being played

(see also **What is the etiquette during and after the Game?**)

Pairs:

Lead - responsible for correctly placing the mat and delivering the Jack. Deliver your bowls in turn as directed by your Skip. When it is the Skips turn to bowl keep him informed as to the situation of the head and if requested, determine their shot selection. Agreeing the shots scored on completion of the end with the opposing Lead, measuring where necessary. If you have lost the end then use the 'Pusher' to return the Bowls to the start of the next end of the Green. Keep the scoreboard updated.

Skip - ensure that the mat is placed correctly by the Lead before they deliver the Jack. Position the jack to the centre of the width of the rink. Keep the scorecard and scoreboard updated.

Triples:

Lead - responsible for correctly placing the mat and delivering the Jack. If you have lost the end then use the 'Pusher' to return the Bowls to the start of the next end of the Green after the 'Two's' have agreed the number of shots scored. Do not disturb the head until shots have been agreed.

Two - deliver your bowls in turn as directed by your Skip. When it is the Skips turn to bowl keep him informed as to the situation of the head and if requested, determine their shot selection. Agreeing the shots scored on completion of the end with the opposing Two, measuring where necessary. Keep the scoreboard updated.

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Skip - ensure that the mat is placed correctly by the Lead before they deliver the Jack. Position the jack to the centre of the width of the rink. Keep the scorecard and scoreboard updated.

Fours:

Lead - responsible for correctly placing the mat and delivering the Jack. If you have lost the end then use the 'Pusher' to return the Bowls to the start of the next end of the Green after the 'Three's' have agreed the number of shots scored. Do not disturb the head until shots have been agreed.

Two - deliver your bowls in turn as directed by your Skip. Keep the scoreboard (and sometimes scorecard) updated.

Three - deliver your bowls in turn as directed by your Skip. When it is the Skips turn to bowl keep him informed as to the situation of the head and if requested, determine their shot selection. Agreeing the shots scored on completion of the end with the opposing Three, measuring where necessary.

Skip - ensure that the mat is placed correctly by the Lead before they deliver the Jack. Position the jack to the centre of the width of the rink. Keep the scorecard and scoreboard updated.

How do I measure, mark scorecards, operate the scoreboard?

The Club has a number of qualified Coaches and they are available for your coaching needs. They will teach you how to measure, types of measure and agreeing with your opponent the number of shots. They will also show you how to use the scorecards and scoreboard if it is your team role to do so.

What is the etiquette during and after the Game?

The Club Fixture booklet gives brief guidance on the etiquette of the game. There is also a more detailed guidance on the etiquette of Bowls which is posted on the Club Notice Board

What if I need away transport or can offer transport?

If transport is needed for an away game you are selected for, which doesn't include coach travel costs, contact either the members that are selected in the same rink as you or members that are selected in the other rinks to see what their travel arrangements are.

If you can offer transport, make this known to either the members that are selected in the same rink as you or members that are selected in the other rinks.

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How do I get involved in helping out at the Club?

There are several opportunities to help out at the Club in various activities. Before the AGM in October each year a nomination list is posted on the Notice Board for members to be proposed for various roles. Members are encouraged to express their interest to be nominated to any of the roles that they are interested in. At the AGM the nominees are elected and assume their roles after the AGM.

Also published on the Notice Board at the same time are lists for volunteers to help out behind the Bar and Cleaning during the season on a rota basis. There is also a Volunteer list for Cleaning out of season after Social events.

Assistance is also required on Tuesday mornings all year round from 8.30am to 10.00am to help out with the Green and Surrounding areas. You are most welcome to turn up whenever you are available to help.

Any help you can give to the Club will be greatly appreciated.

What tours are available?

Each year there are notices put up for the following years' Tours. The dates for the Tours are usually in May for the Men's Tours and September for the Mixed Tour. If you are interested in going on either or both of the Tours you can add your name(s) to the notices. The Notices will give full details about the Tours' arrangements and cost.

How do I enter Club Competitions?

At the start of each season expression of interest sheets are put up on the Competition Notice Board for the various Competitions for you to add your name to. Payment for the competition fees that you have entered are placed in the Brown envelopes identifying your name and competitions entered and fees paid. You can pay by cash or BACS. Identify on the envelope if paid by BACS.

You can enter as many of these competitions as you wish. The expression of interest sheets will have a completion date for entry. Soon after this completion date the Competition draws will be made and posted on the Competition Notice board. The draws will have 'Played By' dates which must be adhered to.

The Competition Rules are posted on the Competition Notice Board.

How do I enter the Club Tournaments?

Each year at present there are two open tournaments; a one day Mixed Triples (Daisy's Day) event usually in July and a week long Open Tournament (Mixed

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Pairs, Singles, Pairs and Open Triples) in September. Notices will be put up in advance of these tournaments for interested members to add their names to.

The draws will be made, programmes produced and given to those that have entered.

How do I enter County Competitions?

Towards the end of the season, Bowls Devon will provide the Club with County Competition Entry sheets for the following year. You can enter as many of these competitions as you wish, if eligible.

The Rock Park Bowling Club Administrator will enter your entries onto the Bowls Devon On-Line System.

Draws will be made by BowlsDevon/Section One and the draw sheets sent to the club for displaying.

The Rock Park Bowling Club Administrator will then enter the Team names for your entries onto the Bowls Devon On-Line System.

The County Competition Rules are posted on the County Competition Notice Board in the changing rooms.

How do I enter National Competitions?

In January the Competition Portal of the Bowls England website is open for entries. In order to enter you will have to register to their Competition Portal Site.

The Rock Park Singles Champions, National Two Fours, National Top Club will be entered in by the Club Secretary.

The National Competition rules are on the Bowls England website.

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