



# ASHTEAD BOWLS CLUB

Guidance Notes for new  
Bowling Members

**Member's Name:**

**Membership Number:**

**Mentor's Name and tel. number::**

March 2023

## **You are very welcome to Ashtead Bowls Club**

This pack is designed to assist you with finding your way into bowling at Ashtead. You have completed your initial coaching sessions and have demonstrated that you can deliver a bowl smoothly without bouncing it. You have been accepted into our club, issued with a door code, a membership card showing your membership number, a fixtures booklet, access to our website and a locker. You have also been assigned a 'Mentor' who will be your personal contact for any questions that you may have.

### **Parking and access to the club**

We have six designated bays which are clearly marked with a 'B' and if they are full there is parking either behind the library **when it is closed**, or on Meadow Road, Moat Court or Walters Mead. Avoid parking in Woodfield Lane if possible.

When walking from the car park to the bowls pavilion when a cricket match is in progress please avoid distracting the batsman by not walking through during an over, If bowling is from the footpath end.

## Websites and App

The club has a website [www.ashteadbowls.co.uk](http://www.ashteadbowls.co.uk) that contains a wealth of information about club activities.

You can register using your initial and surname (eg jsmith) and by choosing a secret password that you should remember.

The club has a second website that is used for booking rinks on the green. It is [www.ashtead.bowlr.co.uk](http://www.ashtead.bowlr.co.uk). You will need to register using the membership number you have been given, and a password consisting of your first initial, surname and membership number e.g. jsmith0053.

There is also a club app for your mobile phone. Go to your app store and download HitsSports. Then open it and register using Ashtead Bowls Club, your login that is your initial and surname (eg jsmith) and your password which is the same password that you chose for the ABC website above.

## Playing details

You will be able to book a rink through the 'Bowlr' website. There are four sessions available for booking most days on each of the six rinks. The website diary will show which rinks are available Your 'Mentor' can give you more information on this rink booking system.

If the green is soft due to rain it may be necessary to use the mesh mats that are stored in the equipment shed.

The Club provides coaching sessions for all members and details will be posted on the Coaching notice board. If you would like some coaching you can contact one of the coaches listed in the fixtures booklet and shown on the board.

## Dress code

Only flat soled bowl shoes are allowed on the green and can be of any colour. Men wear club shirts with grey trousers. For ladies the general rule is white above the waist and grey below. Ask your mentor about where to buy club clothing.

When you reach the standard of being on a team then you may be told to wear white trousers/shorts/skirts and socks for certain matches.

A royal blue waistcoat, cardigan and/or a fleece may be worn for ladies' matches. White sweaters/fleeces for men.

### Roll-Ups and Club Nights

The best way for a new member to get going in the club is to participate in the Roll Ups on Tuesday and Friday mornings. These are very friendly team games where you are selected to a team by drawing a number. A coach is available to help during these games.

There are Club Nights every Monday for both ladies and men. Just turn up and you will be allocated to a team.

On Wednesday evening there is a Club Night for ladies and on Thursday evenings there is a club night for men.

These are all a great way to develop your game, get to know other members and progress in the club.

### Matches

The club plays in various men's, ladies and mixed leagues. It also plays friendly games against other clubs.

All members are encouraged to offer to play in these matches. Just write your name on a match sheet in the clubhouse to show that you are available. The teams are selected about a week before each match, and posted up. Seek advice from your Mentor about this.

If you sign up for a friendly match, and are picked as a reserve and do not play, you will be selected for the next appropriate fixture you sign up for.

If playing in a match, please arrive at least 15 minutes early. Make sure your bowls have our club stickers. These are available from the bar or from the Captains.

Refreshments are usually provided, and the cost of these is included in your subscription fee.

If the match is away, car transport is usually arranged and a donation is paid by passengers to their driver to help cover costs. After any match, it is traditional for each member of the home team to offer a drink to their opposite number, and for this offer to be reciprocated later. Team members are expected to stay for refreshments unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The club needs your support in playing matches, so please offer to play.

For home matches, please arrive 30 minutes early and help put out all the equipment. After the refreshments, you may be required to help with clearing up.

### Internal Club Competitions

Many different internal competitions are held during the season and you are strongly encouraged to participate. In your first year, the 'Australian Pairs', '100-Up' and the '0 to 3' handicap competition are ideal. Talk to your Mentor or to the Competition Secretary for advice on what to enter, using the Entry Form.

### Handicaps

Players are allocated a handicap between 0 and 10. When you first join as a novice you will be given a handicap between 0 and 3. Your handicap is then reviewed each season by a Committee when your year's performance in general play and Club competitions is used to adjust your handicap up or down as necessary. Your handicap is a measure of your overall standard of play and is not based solely on results. Players are

observed throughout the season to arrive at as fair a judgement as possible.

### Around and on the green

It is important that bowlers are not disturbed when bowling and that you are ready to bowl when it is your turn. Please observe the following code of etiquette:

- Do not move across the line of a rink when players are bowling towards you.
- Do not smoke, run, eat or drink on the green.
- Pay attention to the development of the head, and be ready to bowl when it is your turn.
- After each end when the score has been agreed, assist in removing the bowls, mat and jack in order to keep the game flowing.
- After you have bowled, stand back 2 metres from the mat and watch the other players bowl. Stand still and do not talk when players are bowling.
- If the jack is driven close to or into the ditch, stand on the bank.
- Allow the number 3 on your team a clear view so that they may advise your skip if required.



- Keep well away from the head when any measuring is in progress.
- Reserve any conversation for the time between ends, or after the game.

### Winter activities

Many members join and play at local indoor clubs during the winter, e.g. Mole Valley. We play short mat bowls every Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

Social events are held about once a month. Details are posted on the notice boards and on the website.

### Lockers for clothing

The Club provides lockers in the changing rooms free of charge for bowling equipment and clothing that members wish to leave on the premises. The club does not accept responsibility for any personal items left on the premises. Contact the Membership Sec for a key.

### Smoking policy

The Club operates a strict non-smoking policy in the pavilion, changing rooms, on the decking and on the green.

## How you can assist in the Club

The Club needs your help with many different tasks. If you are able to help, you can volunteer for:

- Changing rink markers and/or mowing the green in the summer.
- Brushing the green in the summer and winter.
- Acting as a bar steward. The bar manager will provide training.
- Assisting with refreshments.
- Occasional washing up duties.
- Joining the working party that meets at 09.00 each Wednesday morning to maintain the clubhouse and grounds.
- Assisting in the running of the club.
- Helping to arrange the club bowling events or social events.

## Club security

The clubhouse has a keypad door lock and you have been given the number. All the other buildings are locked and you will be told where the keys are kept. If you are the last person to leave the grounds, you must ensure that all buildings are locked and that the keys are

safely put back, that all windows and doors to the clubhouse are securely closed and locked and make sure that all lights are turned off and the air flow system is also turned off. Also, check that the building is left tidy. Finally, if you are the last to leave in the winter, please check that the thermostat is turned down low.

### Communication with members

Email is the main form of regular communication. There are three meetings each year, a spring pre-season meeting, an autumn AGM meeting for both Men's and Ladies' sections and a Club AGM. In addition, check all the notice boards and web site for club events. Please advise the Membership Secretary of any changes to either your phone number or your email address.

### Finally

Integrate yourself into our friendly club and above all enjoy your bowling and your new friendships.

### Notes: