Braunton Bowling Club

FOUNDED 1912

Members Handbook

2026



Memorial Gardens

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Contents

Page	
1	Welcome to Braunton Bowling Club
2	Training and recruitment
3	Equipment and rink set up
4	Membership
5	Dress code
6	Matches and competitions
9	Short mat bowling
10	Volunteering

Welcome to Braunton Bowling Club.

The club provides facilities for both outdoor lawn bowling and short mat bowling.

We understand that the “rules” and “protocols” surrounding bowling can be somewhat daunting at first but do ask if you are unsure.

The Club is run by a Management Committee which meets at the start of each month. Any member may attend the meeting and if they wish to speak may do so. Minutes of meetings are available in the relevant file in the corridor and on the web site. The club has a “suggestions book” available in the corridor.

The Management Committee is elected at an AGM held in November of each year. All members are encouraged to attend the AGM.

This booklet should be read in conjunction with our “Constitution and Rules” booklet, our “Guidance for New Bowlers” booklet and “The Rules of the Sport” booklet. (All of the above are available from the bar).

The Club also has a set of policies governing how it is run and the regulation of the “behaviours” of members especially in regard to Safeguarding.

These policies are available on the club web site and in a folder in the Club Room. It is important that all members are familiar with these policies as any failure to comply could result in disciplinary action.

At the time of writing, we have some 160 members. Members can join as either full, just short mat or as social members. Visitors can play on payment of a “rink Fee” if they have booked a rink and are recognised as “competent” bowlers. (Up to date numbers are to be found in Minutes of the Management Committee)

Information on all Club Activities can be found at www.brauntonbowlingclub.co.uk

Access to the Members Section is via a password which can be obtained from the web site manager.

Membership fees are set at the AGM each year. Fees have to cover all aspects of the running of the club from maintaining the Club House to keeping the green and grounds in good condition, to paying rent, rates, replacing equipment and service charges.

Keys to lockers, lockers rooms and the gate are available on payment of a deposit for each key.

Any member can have a key to the “main door” on payment of a deposit. This carries the responsibility of ensuring the premises are secure and the setting of the alarms.

When leaving please ensure that no one is left alone on the premise

2

Training and Recruitment

Taster sessions are held in Spring and Autumn followed by four training sessions.

Qualified coaches with safeguarding training are available for those who want to improve their game and learn the finer points of the laws of lawn bowls. Their contact details are available in the Fixture Booklet, Coaching notice board.

Monday nights are Social / Training available to everyone. No need to book just turn up … Indoor 7-9pm, Outdoor 6pm.

Coach team have a supply of differing bowls and shoes to loan.

If you require any help or information, please contact the BBC Coach Coordinator or one of the Coaches.

Other useful information can be found in the Coaching corner on the website.

The coaching team hope you enjoy the game,

and find friendships on the way….

Equipment & Rink Set up

Equipment for games is kept in the equipment shed. The shed is locked by padlock with the key available in the locker rooms. All equipment must be returned to the shed on completion of play and the shed locked by the last player to leave. There will be times when members need to prepare the rinks for afternoon or evening matches - a guide is given below:

Preparation of rinks

1. Set out one mat at each end of rink.
2. One yellow/white jack for each rink.
3. One scoreboard for each rink.
4. Pair of red and white markers at each end of each rink.
5. Pushers - 1 at each end of each rink.
6. Measuring stick at each end of each rink.

Please help set up and clear away the equipment for matches etc.

Greens Closures

It is sometimes necessary to close one or two rinks to give them time to recover from the wear and tear they receive and to benefit from any treatments that may have been applied. When this is done the "RINK CLOSED" sign is placed next to the appropriate rink. Under no circumstance must play take place on these rinks/greens when these signs are displayed. The signs must not be removed unless authorised to do so. This may mean on occasions there are insufficient rinks available for casual use. This is unfortunate but necessary to protect our most valuable asset.

The greens often have to have applications of fertilizer and fungicide. Notices are posted if this has occurred and bowlers MUST NOT ingest any of these materials e.g. by licking their fingers.

It is good practice to wash hands after playing.

Games must NOT be arranged on Tuesday and Saturday mornings before 12.00pm and not before 10.00am on any other day to allow time for essential maintenance on the green. On some occasions it may be necessary to carry out maintenance on other days. Members will be notified of these occasions if at all possible.

4

Membership

Membership of the Club shall be open to any person who completes an application form and, where appropriate, a training course.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- All members must take responsibility in ensuring they are up to date with the rules, understand and adhere to them.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Members should recognise the valuable contribution made by coaches and officials who are all volunteers. They give their time and resources to provide bowls and social events to all.
- All members must respect officials and publicly accept their decisions.
- All members should be a positive role model, treat other players and officials with the same level of respect you would expect to be shown to you.
- All existing members should help new bowlers understand the rules and regulations of the club.
- Members should use correct and proper language at all times.
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform the competitions secretary, skip, team captain or coach if they are going to be late.
- Members must wear suitable footwear and dress on the green, as per the club and Bowls England regulations.
- Bullying of any sort will not be tolerated.
- Members should encourage everyone to enjoy the sport and understand that people have different motivations for taking part.
- Members are strongly advised, as a matter of Health and Safety, not to be alone on Club Premises.
- Smoking and Vaping is only allowed in the designated area of the club.
- Mobile phones are NOT allowed on the green and should preferably be on “silent” in other areas of the club.

Dress Codes

New members should not worry about having a club shirt at first and should think about whether they want to continue bowling before they purchase any kit. In the early stages we ask that you comply with the spirit of the code rather than the letter.

Club kit can be purchased via the designated club member and second-hand kit can also be purchased from the club.

For roll ups, coaching and practice sessions smart casual clothes can be worn but no sleeveless t-shirts or cargo trousers / shorts.

Club colours are navy trousers and Club shirt.

Short mat: Internal and friendly matches are navy trousers and Club short. For external league matches it is grey trousers and Club shirt.

Flat soled shoes are required for all games, and we request that they are only used for bowling. (It helps to prevent contamination of the Green and Indoor mat)

The best advice we can give is if you are not sure what to wear ASK.

<u>Dress Codes in the Fixtures Book</u>

N/CS Navy trousers with Club Shirt

WAW White above the Waist

W/CS Whites with Club Shirt

Mufti Smart casual clothing



Other equipment that you may find useful:

Water proofs Hat Sun Cream Water Bottle

A measure chalk Score card holder Pen / Pencil Wedges A Cloth

6

Matches and Competitions Outdoors

The club plays over 80 matches each season. This includes both away and home fixtures. Many of these matches are against local teams but we also have a number of teams who visit us from far afield.

The majority of the friendly games are mixed matches that take place in the afternoons. The Annual Subscription covers the cost of all rink fees at the Club however a small fee maybe levied on players taking part in home matches where tea and biscuits are provided. Away matches normally incur a small travel fee. It is usual good practice to buy your opponent a drink after any home match. A fixtures book is available to all members.

Team availability and selection sheets are posted in the Men's and Ladies' changing rooms and all Full and Junior members are entitled to enter their names for consideration for selection for any of the games.

For the more competitive minded we take part in the Men's and the Ladies Triples leagues and, if there is sufficient support Top Club, Foxlands and County Trophy competitions. These are all interclub competitions and captains are responsible for picking teams and explaining the rules. Local, County and National competitions are open to those who like a more serious challenge.

Social / Training sessions often take place on a Monday evening. They are informal friendly gatherings for ALL members (including Social and Junior) to meet fellow club bowlers, have a relaxing game or even try out some new woods or bowling actions.

Members can play in roll ups with any other member when rinks are free – but rinks MUST be booked in advance in the Rinks Booking Folder in the "corridor". You can find more details in the Rules and Regulations booklet

We have a "spoons" competition – over 18 ends -which runs throughout the season where teams are drawn and redrawn every 6 ends. (See fixtures book for dates).

We also have a "bowls football" competition on Thursday evenings when teams of three play each other in a league. Players choose their teams for this competition. But you can also add your name to the substitute list.

Club Competitions take place during the season with the Finals taking place over a weekend at the end of the season. These are open to Full and Junior members. The competitions are run by the Competition Secretary with help from other members as required. Entry for these must be made no later than the opening of the summer season i.e. President Day. The draw will then take place two weeks later. The rules and draws for the matches are posted in the changing rooms. Members must enter their competition dates in the club rink booking book in the "corridor".

Club Competitions Available

Mens Competitions	Ladies Competitions	Mixed Competitions
Novice Singles Open to those who have not won a competition. Less 6yrs experience First to 21 shots	**Novice Singles** Open to those who have not won a competition. Less 6yrs experience First to 21 shots	**Millennium-4 wood singles**. Best of 3 sets. First to 7 shots wins the set. Best of 5 sets in Semi & Finals.
2 Wood Singles Individual entry 18 ends	**2 Wood Singles** Individual entry. 18 ends	**Pairs** To 18 ends Partners are drawn "from hat"
4 Wood Singles Individual entry First to 18 ends	**4 Wood Singles** Individual entry First to 18 ends	**Maud Irwin.** 2 wood mixed triples. Partners are drawn "from hat". 18 ends
4Wood Handicap Singles Individual entry. First to 21 shots	**4Wood Handicap Singles** Individual entry First to 21 shorts	**Triples.** To 18 ends. Partners are drawn "from hat"
2Wood Pairs Individual Entry Partners are drawn "from hat" 18 ends	**2Wood** Pairs Individual Entry Partners are drawn "from hat" 18 ends.	
4Wood Pairs Individual Entry Partners are drawn "from hat" 18 ends	**4Wood** Pairs Individual Entry Partners are drawn "from hat" 18 ends	
Triples Individual Entry Partners are drawn "from hat" 18 ends	**Triples** Individual Entry Partners are drawn "from hat" 18 ends.	**CHECK FIXTURES BOOK FOR LATEST INFO.**

Club Competition Rules

Club members should not enter any competitions knowing that their holiday arrangements may interfere with the Finals Weekend or the preceding rounds 'By Date' or 'Fixed Date'.

The top player on the draw sheet is the challenger and is responsible for providing the opposition with three possible dates / times for the match. (please allow 2wks notice). Also, the challenger is required to book a rink and arrange for a marker in singles.

If the Challenger receives no response to these dates, then the Competition Secretary is to be informed, who has the right to eliminate the opponent from the competition on the expiry of the round in question.

If the non-challenger has not been contacted one week before the end of the round, they must contact the challenger to give 3 dates by which to play the match.

Failure by either party to undertake the above, or any game not completed, will result in forfeiture of the game by both players.

If there is no specific Competition Rule, then all games will be played under the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Edition.

Substitutes – No substitute/replacement shall be permitted in any competition after the first round has been completed unless there are **VERY** exceptional circumstances. The final decision will be made by the Competition Secretary with help from other members as required**.** In team games substitutes are not permitted to play skip

Dates for games All games must be played on a 'fixed date' or on or before 'by date' – Holidays are not an acceptable reason for not abiding by these rules.

Finals – All competition finals will be played on the date(s) allocated on the Club Fixture Card. The competition - Secretary may allocate additional dates if any competitor has reached the final in more than one competition.

Markers - Any member of the Club (see exceptions in marker guidance) may mark for any other club members, but should only do so if they are aware of what is required to carry out this function. A laminated guide titled "MARKING FOR A SINGLES GAME" is available on the Competition board in both the Ladies and the Gents changing rooms. This gives Bowls Law references and helpful comments. It is for all to read.

National, County, and Section matches take preference over Club Competitions in the booking of rinks. Players in a Club Competition may be asked to re-arrange their bookings should their rink be required for any of these games **providing that a minimum of 72 hours notice is given**. No extension time will be granted for any Club Competition due to the above and all games must be completed by the 'fixed date'.

If a Competitor arrives later than 15 minutes after the agreed start time their opponent may claim the game.

Score Cards In singles both players should sign the scorecard to confirm the accuracy of the

score. The marker should also sign the scorecard and note the time of finish.

Drawn Games If at the end of the game the scores are equal, an extra end will be played to decide the result. By the toss of a coin the winner of the toss will decide who should play first. Skips make the call in team games and the opponent in a singles. The extra end should be played from where the game finished. If at the end of the extra end the scores are still equal another end will be played, the same format as above is applied.

Handicaps will be determined by the competition's secretary on the basis of prior performance in competitions.

National, County and Section Competitions

A wide variety of competitions at various levels are open to affiliated members. Information and entry form for these competitions is made available in the locker rooms at the appropriate time. Please contact the Honorary Secretary if you need help with these competitions.

Competition fees for all Club competitions will be decided by the Management Committee and must be paid before the start of the competition

Short Mat Bowling

Short Mat is a very important and popular part of Club activities. It is organised by the short mat secretary and takes place between the start of October and the end of March. It is open to all full members and short mat only members.

Please be aware Short mat information gets displayed prior to the season starting.

Training for those interested in playing short mat takes place before the start of the season. If you wish to participate in any of the league games please sign up before completing your training, as places are limited.

There is a very comprehensive programme of short mat bowling available to members.

- Roll ups are available to any member (Sign up in the corridor, if the list is full, you will be put at the top of the list for the following week)
- Internal leagues are played on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday evenings, Thursday afternoons and on Friday Afternoons and Evenings.
- There are matches in three external leagues which are played at home in the afternoon on a Monday, but away matches could be at other times.
- Club competitions.
- Monday Social / Training Evening – Open to everyone no need to sign up

Please notify the organisers in plenty of time if you cannot make an activity.

It is beyond the scope of this booklet to give full details of the Short Mat programme so ensure you keep an eye on the notice board and web site for information. If in doubt, do not hesitate to ask any established bowler or the Short Mat Secretary.

Like all events, to run the activities above the club needs volunteers so please support.

10

Volunteering and helping to run a successful club

Tea Duty All members are encouraged to take their turn preparing refreshments during all League and Friendly matches, for the visiting team and our playing members. For example, arranging tables and chairs / Laying tables / serving food / making Tea and Coffee / Clearing Tables / Washing up / Tidying and cleaning up.

Committee Member Before the AGM in November members are asked to nominate committee members in varying positions within the club. Please think about helping in anyway and you can attend meetings on a monthly Monday morning.

Greens and Gardens Tuesday morning everyone is welcome to join the Green Team or sweep greens throughout the season.

Bar Staff rota of regular staff always needed.

Coaching Want to gain more knowledge and help others, courses available and funded by the club, just ask an existing coach member.

Social Activities are an important part of the club. Not only do they raise funds for the club but they also provide the opportunity for members to gather and socialise throughout the year.

Social activities can include:

Social evenings –Quiz nights, Race nights, Supper nights, Summer Barbecues, Fish and Chips suppers

Presentation Evening, Christmas Dinner, Presidents Day, Captains Day, Charity Day Craft activities

These events are listed in the fixture book or on the notice board.

These activities are open to ALL paid-up members. This includes full, social and short mat adults. Guests are welcome and must be signed in by a member.

All of the events take a deal of organising and preparation. Please consider volunteering to help in any way that you are able.



For the club to continue to succeed please volunteer….