



# **Crondall Bowls Club**

***New Members Handbook***



Welcome

Congratulations, on joining the playing membership of the Crondall Bowls Club.  
This booklet is designed to assist you in settling in whether you are an experienced player or a novice to the game.

If you have any queries, at any time, please ask any member of the committee.

Regards

**Roger Peck**  
Chairman

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## THE CLUB

The Club's rink is located at Hook Meadow, Crondall, it is leased from the Parish Council with a discretionary relief to the Business Rates.

### Playing

The playing season is from April through to September, though many members also play indoor bowls during the winter months.



Casual ad hoc play or practice—often termed a “roll up”. As a member you book up any time and use the green, subject to it not being maintained or used for other games. A book is held in the Pavilion, in which rinks are to be reserved prior to play.



Club Competitions—formal matches against fellow club members. Entries in a range of competitions are called for at the start of the season.



Inter Club or District Competitions—formal matches against other Club's members.



League Matches—inter Club matches played on Wednesday evenings.



Friendly Matches—semi formal inter Club games, a great way of gaining playing experience and meeting other players. Usually played on Saturdays & Sundays.

Entry to any competition is usually via a booking sheet held in the Clubhouse, whether it is for a simple rink booking for roll ups (other than for Tuesday's which is “Club Night”), club competitions or for formal matches.

### Club Night

During the playing season, members are encouraged to attend the Club each Tuesday evening @ 6.00pm, when there is an opportunity to practice, receive coaching from more experienced players and ensure that their availability for future matches/events is known to the selection Committee (The Club Captain and Vice Captains).

Team selection takes place on this evening and team lists are posted on the Club Notice Board.

### The Pavilion

The Bowls Club jointly owns the Pavilion with the Cricket Club. Members of both organisations are elected to a Pavilion Management Committee who have responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the building and its facilities.

The two Clubs are jointly and equally responsible for the running costs with a ground rent payable, annually, to Crondall Parish Council.

## MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

There are several class of membership:

**Playing**—members pay a fee set, annually, at the AGM and payable before the start of the season.

**Honorary**— No fee payable, awarded to those members who are deemed to have provided exceptional service to the Club.

**Social**—open to non playing members for a reduced fee.

**Junior**— full membership for those under the age of 18 at the start of the season. Fee is reduced and normally at the level of the “social membership fee” .

Members are expected to:

1. Have the necessary clothes and equipment to enable them to take part in “roll ups”, Club Matches, League matches and Club competitions.
2. Pay any match fees payable.
3. To abide by the dress code set out elsewhere in this booklet.
4. Do at least one “Tea rota” duty during the season - this involves provision of the teas (the precise requirement is dictated by the match being played) and raffle prizes.
5. Make every effort to support the social activities of the Club - these are organised throughout the year and are likely to include, Bingo evenings, Race Nights, Fun Bowl events.
6. Assist on the occasional work parties to support the green keeping staff as well as the general maintenance of the area around the green and the pavilion.
7. Ensure that they are aware if they have been selected to play in any Club match and to inform the Captain if there is any change affecting their ability to attend the match.

**NOTE:** The maintenance of the green and the pavilion is carried out by members (no professional staff are employed) and whilst membership fees are held at a low level the social events are essential in order to raise the funds required to maintain the facilities.



## DRESS CODE

**Roll Up Evenings:** The preferred attire is grey and whites, though exceptionally smart casual attire is permissible (tailored trousers and collared shirts). In the event of any dispute the decision of the Captain or Vice Captain (present at the time) will be final.

**Matches & Competitions:** Whilst playing, either greys & whites or whites as stipulated by the rules of that match. The wearing of blazers and ties, prior to, and after the game, is at the option of the individual.

## FORMAT OF MATCHES

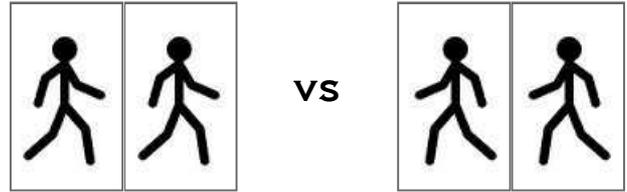
### SINGLES



**FIRST PLAYER  
TO  
REACH  
21 SHOTS  
WINS MATCH**

Marker needed  
to  
keep score  
and  
place "jack".

### PAIRS

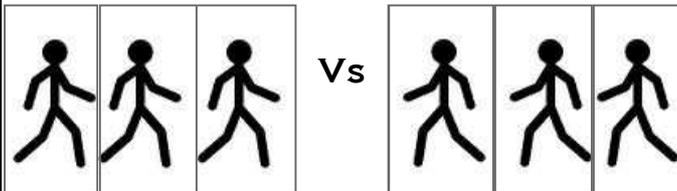


**HIGHEST SCORE  
AFTER 21 ENDS  
WINS MATCH**

Lead  
Places Mat  
Delivers "jack"  
Measures if necessary  
Confirms score of the end

Skip  
Keeps score  
&  
places "jack"

### TRIPLES



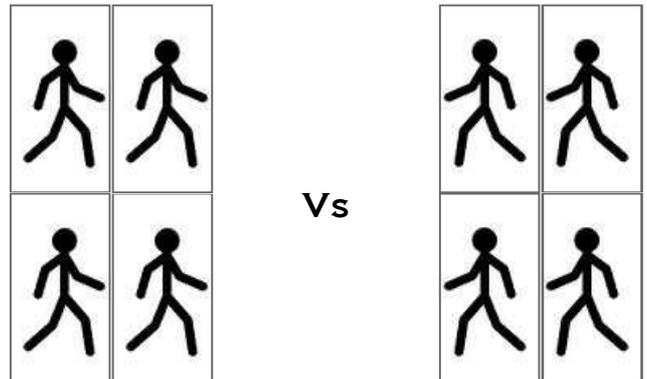
**HIGHEST SCORE  
AFTER 18 ENDS  
WINS MATCH**

Lead  
Places Mat & delivers "jack"

Two  
Confirms the score of the End  
Measures if necessary

Skip  
Usually keeps score (*not a rule*)  
Places "jack"

### RINKS (OR FOURS)



**HIGHEST SCORE AFTER 21 ENDS WINS MATCH**

Lead  
Places Mat  
& delivers "jack"

Two  
Keeps Score  
If @ home  
maintains scoreboard

Three  
Assists Skip  
Confirms score of the End  
Measures if necessary

Skip  
Controls the team game

## BOWLING PRINCIPLES

(Some Do's & Don'ts - courtesy of David Bryant's book "Bryant on Bowls")

### DO'S

- Be conversant with the laws of the game.
- Make sure you are gripping your bowl correctly.
- Check to ensure that when you adopt your stance on the mat, that you are facing the shoulder of the arc of the hand that you wish to play. Remember to be perfectly balanced and relaxed with knees slightly bent in the athletic position.
- Make sure your whole body flows through your delivery, from the hand which delivers the bowl to the back foot that lifts off gently off the mat. Be certain there is no stiffness in any part of it.
- Be very aware of the pace of the Green and the general conditions, because your arm and leg movements will be governed by them. The faster the Green, the more alive the bowl will become, and the more sensitive the touch required. On heavier greens, the bowl should be held more firmly, but on faster surfaces it should be caressed by the fingers and the whole mechanics of delivery are more delicate. The movement is slower, the backswing shorter and with the long graceful follow through, the delivery becomes a gliding movement.
- Having estimated weight by looking at the jack, keep your eyes firmly fixed on the shoulder of the intended arc when delivering the bowl. Keep your head down until after the bowl has been released.
- Practise, practise, practise and try to become proficient in all the shots of the game. Remember that there is a perfect weight and Green combination for every shot attempted, and nothing gives more satisfaction than to apply it successfully. Mastery of this combination is the hardest part of the game, but the ability to play shots with perfect weight and green is a great asset. Their precise quality is a joy to behold to the onlooker.
- Always be positive when you step on the mat. Be sure of the shot you wish to play.
- Always stand well back from the mat when your opponent is in play. Never be over eager to play your bowl. Take your time and fully assess the position before you bowl.
- Remember to use the mat and jack intelligently. Have a sound reason for every tactical move you make.
- When you are playing in Pairs, Triples or Fours and you are not the skip, always remember it is a team game. There is only one person in command so mould your play to his/her wishes. Four players. No matter how good, playing their own games will never be a successful side.
- When playing lead or second in a four, encourage your third person and skip, but do not let your enthusiasm run away with you to the extent of becoming a nuisance and overcrowding the head. Remember, the third and skip are in control, and other players should keep well back where they can still take an interest without interfering and confuse the issue.
- When in trouble remember that more often than not it pays to play for second bowl. Your opponent cannot go far on singles only.
- Watch your opponents game carefully and look for weaknesses, which you may be able to exploit profitably at a suitable time later in the match.



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- In singles play you cannot afford to waste a single bowl and these games, therefore, are the ones in which it is easiest for a bowler to build up or improve self-discipline and keep concentration.
- Take a pride in building up deep concentration and willpower, but remember it is still only a game, and do not let the result get out of perspective.
- Train yourself to think deeply about the game and in practice be prepared to experiment. It is the only way to learn and your tactics and general knowledge will improve steadily.
- Remember that few bowlers succeed in top class play unless they have excellent temperaments. Set out to be an example to others on the green. Sportsmanship costs nothing. A player who is a true sportsman will always be an inspiration to his team and the serenity and coolness that accompany him will be conducive to better play, with his partners being completely relaxed but still concentrating to the full.



## DONT'S

- Never throw the jack. Take your stance on the mat as if you are bowling a bowl and endeavour to bowl the jack to the distance at which you hope to obtain maximum advantage.
- Do not run off the mat when delivering your bowl. Take your time.
- Too many bowlers green 75 - 80% of their bowls narrow. Do not be one of them, as a slightly over greened bowl is invariably better.
- Never allow your eyes to wander when bowling a bowl. Keep them on the shoulder of the intended arc.
- Do not let yourself be distracted by shadows or movements. Wait until everything is still and start your routine again before you bowl.



- Make sure you do not relax when you build a big lead, there will surely come a time when you will regret it.
- Take your time and not be too hasty in deciding which shot to play. Study the head carefully and be absolutely sure no better alternative exists. Indiscriminate firing when the position is against you can, and often does cost the match.
- Never let your opponent think he has you rattled. Whatever the fortunes, appear serene and cheerful and concentrate your thoughts on how to pull those shots back, and reverse the mental pressure.
- Never let your opponent dictate the pace of the game. You cannot rush a game of bowls. To give of your best you should play at your speed and let him play his.

## ETIQUETTE ON THE BOWLING GREEN

- ▶ **Do not Talk** when a member of your team or the opposition are about to deliver the wood.
- ▶ **Do not Criticise** your team mates, or your opponents
- ▶ **Be Interested.** Take an interest in the game - follow how the head is building up. You should not have to ask the Skip the position of the head.
- ▶ **Do not walk around talking** to other players on the green. They might not be interested, especially if they are concentrating on their own game.
- ▶ **Show a good Spirit**—remember it is only a game and must be played in the best spirit of the game. This does not mean you must not have the determination to win. If beaten, take it like a sportsman—congratulate the winner and really mean it!
- ▶ **Changing Ends**—when changing ends and crossing over, walk reasonably quickly. Remember, someone on the next rink might want to borrow some of your rink. Walk within the confines of your rink.
- ▶ **At the end of changeover at the other end** - as soon as the changeover is complete do not stand around admiring or criticising the head. Move onto the bank except the No 3.
- ▶ **Obey the Skip's instruction**—do what the Skip directs. Do not argue with him or have a discussion.
- ▶ **Skip should not criticise**—as a Skip, do not criticise any member of the team because of a bad bowl or for any other reason. The player will know he has played a bad bowl - at least he was trying. Give encouragement and commend good play. Do not show irritation or ill feeling
- ▶ **Last No. 3 to play**—in a fours game, the leads and twos, after playing their bowls, can see the results but, the last No 3 to play cannot see the results of his second bowl because all the other players have started to walk up the green. Remember the last player would also like to see the result of his last bowl.
- ▶ **Skip's should set an example in Etiquette.** All eyes are on him—he should not become so engrossed in conversation with his opposing skip that he forgets to function.
- ▶ **No.3 not to direct the Skip, but to advise.** He must not control the Skips play. Remain silent until the skip asks for advice or confers about the shot he intends to play. He should not make any comments to, or distract the skip when he is about to play his bowl, particularly the last one
- ▶ **Skip should clearly indicate the shot required** and explain the shot required—not give a perfunctory indication with the right or left hand.
- ▶ **Profane, Indecent or Improper language.** There is no need for this. It is out of place on the bowling green.
- ▶ **Marker or Umpire.** Do your share of marking for singles matches as you appreciate it when someone marks for you. Thank the marker after the match. Also thank the umpire after he has given a decision. When he is adjudicating, stand on the bank.
- ▶ **Placing your Skips Bowl on the mat.** The lead is to place the Skips bowl on the mat if he is to play the first bowl and see that his bowls are clean. This helps to save time and is a courtesy much appreciated.



## DUTIES OF MARKER

The Marker shall control the game in accordance with the I.B.B. Laws of the Game.

He/She shall centre the jack and shall place a full length jack 2 metres from the ditch in compliance with Law 28.

He/She shall ensure that the jack is not less than 23 metres from the mat line, after it has been centred.

He/ She shall stand to one side of the rink and to the rear of the jack.

He/She shall answer any specific questions relating to the existing state of the head while the player is in possession of the rink; and when requested, clearly indicate the shot if possible.

He/She shall mark all "touchers" immediately they come to rest, and remove the chalk marks from "non- touchers". With the agreement of both opponents he/she shall remove all "dead" bowls from the green and the ditch. He/She shall mark the position of the jack and "touchers" which are in the ditch (Laws 32 and 39).

He/She shall not move or cause to be moved either jack or bowls until each player has agreed to the number of shots.

He/She shall measure carefully all doubtful shots when requested by either player. If unable to come to a decision satisfactory to the players he/she shall call in an umpire. If an official umpire has not been appointed, the marker shall select one. The decision of the umpire shall be final.

He/She shall enter the score at each end, and shall intimate to the players the state of the game. When the game is finished, he/she shall see that the scorecard, containing the names of the players, is signed by the players, and is disposed of according to the rules of the competition.

He/ she shall remove the mat from the previous end, as necessary.

### Additional points

The Marker should only answer the questions asked and not volunteer information.

The opponents agree the shots won on each end, **NOT** the Marker. So the Marker should not leave the head before the shots have been agreed.

The Marker should not indicate the length of the jack i.e. full length; short; etc...

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MARKERS

Remember that a marker's primary duty is to assist the players so that the game can proceed within the laws and best etiquette of the game.

A good marker will always:

Confirm the regulations of the competition. e.g. ends to be played; shots to be scored; time limits (if any) ....

Make sure that the names of the players are known and he/she can identify their bowls.

Remember to be alert, decisive and unobtrusive.

Dress as far as possible in a similar style to the players. i.e. greys / whites.

Stand still unless required to mark a "toucher" or answer a question.

Leave the head untouched until the players have reached an agreement.

Wait until the players have agreed the shots before marking the scorecard or leaving the head.

Keep players informed of the score after each end.

Walk quickly up the green so as not to delay the players starting the next end.

If it is a tight measure and the players cannot agree the shot, suggest that an umpire be called.

**NEVER** stand on the bank having a chat or a cigarette.

**NEVER** offer advice to the players.

**NEVER** declare the shot.

## HISTORY OF THE CLUB

(by Les Mullins)

In 1947-48 it was hinted that the Parish Council hoped to obtain Hook Meadow for the purpose of building Council Houses. Mr Beddington, of the Court, owner of the land, objected most strongly against this and would not allow building of any sort on this land.

A Parish meeting was convened to which only twelve people attended and of this number Messers. F Snuggs, J Hoare, J Cox, R Lefroy, A Ralph and Mrs Christy were in favour of it being turned into a recreation ground as a memorial to the village people who served in the armed forces during the war.

Mr Beddington agreed to let it on a 60 year lease at 24 shillings per annum. This was accepted and 7 acres were to be used as the recreation ground and the other  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre to be given over to a children's play area.

In the first instance, it was decided to have the tennis court where the bowling green is now situated but there were objections to this as there was the danger of balls being hit into the gardens of adjacent houses. The present sites were eventually agreed upon and work started with the aid of a mechanical digger loaned by Alan Porter of Clare Park Farm preparing the site for the bowling green.

When the excavations were completed and the ground levelled to a fair degree, the first rink was laid with turves under the supervision of G Pipes, head gardener at Clare Park.

When playable, this one rink was officially opened and the first wood was bowled by the vicar, Reverend R P Butterfield.

This one rink remained for one year to see if the game of bowls would catch on in Crondall and the first cup was given by Mr A Ford Young for the singles championship.



The final of this event was between two lefthanders, H Harman and Mr Carter, umpired by the local cobbler, A Ralph, who much to the delight of the spectators measured the close woods by using his handkerchief as they were not in possession of these new fangled measuring tapes! M. Harman was the first singles winner.

The following year another rink was laid by seeding, the work being carried out by F Snuggs and W Smith with a third rink being added the following year,

There being three rinks, which was the fashion for a time, the Crondall Club was beginning to thrive and fixtures between surrounding clubs and villages were arranged, much to the annoyance of the village cricket captain as some of the players were joining the Bowls Club in preference

to the Cricket Club!

Eventually, at Mr A Ralph's suggestion, it was decided to form an official Bowls Club in 1950. this was carried out with Mr Hoare appointed as both Treasurer and Secretary with Mr F Snuggs as Captain.

Application was then made to join the Farnham League and after officials inspected the green,

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which did not come up to standard, they could be accepted providing they were willing to play all their league and cup matches away!

This was agreed and the Bowls Club then really got under way. After much hard work and professional advice the year 1952 found Crondall's green acceptable for all matches.

Annual subscriptions were fixed at 5 shillings (25 pence), the cost of all home matches would be half a crown (12½ pence) which included tea for both visitors and home players.

The green was eventually fenced off and the present hedge planted by Club member Mr J McMillan on condition this was maintained and grass trimmed to one foot outside the hedge.

A quantity of woods were later bought at sales and from other clubs; these all "lignums" in order that any village person so wishing could have a 'roll up' under the supervision of a Club member on payment of sixpence (2½ pence) green fee and sixpence (2½ pence) for hire of woods. Through this scheme membership greatly increased and became a source of pleasure for the village, resulting in various cups being donated for competition among the Club members.

Due to circumstances beyond the clubs control, the Club folded up around 1970 and the green lay dormant for 4 or 5 years.

A number of village people then decided to try and re-start the Club again and working parties were arranged, cutting down the nettles and rubbish that had taken over the green. This was burnt daily and efforts to restore some order out of chaos eventually succeeded. When bowling re-started , friendly matches were the order of the day.

The Bowls Club was reformed in the late seventies and internal competitions started in 1979.

It was decided that as there were only 4 rinks, the membership of the Club should be restricted to a total of 50 members.

In the mid eighties the green was lifted and relaid by a professional firm, but the results were not very satisfactory. Since then, a number of Club Members; The Greens Committee; have, by sheer hard work for most weekends of the year, improved the green immensely.

Over the years the standard of play has improved. So much so that the Club has won the Farnham & District League twice since 1991 and one of the members was Aldershot & District Singles Champion.

### **CRONDALL BOWLS CLUB - THE FUTURE**

Currently, the Club plays its league matches in Division 1 of the Farnham & District League, having been promoted as winners of Division 2 in 2010.

Additionally, each season it competes in a number of inter-Club competitions.

To continue to meet these requirements , the Club is keen to recruit new players so it encourages all its members to spread the word about the benefits of "bowls" as a game both from a gentle means of exercise and stimulation of the mind through the tactics and strategies involved with the addition of a varied social calendar.

