



# GREEN - GAME and CLUB ETIQUETTE



The pioneers of bowling were largely responsible for the introduction of many unwritten laws which are still regarded as the ETIQUETTE of the game.

Friendships made on the Bowling Green are sincere and enduring and this is what gives our game its special charm. Proceedings are commenced with a friendly handshake and introductions all round with first name terms creating warmth and friendship

The points of etiquette can be summed up as follows:

1. Always dress correctly for all games, **stated in our match fixture booklet**. (Puts you into the correct frame of mind)
2. Remain behind the mat, or behind the head, when it is not your turn to bowl. As soon as **your bowl comes to rest**, possession of the rink passes to your opponent.
3. **Stand still** and **quiet** when a player is about to bowl.
4. On a bright sunny day beware of your shadow. Do not let it mask the jack, nor permit it to fall in front of the mat when your opponent is about to deliver.
5. Compliment your opponent on a good bowl.
6. Keep to your own rink. Walk up the middle of your own rink. Do not become a wanderer and distract other bowlers by walking on their green.
7. Try to avoid obscuring boundary pegs rink plates and other markers.
8. Never criticise - only encourage.
9. Pay attention to the game. Nothing can be more frustrating to your partners than to feel you are not giving of your best attention.
  
10. Stand well back from the head when firing shots are played. If a jack or bowl makes contact with a player make sure it is not you.

# WHO DOES WHAT?

## SKIP

- 1 Team leader and play maker.
- 2 Be able to give clear instructions to other members of the team.
- 3 Is the decision maker.
- 4 Should any player need to leave the green the Skip must be informed.
- 5 The Skip is the only player to get involved should the No. 3 have a problem when measuring.
- 6 In the event of no agreement between the Skips they will make a decision to call an umpire.
- 7 The Skip needs to carry chalk should a bowl in its natural course of travel hit the jack and need to be marked.
- 8 Keep the score card.

## PLAYER NUMBER 3

- 1 Responsible for agreeing with opposite number 3 for measuring distances between bowls to find the number of shots to be awarded to either team.
- 2 If no agreement is reached the number 3 would ask Skips to make a decision.
- 3 Needs to carry chalk, measure, and wedges.
- 4 Informs the Skip of the number of shots scored so the card can be kept up to date.
- 5 Will keep Skip informed of the Head position and advise accordingly.

## PLAYER NUMBER 2

- 1 When playing in a rink may be asked to keep scorecard (but this is usually done by Skip). Helps collect up bowls, then put up scores if you are the Home team.
- 2 If playing in a Triple, then as per player number three above.

## PLAYER NUMBER 1

- 1 Responsible for placing the mat correctly and delivering the jack accurately to the place indicated by the Skip.
- 2 Responsible for positioning the jack by giving the Skip clear signals.
- 3 Delivering the first woods for your team.
- 4 Gathers up the loose woods if the End was lost. (Other members of both teams should assist by moving loose bowls towards you).
- 5 Important points for the number one are, the front of the mat must be a minimum of 2 metres from the ditch and the jack must be a minimum of 23 metres from the front of the mat.

## TRIPLES

In the game of bowls involving three players on each team, the player number 2 has the task of measuring and the Skip, unless agreed otherwise, takes over the scorecard.

There are no extra responsibilities for player number 1.

## OTHER (BUT MOST IMPORTANT) Do's and Don'ts

- 1 While waiting to bowl, players must stand at least 1 metre behind the bowler on the mat.
- 2 The player on the mat waiting to play is in possession of the rink until their bowl comes to rest. Therefore, any questions to be asked about the head and any instructions received must be made before the bowl is delivered, so when you stand on the mat always look at the Skip first in case they have instructions.
- 3 After the last bowl of the head has been bowled, the only players allowed to remove bowls from the head are the two players engaged in measuring.
- 4 When measuring or the decision making is taking place, every other member of the two teams should be at least 1 metre behind the head, or removing bowls not in the count.
- 5 Interference by other members of the team while measuring is not acceptable.
- 6 When measuring for more than one shot the counted bowls should be picked out of the head (**not kicked**) and placed onto a cloth so they are not confused with other bowls. If there is any

doubt about the number of shots then the person who is NOT holding the position should do the measuring.

- Ⓛ Never eat or drink on the green, step off to eat or drink at the edge.
- Do not leave any empty water bottles after you leave the green
- Ⓛ Do not sit on the edge of the bowls rink as it can damage the edging, if you need to sit then advise your skip and sit on the appropriate seating.

## **HELP AND ADVICE FOR NEW MEMBERS**

*Dress/Clothes* - once you are a member of the club then you are expected to follow the dress code in the fixture card, please study this. For organised roll ups and any form of internal match then predominately white above the waist and grey below. The fixture book will specify what the dress code is for each match. Smart casual clothes may be worn for individual casual play. All clothes should be purchased from a recognised bowls equipment supplier and always wear Bowling shoes.

**Note:-** Bowls shoes should only every be worn from the club house/changing room to the green and back. They should never be worn outside.

*Matches*- all members are encouraged to play in matches, beginners often worry about this but there are several types of match.

On the boards are three clip-boards, **Men's, Mixed, Ladies.**

Within these are **Friendly's** and **League** matches.

For new members select Friendly's, these games are the reason we joined, they are for playing the game, learning the rules, meeting other bowlers and having a sociable time.

Although they are "friendly" we all would like to win, and some Skips get excited if they don't, but don't worry, just learn the game. Everyone started here.

When you feel your game is improving then try a League match, these have SML, TVL or Shield next to the venue. These are serious matches, but having said that we always need new bowlers.

*Match Fees*- generally all matches are £3.00 per match and depending on the match and venue it **may** include Tea and Biscuits at half time, and/or a small salad type meal at the end.

Ladies midweek matches are normally £2.00.

As with all things this can change, but the fee will be on the match sheet.

At the end of the Match the Home team buys their opponent a drink, you may be offered one in return, but this is not always guaranteed.

You do not start to eat until the Capitan of the day says OK.

Always allow £1.00 for a raffle.

If the match was in Whites you may change into Greys for the meal.

*Traveling*, don't let transport put you off, put a mark against your name on the selection sheet, ask someone who is going or speak to the Captain of the day.

If the match is a home match then try to arrive early as all the equipment needs to be in place adjacent to the rinks and also put away after the match. Arriving late and leaving early is to be avoided if possible.

*Competitions* - all members in their first full year with the club may enter the club competitions. Ask a senior member for advice or ring the Secretary to clear up any worries.

After the first season you will need to have been available (put your name down) for 8 club matches, of which at least 4 must be away to qualify for the next years singles competitions.

If you win a singles competition remember to **always** offer your opponent and the marker a drink after the match.

*Rotas* - because we run the clubhouse and the green ourselves you will be expected to help with: - the teas after matches, cleaning of the pavilion, and in time with the locking and opening up of the grounds (men only), this includes the rink rotation.

With the tea rota most people only have to do teas twice in a season, and it is done as a team.

The Secretary runs the cleaning rota and you will probably only be asked to do this once in the season. It isn't too heavy, but we ask people to check the loos and basins for cleanliness make sure there are towels, soap and loo rolls, and just mop any really dirty patches on the floor.

The working surfaces in the kitchen need cleaning and finally the whole area requires vacuuming.

All cleaning utensils are provided and will be shown to anyone who is not familiar with the system. Never leave food or waste behind – take it with you.

*Bar* - any visitors you bring down to the club must be signed in if they want to buy drinks from the bar. The visitor's book is kept behind the bar. Visiting teams do not need to do this.

#### *Practicing*

When you are a full member of SBC you are entitled to use the green at any time whilst the green is open, however you must first check in the Green Rink book to ensure the green is open and has not already been booked.

Rink six must never be used before 6pm as this is for the general public.

You must still observe the club dress code.

Priority of play on the Green is shown in the Rink booking folder.

Should a match be scheduled or in progress and you wish to use a rink then ask permission from the Captain of the Day if you can use it.

#### *Visitors*

As a full member you are entitled to bring visitors to the club a maximum of four (4) times per season, per member. All players must wear the appropriate clothing, and check in the rink book to confirm rink availability.

#### *External Competitions*

You may enter any affiliated external competitions such as SML, TVL, or County but take note of any dress code applicable, and that your Bowls are within date.

If any doubt speak with the appropriate organiser.

It may sound boring, but read the Red book with the Laws of the Game, (copy hanging up in club house or buy your own copy, cost about £3.00) it will answer many question you have.

We want you to feel at home at Staines so please ask about anything you need to know.