

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING CLUB

2023

Outdoor Competition Details & Rules (Ladies and Men)

The following information is provided for your guidance, and to encourage you to join in and enjoy the competitive side of the game. Bowls England Laws apply except as provided in these rules.

Arranging Club Competitions. The challenger (top of the draw) is responsible for arranging a convenient date and time of play with his opponent(s), for booking a rink in the rink reservation book provided in the corridor (avoiding times that clash with regular or special competitions) and for arranging for a Marker for singles games. Rink allocations are made in the morning each day, and are noted on the board in the corridor. ***The challenger*** should offer without delay two dates (three if one is a Sunday), by direct contact to his opponent. The opposing competitor shall ***reply without delay*** accepting one of the dates offered. Outdoor competitions may not be played on an indoor green under any circumstances. In the event of no contact from the challenger his opponent is expected to give him a timely reminder. We are all friends, after all! Don't leave it until the cut-off date as this will probably result in not meeting the schedule. In the event that a match is going to be late see **Extensions** below.

Identification of Bowls. The Challenger must use yellow Club stickers. Non-Challengers must use plain woods or stickers of a different colour. Skips or Markers are to ensure that this is done, for the benefit of players, markers and onlookers who are taking an interest in the game.

Markers. Singles competitions require a Marker. If a last minute problem arises and no marker is available, then only by mutual agreement the game may be played without a marker. This is undesirable and should rarely happen, certainly it will not be allowed in the final rounds of the competition. Happily most members are very pleased to mark for others, given advanced warning. There is a list of Markers on the Club noticeboard.

Walkovers. If a competitor withdraws from a competition, a signed scorecard must be submitted indicating the reason why the game has been conceded. The Competition Secretary may impose a Walkover if the game is not played by the due date without an acceptable reason.

Competition Record Sheets. These are displayed in the main corridor for information and ***must not be marked by players in any way***. The website will also display the state of play for each competition. Completed scorecards are to be posted through the letterbox in the Captain's office.

Extensions. Except when an overall extension is given, due to exceptional circumstances (weather etc.), extensions to the final date of any round will not be given unless the individual circumstances are discussed and agreed with the Competition Secretary, bearing in mind such agreements are a burden on other competitors waiting to play their next round.

Dress. Correct dress, as per the Club Rules, must be worn on the greens for each match.

Scorecards. All cards must be clearly completed with the printed names and full initials of competitors, Competition name, date, player, rink number & scores. Both Competitors in Singles and both Skips in Pairs, Triples & Fours must sign the card and are responsible for placing it in the appropriate box (Captain's Office).

Substitutes. In Pairs, Triples and Fours Competitions, a substitute may be allowed, subject to his not having been included in the draw. In the Club Pairs, the handicap of the substitute must not exceed that of the player being replaced.

Disputes During play. An Umpire should be nominated if not already in attendance to resolve any disputes. At other times, disputed matters should be referred to the Competition Secretary, but should normally be resolved amicably by those concerned.

Details of Club Competitions

Mens and Ladies Club Championships Handicap not used, open to all. Marker required. First to 21 shots.

Mens Intermediate Championship open to Handicap 7-10, handicap not used. Marker required. First to 21 shots.

Ladies Intermediate Championship open to Handicap 1-7, handicap not used. Marker required. First to 21 shots.

Open Junior Championship (Mabbs) Open to Handicap 6 or less, Men and Ladies, handicap not used. Marker required. First to 21 shots

Mens Veteran's Championship Open to competitors with a minimum age 70 by May 2022, handicap not used. Marker required. First to 21 shots.

Open Super Veteran's Championship Open to competitors with a minimum age 80 by May 2022, Men and Ladies, handicap not used. Marker required. First to 21 shots.

Mens and Ladies Challenge (4:3:2:1) Open to all. Marker required. No Handicap used. Nearest 4 woods to the jack score 4, 3, 2 & 1 points to either player (total of 10 scored each end subject to 4 woods remaining on the green). If 2 scoring woods are equi-distant from the jack half points will be used. ie shot wood and second wood can't be separated each scores 3.5. All ends to be completed. Winner reaches 106 points first. Or passes 106 by the greater margin.

Mens Club Handicaps* Open to all. Difference in handicap to be added to the lower handicapped player's score before the first end, then first to 21 shots. Marker required.

Mens and Ladies Two Wood Championships Open to all. No handicap used. Marker required. First to 21 shots

Mens and Ladies Club Pairs* Open to all except Cadets. Pairs are drawn from high & low handicaps. Scoring: Half of the total handicap difference (fractions excluded) is added to the score of the lower handicapped pair prior to the first end. E.g. if the difference in total handicap is 5 then add 2 shots to the first end (half of the difference being 2½), marking scorecard accordingly. 21 ends to be played.

Mens Smidmore Pairs* Pick your own partner. 21 ends. Handicaps used in same way as described above for Club Pairs. Open to all.

Mens and Ladies Fixed Jack Competitions Open to all. 21 ends. Handicap not used. Marker required. Maximum/minimum length jacks played alternate ends with the mat placed 2 metres from the ditch. Toss at start of match for choice of short or long jack first end. Separate toss for choice of mat first end. No trial ends. In the event of a bowl covering the tee on which the jack should be placed, the jack will be placed directly behind the tee on the centre line of the rink, touching the bowl. If the bowl is subsequently moved from covering the tee, the jack will be replaced as normal. If the bowl still covers the tee once the end is completed, the jack will **not** be replaced on the tee once the bowl is removed from the count (it shall remain directly behind the tee) and shots should be decided as the head lays. If tied after 21 ends, toss for choice of first or last bowl, direction of play to continue as normal.

The Ladies championship will be played on the fixed date - Monday 8th August. Markers will be arranged by the Ladies Competition Secretary.

Mens Late Summer 2 Wood Pairs Open to all. Typically played late July to September - Pairs enter together. No Handicap used. Best of 3 sets of 7 ends (5 sets in the final). Jack alternates each set. **Play-by dates strictly enforced.**

Mixed Pairs Pick your own partner. 21 ends. Scoring as Smidmore Pairs. Open to all, one lady and one man.

Ladies Club Handicap Open to all. Difference in handicap to be added to the lower handicapped player's score before the first end, then first to 21 shots. Marker required.

Ladies Imperial Pairs Pick your own partner. No Handicap used. 21 ends. Open to all.