



INTRODUCTORY BROCHURE DATED 2021



Churchdown Village Bowls Club

INTRODUCTORY BROCHURE



This brochure is intended to give you an overview of Churchdown Village Bowls Club, and a guide to the sport of bowling. We are a friendly mixed bowling club playing a variety of fixtures, during weekends and midweek. Competitions are organised for Juniors (U15 and U25), Seniors and everyone in-between. We have regular (non-bowls) social evenings.

Our Location

We are located in the heart of Churchdown, at Church Road, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2ER.

We play Green Bowls; an activity for summer months. We have a Green used by a previous Bowls Club. As you can see from the photograph our Green is south facing, and there is adequate parking to the rear of our grounds.

We are a section of the Churchdown Club which has a large bar and lounge facility. There is also a Tennis club and a Skittles club; plus meeting rooms.



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Bowls is an Outdoor Activity

As an outdoor activity we are less restricted by Covid-19 protocols. For 2021 we are concentrating on playing friendly internal matches. Occasionally we will visit small number of local clubs for a friendly competition. We also intend to occasionally invite other of clubs to visit us, again for a friendly competition.

Our Internal Competitions

Our internal matches are mainly:-

Singles Knockout ... Winner goes to next round; finishing with a Finals Match.

Pairs Knockout ... Winners go to next round; finishing with a Finals Match.

Triples Knockout ... Winners go to next round; finishing with a Finals Match.

Round Robin ... a very friendly social competition.

During a Round Robin, you play with all members of the club, sometimes a member is on your team; the following week that member can playing against you. You accumulate a score during all of the matches. At the end of the competition you will have met all members of the club and learnt their backgrounds and interests. A very quick way to make friends.

Our External Competitions

Our external matches are true competitions. A competition is always fun event. Some can become serious as the season closes and a championship needs to be decided. Competitions are always enjoyable social events; and there will be a “relaxation break” usually after the game. You will be in a team of three (occasionally four). You will have time to talk to your opposite team members and learn about their interests.

We have a dress code for competitions.

Practice (Rollups)

When there are no competitions, any member can just “rollup” and play bowls. This can be with a fellow member or arrive and join someone who is already practicing on the green. If you are performing a solo rollup then you can develop a specific skill. If you join a fellow member then you can help each other develop a skill by suggesting a technique.

Support and Advice

We have lots of friendly members that will be happy to join you in a “practice” match and they will explain the basics of bowling. Some members are very experienced; and they will teach you certain techniques. During any competition other members of your team will suggest a route that is best for your wood.



Our grounds include stunning views towards Churchdown Hill. We are also proud that we have one of the best landscaped grounds of any club in the area.

The scenery and the sunshine offer a very relaxed and enjoyable setting for playing bowls.

Contact us

Currently Our Web site is:- churchdownclub.co.uk/what.html

Email address is:- churchdownvillagebc@gmail.com

Email us for more information or to ask for a membership form.

Our address is:- Church Rd, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2ER



There are bus stops directly outside of the club. The bus routes are 97/98, run by Stagecoach Gloucester.

Our Fees -- Annual Personal Membership

Couple	£140	Two partners and all children under 18 years old. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
Adult	£ 80	An adult, includes all children under 18 years old. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
Junior membership	£ 20	Any person under 25 years old.
Life Membership	Free	Members who have been honoured by the Bowls Club as "life" members.

Churchdown Social Club

All Bowls Club members must be a member of the Churchdown Club. Churchdown Club subscriptions are:- **OAP (Seniors) £15** and **Adults £20**, the previous year's membership card must be supplied. **New members also pay £5.00** for a membership card. Full details of their fees are on their web site.

Their bar offers a full range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Beers include a regular house ale, plus a guest ale; lagers and a selection of wines. The Churchdown Club also provide meals and have a well established reputation for a delicious roast on a Sunday. There are two main bar areas: a relaxed lounge area with comfortable seating; plus a sports area with pool table, darts board and two sports screens. Outside there is a beautiful seating area overlooked by Churchdown Hill.

Visit their WEB site:- churchdownclub.co.uk

Corporate Membership

We offer corporate membership. This allows for personnel to attend our premises to play bowls; AND enjoy the facilities of the Churchdown Club. As mentioned on the previous page, the Churchdown Club offers a large lounge with bar and food. It also offers meeting rooms and a skittles alley.

Flexible Attendance

Corporate membership attendance at Churchdown Village Bowls Club will be very flexible. However, there will be an odd occasion when a limited number of rinks:-

Mornings of any day NO RINKS

Monday mornings is reserved for green maintenance (grass cutting and watering).

Wednesday evenings MAY BE RESTRICTED NUMBER OF RINKS

Wednesday evenings is when we sometimes play our internal matches.

A weekend afternoon MAY BE RESTRICTED NUMBER OF RINKS

Saturday or Sunday afternoons are used when we host an external competition.

There is a notice board area where dates and times of future fixtures are displayed. Even if a competition is taking place there should still be a spare rink, or two.

NO Pre-Booking of a Rink

There is no need to book a rink before your arrival. If no-one is on the green then a Churchdown member of staff can open up the club house so that corporate members can change from working clothes, and gain access to bowls equipment.

If no support is required then corporate members **can simply turn up and play.**

Kit is Available

We have a selection of bowls that we offer for those who do not own any bowls. We have mats, pushers and score boards. We have white and yellow jacks.

We ask only one mandatory request:-
players must wear flat soled trainers.

The green is very flat and any depressions or bumps within the grass will seriously affect how a bowl will roll.



Annual Corporate Membership Fees

The fee includes:-

A corporate member may visit to our premises as many times as they wish.

A corporate member may invite an occasional guest to also play.

A corporate member has free use of our spare bowls and bowls equipment.

A corporate member is automatically a member of the Churchdown Club.

A corporate member may form corporate teams, or join one of our teams, to play an internal competition.

Up to 20 members	Corporate Membership Fee	£1,500
Up to 30 members	Corporate Membership Fee	£2,250
Over 40 members	Corporate Membership Fee	£3,000

We apologize but playing an external competition will require Personal Membership of Churchdown Village Bowls Club; plus purchase of club shirts, jackets. The most important aspect of an external competition is personal ownership of a set of bowls with our club's identification markers on them.

Basic Understanding of Bowls

The object of the sport of bowls is essentially simple. It is played on a square of closely cut grass called 'the green', which is divided into playing areas called rinks. The green is surrounded by a small ditch to catch bowls which leave the green, and a bank upon which markers indicate the corner and centre of each rink.

Players take turns to deliver their bowls from a mat at one end of the rink towards a small target ball, often referred to as 'the jack', at the other end. The object is to get one or more of your bowls closer to the jack than those of your opponents on each end.

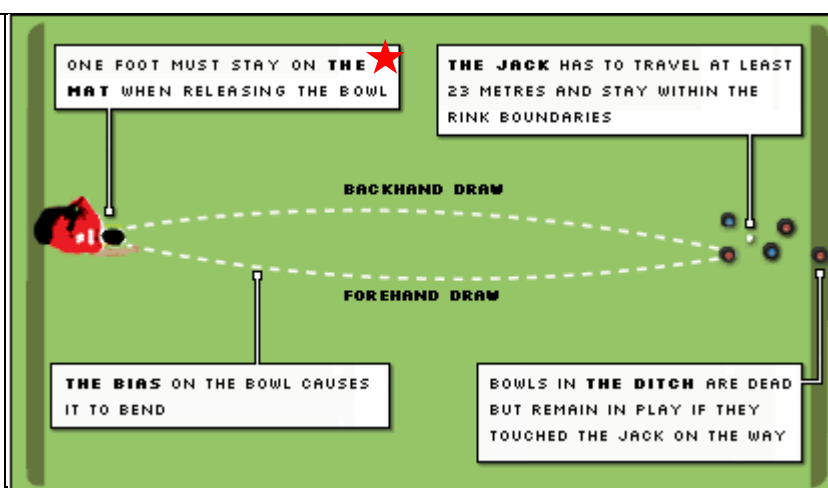
Reasons to Try the Sport

We believe everybody should realize the joy and benefit of playing sport, and there are so many reasons why bowls is ideally placed to unlock these fantastic advantages. Here are our top 5 reasons to give bowls a try:

- 1. Playing bowls is very doable.** Whatever your physique, bowls is a sport for everybody and it will help improve your fitness levels and mental wellbeing.
- 2. Bowls is not expensive.** To get going you don't need lots of new kit and clubs put on taster sessions for free. Even when you get the bug, a set of bowls and joining a club can cost as little as £90.
- 3. After football, bowls has the second highest number of clubs in the country.** With so many places to play, it'll take no time at all to get to a bowls club close to your home.
- 4. Compared to most sports, age and gender differences have less of an effect on a game of bowls,** so it's a perfect sport to spend time and enjoy a bit of friendly competition with your family.
- 5. Bowls clubs are sociable places full of people looking to have fun,** so bowls is a great way to relax, make new friends and feel part of your local community.

The bowl is commonly known as a wood for reasons steeped in history. Woods were once made of wood. Today bowls are made of plastic, or at least a resin composition.

Bowls have a biased side that causes the bowl to run in a curve, a useful device which enables a wood to gain access to the jack even when it was hidden behind a forest of short woods.



"Bias" is the key to the Sport of Bowls.

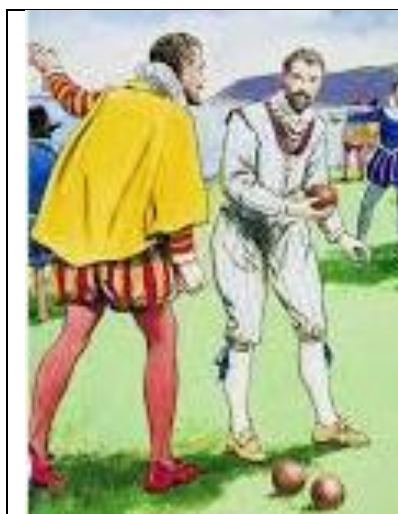
★ This rule has recently been changed -- "One foot must **remain within** the mat area".

Short History of Bowls (Bowls England)

Many games have developed from simple roots. Games like golf, croquet, billiards, snooker, archery and darts all involve targets. But games like marbles, quoits, skittles, petanque and bowls all have one thing in common which makes them more primitive and natural games; there is no device, like a club, cue, bat, or racket, to distance the player from the ball.

Bowls, like those close cousins, is the simplest of all ball games. If you can roll a ball; you can play bowls.

Henry VIII (1491-1547) was a devotee of bowls. Although he prohibited his subjects from playing, he installed at Whitehall '*divers fair tennice courts and bowling alleys*'. James I (1566-1625) commended '*a moderate practice of bowls*'... but not by '*the meaner sort of people*'! Charles I (1600-1649) was also bowls crazy. It was Charles II (1630-1685) who installed a green at Windsor Castle



In spite of all the royal patronage that bowls received, the most famous historical bowler must be the phlegmatic Sir Francis Drake.

As one English poet put it:-
He was playing at Plymouth a rubber of bowls,
When the great Armada came;
But he said, "They must wait their turn, good souls",
And he stooped and finished the game.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Visit <https://www.bowls.co.uk/history>

Short History of Bowls (Wikipedia)

Bowls is a variant of the boules games (Italian Boccia), which, in their general form, are of ancient or prehistoric origin. Ancient Greek variants are recorded that involved throwing light objects (such as flat stones, coins, or later also stone balls) as far as possible. The aspect of tossing the balls to approach a target as closely as possible is recorded in ancient Rome. This game was spread to Roman Gaul by soldiers or sailors. A Roman sepulchre in Florence shows people playing this game, stooping down to measure the points.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Visit <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowls>



Churchdown Village Bowls Club

WE ARE OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS



THREE SIMPLE STEPS TO BOWLING



STEP ONE

Judge the **DISTANCE** to the Jack.

This is the easy bit.

During a game you will be able to cope with the distance.

STEP TWO

Judge your **ROUTE** to the Jack.

Again not too difficult as you will be guided by a partner who stays near to the Jack.



STEP THREE

Get **CLOSE** to the Jack.

However the other team may also be near to the Jack; now we need a measure !!



**An Outdoor Game. Very Sociable.
Friendly Competitions.
Regional Competitions.
Support and Guidance from Members.**

The bowls club is a section of the Churchdown Club which has a large bar and lounge facility. Ample free parking.

“churchdownclub.co.uk/what.html”

Email “churchdownvillagebc@gmail.com”



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WE ARE OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS



GAMES / COMPETITIONS



Practice

As with any skill you will want to practice. You can visit the club any * afternoon / evening:- Bring a friend or join with another member. Or, just practice specific skill on your own.

* There will be days when a you cannot play due to a competition taking place. But you can still learn.... watch how other members are bowling.

Internal Club Competitions

During the year we organise internal competitions.

Examples are:-

Singles Knockout ... Winner goes to next round.

Pairs Knockout ... Winners go to next round.

Round Robin ...

**Play all members during the season, and
Accumulate a score during a series of matches.**



External Club Competitions

Create 4, 5 or 6 teams for a specific day to visit another local club and play against their teams. Local clubs will visit us.

We also organise a 4 day tour to visit clubs in other areas. These are very enjoyable events.



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