

# **HURSTBRIDGE BOWLING**

**CLUB** Incorporated



**INFORMATION FOR  
NEW MEMBERS**

# HURSTBRIDGE BOWLING CLUB Incorporated



## INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

**Address:** 36 Greyssharp Rd., , Hurstbridge. 3099

**Phone:** (03) 9718 2159

**Email:** [contact@hurstbridgebowls.com.au](mailto:contact@hurstbridgebowls.com.au)

**Website:** [www.hurstbridgebowls.com.au](http://www.hurstbridgebowls.com.au)

**On behalf of all members of the Hurstbridge Bowling Club, the Board would like to extend a warm welcome to you and hope that you have many happy years as an active member of our club.**

As a new member you will be assigned a buddy/mentor, usually a Board member or senior member of the club. This is the person who you can call on for any assistance you might need until you become familiar with the club. They will also introduce to you to other members and help you feel at home.

## CLUB FACILITIES

### Greens

The bowling greens are generally open daily unless maintenance is being undertaken. As a member you are entitled to use the greens for practice at any time other than when official games (eg pennant) are being played, or if the greens are closed by the Greens Director, Greenkeeper or other club official.

### Practice

Official practice times are:

- Tuesday afternoon from approx. 3:30 pm
- Thursday afternoon from approx. 1:00pm

### Bar and Clubhouse Facilities

The bar and clubhouse facilities are open to members and their guests during the bowls season on practice nights and also on Saturdays.

- Tuesday from 4.00 to approx. 6.30
- Thursday from 4.00 to approx. 6.30
- Saturday from 12.30 to approx. 6.30

Members playing away are encouraged to return to the club after your game to enjoy the company of other members and reflect on the day's play – and hopefully to celebrate a win.

During the non-bowling season the club is open for members and their guests on Thursday from 5.00pm to approx. 8.30pm.

Please note: Bar closing times are dependent upon the number of members present.

### Club Facilities for Hire

The club facilities are available for hire to both members and the general public. It is a great facility for weddings, parties etc, and members do get a discounted rate. The club also caters for funerals and some smaller gatherings.

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## GENERAL

### Club Communication

Members will be kept informed of teams, results, upcoming events and achievements through the clubrooms noticeboards, the Board's weekly bulletin, regular emails, facebook posts and newsletters.

Additional information is also available on the club's website at [www.hurstbridgebowls.com.au](http://www.hurstbridgebowls.com.au) or by inquiring on the club email at [contact@hurstbridgebowls.com.au](mailto:contact@hurstbridgebowls.com.au)

### Management

The club is administered by a Board of Management, which is elected annually at the club's Annual General Meeting, usually held in May.

## MEMBERSHIP

Several categories of membership are available with varying fees for each category. The main three categories are Full membership, (which allows you to play competition bowls), Intermediate membership (non- pennant, but social bowls) and social membership (non-bowling category).

Membership fees are set at the Annual General Meeting each year and are payable annually in advance of each season and may be paid directly to the Treasurer or by direct debit. If you are intending to play pennant, you must be a full financial member prior to playing your first pennant game.

## COACHING

The club has a number of members who are qualified coaches. Coaching sessions will focus on skills, strategies and team roles, with practice activities to follow the teaching session. Make an appointment with Club Coach Peter Wardle (0418 671 720) for one-on-coaching).

Times for group coaching sessions will be advertised.

## UMPIRE / MARKERS

Umpires officiate at important games, rule on matters of law if the team skippers disagree, measure bowls when the 3rds call for a decision and ensure that the laws of the game are observed by all players. Official umpires are members who have completed the umpires' course.

Markers are used in singles games to keep the score card, set the jack and indicate information pertaining to the head when asked by players.

Players may nominate via the club Secretary to complete the umpire and/or markers course.

## TOURNAMENT EVENTS

The club conducts a tournament towards the end of the season and this is open to any bowlers who are affiliated with any bowling club in Australia.

These events may include, but are not limited to our Open Fours tournament

## PENNANT

Pennant is a competition between multiple clubs which play a season of set home and away games culminating in a final series between the 4 top teams ending with a premiership winner. This is called winning a pennant (which is a flag).

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The pennant competition has a number of levels called divisions which range skill level. If one of our divisions wins a premiership then they are promoted to the next higher division above them. If they finish on the bottom of the ladder, then they are demoted to make room for the team coming up.

Club uniform must be worn for all pennant games and also for club championship finals. The club uniform consists of:

- Club shirt (available through the club)
- Blue trousers or shorts
- White socks with Bowls Australia logo
- Bowls approved shoes
- Club jacket (optional – available through the club)
- Blue vest/jacket/jumper etc (optional)
- Blue club hat at available through the club (or white hat with approved hatband – available through the club) or cap (optional)

Approved bowls attire (with the Bowls Australia emblem) must be worn for all tournament events, but this does not necessarily have to be your Hurstbridge club uniform. Many players wear different club or 'tournament' shirts and clothing, etc.

**All** visible bowls attire **must** have the Bowls Australia emblem.

It is also recommended that all players wear a name-tag. These can be ordered through the club Secretary.

### **Pennant Competitions**

The Hurstbridge Bowling Club competes in two pennant sections – Saturday Pennant and Tuesday Pennant, which are both open to male and female bowlers.

Green Fees are payable for each pennant game you play and are paid on the day. This fee, like the annual membership fees, is set at the Annual General Meeting. Currently that fee is set at \$8:00. Please arrange to bring the correct amount because it is difficult to provide change to a large note amount.

The Ruling Body may vary the conditions of play from year to year and these are advertised prior to the start of each season. These may include the number of ends played, the number of players in each team, the number of rinks in each division and starting times.

### **Saturday Pennant Teams**

Saturday Pennant is played on Saturday afternoons starting at 1:00pm. Players are requested to be at the venue 30 minutes prior to the gazetted starting time.

Usually each pennant team is made up of 16 players (4 rinks with 4 players in each).

The number of pennant teams entered by the club each year is dependent upon the number of players available and their bowling experience/ability.

### **Selection**

All players are asked to read and ensure they understand the Club's Selection Policy. (This policy is emailed to all members and is available on the Club's website).

The Saturday Pennant selection committee (5 members) meets on Thursdays and the teams are posted on the club noticeboard and Team App that evening. Teams are also posted in Bowls Victoria's Bowls Link.

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If you are unavailable on a particular Saturday please place your name under the appropriate date on the Unavailability Sheet on the club noticeboard. *(Please do this as soon as you know that you will be unavailable – no matter how many weeks in advance it might be).*

If you have any queries/issues regarding your **own** selection, please book a time to meet with the selection committee as per the Selection Policy. Individual selectors should never be approached re your selection inquiries without an appointment.

Please remember that selection is a very difficult task and that our selectors are important volunteers who are trying to select the best teams for the overall success of our club.

It is not possible to please all players all the time and there will always be valid reasons for selections, so please make an effort to communicate with the selectors rather than criticising them.

### **Game day procedures**

If your team is playing away, team members can car-pool and travel together. Players meet at the clubrooms and leave from there.

Each team has a Team Manager, whose responsibility it is to make sure all players are present, organise what rinks each team plays on, toss to see which team bowls first (usually termed 'who gets the mat') and manage team sheets, green fee collection and results. Green fees are collected in each rink by the Second.

### **Game play**

Matches may be played over 21 ends with a break or 21 ends straight through. The conditions of play are advertised before the start of the season.

Each bowler bowls 2 bowls (alternating with their opposition player), in order, ie. Lead, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Skipper.

Before the actual match starts, there is a two-end practice session, commonly called a 'roll-up'. This is conducted in the same order that the match will be played and allows bowlers to assess the speed of the green, the wind and any other conditions that may be relevant.

If you are the Lead bowler in your team, it is your job to position the mat and roll the kitty down before you bowl your first bowl.

When you are not actually bowling, it is recommended to move back and pass bowls to you teammates providing encouraging support or stand on the bank to watch, not remain on the green.

Your Skipper will instruct you as to what he / she wants you to bowl (or at least try to bowl). After the first three bowlers have bowled both their bowls, players swap ends and the two Skippers bowl their two bowls to complete that end.

When the Skippers are bowling, only the 3<sup>rd</sup> players remain on the green at the head (where all the bowls are), and they will instruct the Skippers as to the current situation and what they want the Skippers to do.

After all bowls have been bowled, the two 3<sup>rd</sup>s will look at all the bowls (called the 'head') and agree on which bowls are closest, including measuring if needed, and then communicate the score to the 2<sup>nds</sup> who keep the scorecard and also change the scoreboard. *(Only 3<sup>rd</sup>s measure – other bowlers are to remain off the green while measuring is being done).* If the 3<sup>rd</sup>s cannot agree, they will call for an umpire to adjudicate.

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Scores are kept according to which team's bowls are nearest to the jack (also called the kitty or cat). The team with the closest bowl to the kitty has the 'shot' bowl. One shot is awarded for every bowl that is closer to the kitty than the opposition's closest bowl.

*After the score has been called by the 3rds*, players (with the exception of the lead from the side who has won the end) collect the bowls. In order to keep the game moving the lead from side who won the end should collect and place the mat in readiness for the next end to proceed when all bowls are moved to behind the mat.

At the end of the match, when all rinks have completed the required number of ends, the total 'shots up' are added up for both teams and the winning team is the team with the highest number of shots.

Ten (10) points are awarded to the winning team and two (2) points for each rink won, so the maximum possible score is your division team can win eighteen (18) points (in a 4-rink match).

## **Midweek Pennant Teams**

Midweek Pennant is played on Tuesdays. Players are requested to be at the venue 30 minutes prior to the gazetted time which is currently 10:30am.

Each team is made up of 12 players (3 rinks with 4 players in each).

Each rink has a Lead, a Second, a Third and a Skipper.

BYO food and drinks for consumption during play. (a lunch break will be taken around 12.00).

The number of pennant teams entered by the club each year is the same criteria applied for Saturday.

## **Selection**

As above for Saturday Pennant

## **Game day procedures**

As above for Saturday Pennant

## **SAFETY**

While lawn bowls is hardly regarded as a dangerous game, there is still the need to be careful around the greens Please be aware of the step down from the bank to the green as this drop can sometimes catch you unaware. Also on the bank are jack markers, number discs and rink boundary markers.

On the green, bowls are scattered around the head or the mat. A good idea to remember is to *never walk backwards* on the green. Not only might you trip over something, but you might also knock a bowl out of position.

## **ETIQUETTE**

Bowls etiquette can be defined as the unwritten laws of sportsmanship, courtesy and respect that make the game more enjoyable to all who are taking part in the game including players and spectators. Friendly and sporting acts towards team-mates and opponents should be appreciated and reciprocated. We should all approach our bowls with enthusiasm, friendliness and tolerance.



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Please remember that our bowling greens are precious and at times delicate. The wearing of flat soled bowling shoes plays a big part in keeping our greens in good condition and are the only shoes that should be worn. Shoes with rippled soles or heels should never be worn on the greens.

Some examples of etiquette are:

- Never clap a bad bowl from your opponent or express delight that they have missed their shot.
- Always stand well back from the mat when your opponent is bowling.
- When changing ends, avoid straying onto the neighbouring rinks – walk within your own rink boundaries because you will interrupt play on the neighbouring rink.
- The control of the mat lies with the bowler on the mat from the time of delivery until their bowl comes to rest.
- Remain aware of what is happening in the game and be ready for when it is your turn to bowl.
- It is the usual custom to offer your direct opponent a drink after the game.
- Always be punctual for a match.

**Smoking** – Smoking is only permitted in designated areas.

**Alcohol** – The consumption of alcohol is not permitted on the green.

### VOLUNTEERING FOR YOUR CLUB

To enable the club to function and to keep fees as affordable as possible, we rely on the generosity of our members to volunteer for at least one of the club roles available throughout the year. It could be helping on the bar, joining a cleaning roster, attending working bees, assisting with catering efforts, greens maintenance or helping with one of the many other club roles. You will get out of the club what you put into it and always put the needs of the club before your own.

### CONCLUSION

It is our wish that your time at Hurstbridge Bowling Club will be a very pleasant experience. If you have any concerns, please raise it with a Board member so that it can be addressed in a timely and appropriate manner.

Lawn Bowls is one of those games where members can participate in a fun and friendly environment with like-minded folk.

Enjoy the game and the fellowship that the club can provide.

**Welcome to Hurstbridge**