
CLUB RULES AND CONSTITUTION

Name and address of club

The club shall be called ABINGDON BOWLING CLUB.

The address for correspondence shall be the address of the Honorary Secretary for the time being.

Objects

The object of the club shall be the promotion of the game of bowls, to provide membership, Ladies and Gentlemen, with the facilities for playing the game and other social activities.

Membership

Membership of the club shall consist of the following categories:-

Playing members

Social members

Short Mat members

Appointment to Honorary Membership may be nominated by the Executive Committee for special and meritorious service to the club. Such appointments to be approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Eligibility for membership

Membership is open to all people.

Register of Members

The secretary shall maintain a register of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members. The register is maintained in accordance with GDPR.

Election of members

The election of members shall be vested in the Executive Committee and shall be by majority vote.

Change of Address

Any member changing his/her address or other details shall advise the Honorary Secretary in writing immediately, and unless such notice is given, all communications and notices sent to the last address shall be deemed to have been served upon them.

Cessation of membership

A member wishing to resign his/her membership shall give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary and unless otherwise stated, the resignation shall be effective from the date of notice.

By resolution of the committee when:-

- I] A member's conduct has, by breach of rules or otherwise, unfitted him/her for membership.
- II] A member has failed to reply to a final demand for payment of subscription.
- III] In all disciplinary matters members have a right to appeal to a panel made up of three ex-Presidents of the club nominated by the current President.

Visitors

1. Visitors may be introduced by members and may play on the green subject to a green fee to be agreed at the Annual General Meeting and subject to availability.

CONSTITUTION

A full copy of the Constitution can be obtained from club secretary.

CLUB GUIDE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - held during the month of March each year. All Members are invited to attend. At this meeting the executive committee is elected, the financial accounts are presented and items of policy are discussed and resolved. Members are invited to submit agenda items to the Secretary at least two weeks before the AGM, (according to the Constitution this should be 28 days).

GENERAL MEETINGS.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of March each year and shall be convened by giving 21 days notice to the members. Special General Meetings may be similarly convened at any time by the committee, or on receipt by the General Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by no less than ten members, setting forth the reason for the request.

Voting at General Meetings shall be restricted to fully paid up playing members. Members unable to attend will be allowed to vote by proxy, provided that the proxy is lodged with the General Secretary at least 48 hours before the General Meeting.

CLUB MANAGEMENT

The management of the club shall be vested in the Executive Committee comprising the following officers and members:-

The Chairman who shall chair meetings of members and of the Executive Committee.

The President who shall chair meetings in the absence of the Chairman.

General Secretary. General Treasurer.

Other officers elected to the Executive Committee

Green Keeper, Buildings Manager, House Manager, Bar Manager, Business Manager, Welfare Officer, Ladies Members rep, Men's Members rep.

The President and the Recruitment Officer have the right to attend all Executive meetings but is not elected onto the Executive, their position being voted on at the Autumn General meeting.

The officers and committee members shall retire annually and subject to rule 14 they shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

Nominations for all Officers and Executive Committee members shall be sent to the General Secretary by the proposer and seconder not later than seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Nomination forms shall be made available by being placed on the club notice board at least 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting or alternatively, may be obtained from

the General Secretary on request. Where more nominations are submitted than there are vacant places, the person[s] receiving the highest number of votes in a single ballot shall be deemed to be elected, with the President determining the manner of such election. The Captain, Vice-Captain and Section Secretaries nominated for the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Sections respectively, are to be elected only on the nomination and vote of the respective sections.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The committee shall meet at such times and places as it may decide, and 6 members shall form a quorum. The decision of the committee on any matters arising out of the club's rules and regulations shall be final.

The committee shall have the right to fill any vacancy that may occur, or co-opt for a special purpose.

The committee may appoint sub-committees comprising club members to consider and report on any matter other than the purchase and supply of intoxicating liquor.

OUTDOOR PLAYING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is held during the Autumn each year . All Playing Members are invited to attend. At the meeting the playing committee is elected, playing issues are discussed and any new proposals or amendments to existing rules are voted upon.

JOINT PLAYING COMMITTEE

The Joint playing committee is elected at the Autumn meeting and will consist of

President	Vice President
Ladies Captain	Men's Captain
Secretary	Fixture Secretary
Competition Secretary	Recruitment Secretary
Ridgeway League Representative	
Kennet League Representative	
2 Member Representatives	

The Vice President shall automatically become President at the next AGM, all other officers and committee members shall retire annually and subject to rule 14 they shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

They are responsible for all playing issues, including fixtures, internal competitions and coaching.

SHORT MAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is held during the month of May. All Short Mat Playing Members are invited to attend. At the meeting the playing committee is elected playing issues are discussed and any new proposals or amendments to existing

rules are voted upon.

COMMITTEE – the Committee meets on regular intervals through the year to manage the affairs of the Club as laid down within its rules and constitution. Members wishing to discuss matters concerning the Club are invited to write to the Secretary of the relevant committee or contact the people's/player's representative.

FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year shall end on the 31st October each year, to which date the accounts of the club shall be balanced for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. The accounts shall be available, as soon as practicable, after the end of the financial year. After they have been independently checked.

ACCOUNTS - a statement of Income and Expenditure for the financial year is presented to the AGM.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. The amount of the Annual Subscription shall be determined yearly at the Autumn General Meeting. The subscription to be paid before the 1st March. Fees for new bowlers admitted during the playing season shall be based on the following scales:-
 1. £25 if joining before June 1st.
 2. As set by the treasurer if joining after 1st June.
2. Any bowler transferring from another club prior to 1st June will pay the full membership fee. If joining after the 1st June the treasurer will set the fee.
3. The fee for visitors who are bona fide guests of a Member should be agreed at the same time as all other Subscriptions and be displayed on a Club Notice Board. Any Member introducing such guests should be responsible for seeing that Club Rules are kept by those guests.

TIMES OF OPENING.

The opening and closing of the bowls' season shall be determined by the committee after discussion with the green keeper.

OPENING OF THE GREEN – this takes place in mid April.

Please note the green is available from 11 am, unless prior agreement has been made with the greenkeeper.

Mode of altering the rules.

The rules and regulations may be amended by a majority of playing members present at the annual General Meeting, or any other Special General Meeting called for the purpose [see rule 12], provided notice of proposed amendments [except proposals made by the committee] shall have been given to the General Secretary not less than 14 days before such a meeting. Such amendments are subject to any conditions imposed by the licensing authority and legislation.

The Executive Committee may, from time to time, make temporary rules concerning the conduct and organisation of the club. Such rules are to be submitted for approval at the next Annual General Meeting.

BAR - the bar serves as part of the social life of the club as well as a source of income. It is managed by a member of the committee who has the assistance of club members. The bar is open during league and friendly matches.

The permitted hours for the supply of intoxicating liquor shall be:-

Monday to Saturday -11.00 - 23.00 Sundays and Good Friday - noon - 22.30. The bar shall not be open for the sale of intoxicating liquor on Christmas Day. The club shall be closed to members one half hour after the above hours.

In addition to club members, the following may be permitted to purchase intoxicating liquor at the bar for consumption on the premises, and Section 49 of the Licensing Act, 1964, shall apply to such persons:-

- I] Members of visiting teams after they have been signed in.
- II] Persons attending the clubhouse premises for a bona-fide meeting or function approved by the Executive Committee. The number of such meetings and functions shall not exceed 12 in any period between Annual General Meetings.
- III] Guests are allowed to purchase drinks after they have been signed in by a full playing member.

Members may introduce and entertain guests at the club and there shall be kept at the club a Visitors' Book, which both the members and the guest[s] shall sign. The member introducing the guest shall be responsible for the guest strictly observing the Rules and Club Bye-Laws and shall not leave the club premises before the guest. No person whose membership of the club has been terminated under Rule 8b or is, for the time being, suspended or whose application for membership has, at any time, been rejected, shall be introduced as a guest. Intoxicating liquor shall not be supplied for consumption to persons under the age of eighteen years.

CLUBHOUSE – we are very lucky in having a first class clubhouse. All members owe a debt of gratitude to those founding members in providing these facilities. Although the clubhouse is owned by the Club, the land and the green are leased from Christ's Hospital. It should be noted that if the

Club (heaven forbid) should close then all the equipment and buildings would be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Charity as the members of the Charity may determine or failing that shall be applied for some other charitable purpose. and are NOT the assets of the Members.

BAR - The bar is open on all match days and at other times as agreed with the bar manager.

CATERING – the organisation of catering is the responsibility of the Catering Manager.

CLEANING – the organisation of the supply of cleaning material is the responsibility of the House Manager. It is the responsibility of ALL members to ensure the clubhouse is kept clean. For example, all glasses must be returned to the Bar and not left around the green.

CLUB MEMBERS - all members are encouraged to undertake any task to aid the smooth running of the club.

BOOKING REGISTER – for all competitive games, friendlies and league matches, the rink/green is booked in advance. This is done by means of a booking register situated in the clubhouse hallway. Please be aware that Friday nights two rinks are permanently booked for coaching/new members and that roll-ups are not bookable.

BOWLS – all members who wish to obtain and/or replace a set of bowls should seek the advice of the Coaches

COACHING – can be arranged during the season. Everyone is invited from new to the experienced. The coaching is free and all ages are welcome. Children are allowed to be coached after their parents or guardians have signed and agreed the Abingdon Bowling Club coaching form.

COFFEE/TEA – is available in the clubhouse throughout the season and free to members.

COMMUNICATIONS – various notice boards in the clubhouse, including the changing rooms, give important information to all members. The minutes of committee meetings are displayed on the wall in the hallway of the clubhouse (as well as our web site www.abingdonbowlingclub.co.uk) and stored in the Minutes book which is held by the Secretary.

COMPETITIONS – following is a list of the Club competitions.

- Singles – Ladies and Men's – 2 woods
- Singles – Ladies and Men's – 4 woods Rosebowl
- Singles – Ladies and Men's – 4 Woods Yardsick
- Singles – Ladies and Men's – 4 Woods Never Won
- Singles – Ladies and Men's – 4 Woods Handicap

- Singles - Open - 4 Woods Best of 3 sets each set first to 7 shots
- Singles - 105 Open - 4 Woods first to score 105 points
- Pairs – Ladies, Men's and Mixed– 4 Woods
- Triples - Men's - 3 Woods.

These are all knockout competitions and Members wishing to enter, must complete an application form and pay an entry fee, per competition, at the beginning of the season.

Selection of the Pairs and the Triples teams is currently made by a draw of names. The finals take place during September, the dates are shown in the annual fixture card. Except for medical reasons, no change of the finals date is permissible. The decision of the Competition Secretary is final.

DRESS – the standard dress is club shirts and grey or white trousers or skirts and is worn on all competitive playing occasions. The annual fixture booklet outlines all the matches and the dress code. For rollups the dress code is smart casual.

DISPLAY BOARDS – provide information about matches, social events, competitions, rota's etc and are in the hallway of the clubhouse.

FIXTURE BOOK – details all the games, venues, times and dress code.

FRIENDLIES – please support these games as they are vital to the club's existence. The games are mainly played at weekends with many of the Ladies played mid week against other clubs. They are mainly mixed games and are either rinks or triples games. Availability list are available on the notice boards in the hallway of the clubhouse, allowing members to indicate their willingness to play. The team is then chosen by the Friendlies Captains on the Wednesday preceding the game. Dress code is club top with white or grey trousers or skirts.

If selected to play please tick your name on team sheet to indicate your availability and please attend or notify Captain if unable.

FUNDRAISING – this includes Concerts, Winter Games, Social events such as coffee mornings. These are organised by the Committee with the help of volunteers. Please either help or support these events as you subscriptions are subsidised by these events.

GREEN – a large sum of money is spent each year on the professional services of a turf care contractor (this is a cost of over £9,000). The green keeper is responsible for the layout of the green and its maintenance.

Extra care must be taken when it is wet and, if still playable during the rain; special green mats may have to be used. Please check the Green Committees notices as to whether mats are required. Bouncing the bowl on delivery, which can do severe damage to the green, is not allowed. Any Member found damaging the green may be asked to seek advice from the Coaches before using the green.

HEDGES AND SURROUNDING GARDEN – All hedges and area surrounding the green are the responsibility of the Members and a working party is usually formed weekly under the guidance of the Gardening Co-ordinator.

HIRE – We are **NOT** allowed to hire out the club house but it was agreed by the Executive Committee that requests for private use by the members should be judged individually on merit by members of the Executive Committee. Donations to cover heating and lighting would be accepted.

HOSTINGS – this is a good source of income and prestige whereby County matches are hosted i.e. played and catered for at Abingdon Bowling Club.

KEYS – the entry gate combination key and door key are available from the Executive Committee.

LAND – the actual land of the Club is owned by the Christ Hospital and an annual rent is paid. It also within a Conservation Area regulated by the Conservation Officer from the Vale of the White Horse District Council.

LEAGUES - Men teams play in the Berkshire Kennet League (KL and KLV) and the ladies' teams play in the Ridgeway League. There is also the mixed club league played on a Wednesday Evening.

Availability lists allow the Members to indicate that they would like to be considered for these teams and the Captains/Selectors select the team from these names. Do not forget, if you don't put your name down, don't be surprised if you don't get a game.

If selected to play, please tick your name on team sheet to indicate your availability and please attend or notify Captain if unable.

Generally, Friendly matches are played in whites and League matches in greys. Please consult the fixture card for details.

The Wednesday nights Triples league, which is an internal club event, is a friendly and sociable gathering and a very good opportunity for new Members to gain experience.

LOCKERS - located in the changing rooms and available for the storage of personal items. Application should be made to the Club Secretary. The changing room must be kept clean and tidy, bags, bowls and clothing should not but left in the changing rooms over night.

MAINTENANCE – the general upkeep of the clubhouse is overseen by the Executive Committee.

PLAYING POSITIONS - please refer to Appendix 2.

PRE-SEASON MEETING – to discuss any matters relating to the coming

season

PRESIDENTS / CAPTAINS DAY – fun day when bowling games are organised and monies raised either for local charities or Club funds.

ROLL UPS – this is a time for practice by any club member, provided there is no conflict with matches, competitions or coaching. Roll ups can be played after 11am any day. Members are requested to wear smart casual clothes and greys.

SECURITY –all Members are reminded that if they are last to leave they **MUST** ensure that all lights are switched off and that all external doors and the main gate are locked/padlocked. **SOCIAL EVENTS** – a number of social events are arranged through out the year. Please support these as they ultimately subsidise your annual subscription.

STICKERS/ BADGES/TIES – these are all available from the committee. Please remember that whenever representing the Club, your bowls **MUST** have our stickers on them.

TOUR – this is an event, usually late August/early September, it is organised by the Tour coordinator/Committee, and is open to Members and their guests.

MATCH TRANSPORT – please arrange transport between yourselves. a voluntary contribution to your driver should be offered.

ETIQUETTE

The etiquette of the game of bowls is a combination of good manners, sportsmanship and sociability; these courtesies are best described as the unwritten Laws of the games.

They are extras and designed to promote social ability and the excellent reputation for friendliness and sportsmanship the game of bowls, and this Club in particular, has rightly earned.

3. Be conversant with the Laws of the Game and observe them. If in doubt consult the Club Captain/Coach.
4. Respect the decision of the Umpire.
5. Be punctual to commence play at all matches and come to each game correctly attired.
6. Keep quiet and refrain from moving when players are on the mat.
7. Stand behind the head while any one is bowling.
8. Always stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl-movement at the head or talking at the mat is very distracting.
9. Always allow your opponent the right to the head as spelt out in the Laws of the Game, failure to do so decreases the enjoyment of the game.
10. Walk close to the centre of the rink with the minimum delay when changing ends as you can distract play on the next rink.
11. Do not delay play.
12. Never deliver your bowl before the previous bowl has come to rest.
13. Keep track of play; be ready to bowl when it is your turn.
14. Every player at the mat end should assist in the collecting of bowls when the end is completed.
15. Always pay your skip the respect of waiting for a decision. Don't step onto the mat and indicate which way you intend to play – but wait for the skips instruction.
16. Never applaud a lucky bowl – accept them graciously.
17. Never complain about a lucky bowl – they tend to equal themselves out over the season.
18. Respect the green at all times.
19. **Do NOT** Drop the bowls onto the green
20. **Do NOT** Stand on the edge of the green

21. **Do NOT** Stand on the edge of the bank
22. **Do NOT** Walk in the ditches
23. Always take care to protect and conserve the green at all times.
24. Always inform your opponent and your skip if you wish to leave the green.
25. If you lose, be a good loser. Don't blame your loss on other people, the green, weather conditions etc.
26. Win or lose, always shake hands with your opponents and thank them for the game,
27. Don't be too taken with your win today, the position could be reversed tomorrow.
28. When playing at home you should offer to buy your opponent a drink after the game.
29. When playing singles, whether you have won or lost, be sure to thank the marker and offer them a drink. Remember that they have given up their time to assist in your game.
30. It is polite to thank the Umpire of the day before leaving the Club.
31. Learn to be a good marker. When offering your services, remember a marker can make or break a game. Obtain a copy of the "Duties of a Marker" or speak to your Club Umpire for information.
32. Remember that you represent your Club and do not do anything that may bring the name of Abingdon Bowling Club into disrepute.
33. Above all, enjoy the game of bowls for its pleasure and the lasting friendship it provides.
34. Don't criticise a player's ability /style.

ANALYSIS OF PLAYING POSITIONS

Lead

1. Ability to bowl line and length consistently.
2. Ability to bowl jack to required length.
3. Must not allow opposition 'good' bowls to affect change of hand, weight or line.
4. Awareness of how the rink is bowling – be able to assess good or bad hands.
5. Good concentration and competitiveness.

Two

1. As above, except 2.
2. Ability to play positional shots.
3. Consolidate the head.
4. Open the head.
5. Awareness of the state of the game and communicate the score to other team members.
6. Maintain the score board and update the score board when at the appropriate end.
7. In triples carry out the tasks that the Three does in Four.

Three

1. As above except Lead (2) and Two (5 & 6)
2. Ability to read heads.
3. Select the correct shot and execute it.
4. Measure correctly and agree the shot score with the opposing Three before the bowls are moved.
5. Knowledge and understanding of the Laws.
6. Play any shot indicated by the Skip – not what he/she wants to do as an alternative!
7. Awareness of the state of the game and communicate the score to other team members.

Skip

1. As three, plus
2. Be positive all the times.
3. Give clear directions.
4. Encourage, communicate, help and guide other members of the rink.
5. Awareness of the strengths and weakness of the opposition.
6. Total confidence to execute any shot, blocker, running wood; take out, draw, etc.
7. Good under pressure to save the shots when down and add last bowl when up.
8. Good temperament.
9. Maintain the score card and update the score board when at the appropriate end.

Finally

At the completion of the end only the threes (twos in triples) should agree on the shot score. If there is any dispute the skips or an umpire should be consulted and their decision is final. Bowls in the head **MUST NOT** be moved until the shot score has been agreed. All other players should stay clear of the head.

CLUB COMPETITION RULES

All competitors entering any of the inter club competition are required to comply with the following rules

THE DRAW

The draw will be made by the Competition Committee immediately after the closing date. Each game will be between the challenger(s) (named first) and their opponent(s).

THE CHALLENGER

The challenger(s) will be responsible for checking the notice board for the official closing date for the designated round and providing three playing dates to their opponent(s). This should be undertaken within 7 days of the start date of the round or draw date. If it is known that the challenger will be unavailable during this period then the Competition committee should be notified. Unless mutually agreed these dates must consist of the following:

- One date must include a Saturday or Sunday
- There must be at least 14 clear days between the first and last dates
- Only 2 dates may be within the last 14 days of the closing date of the round.

The rink must be booked as soon as the date is agreed.

THE CHALLENGER

The challenger will be responsible for arranging a mutually agreed marker and booking a rink on the available sheet.

THE CHALLENGER

The challenger will be awarded the game if the game has not been played (providing both rules 2 & 3 have been adhered to).

THE OPPONENT

The opponent(s) shall, within 48 hours of receipt of the challenge, reply accepting one of dates offered. If a challenge has not been made within the specified period (see section 2), the opponent(s) shall endeavour to contact the challenger(s).

If after contacting the challenger(s) no dates are received, as stated under section 2, a claim can be submitting to the Competition committee claiming the game.

THE WINNER

The winner of each game must ensure that the results of his/her game have

been recorded on the competition sheets immediately after the game, and the scorecard placed in the designated location.

PLAY

All games must be played on or before the closing date of each round. If a play on date clashes with a County/National competition then an alternative date can be agreed between the players concerned and the competition secretary.

In the event of a game not being played, the following ruling will apply:

1. If either the challenger(s) or the opponent(s) has not complied with the rules under 2, 3, 5 and 6 then rules 4 and 5 will be enforced and the player(s) concerned will be eliminated.
2. If all players concerned have not complied with rules 2, 3, 5 and 6 they will all be eliminated and their opponents in the next round will be given a walkover.

Rounds up to and including the final will be under the jurisdiction of the designated Club Competition Committee.

Any appeal regards any exclusion or infringement must be made in writing to the Club Competition Committee within one week of the event or within one week of the round finishing date which ever is earliest. The decision of the Competition committee if final and no appeal will be allowed.

Finals will be played during the designated finals weekend. The Competition committee will endeavour to arrange the matches during this period so as to eliminate any conflicts between other match commitments. Under no circumstances can any final be arranged outside of the finals period. If you know you are unavailable for all of the finals weekend, please do not enter the competition.

The Competition Committee would like it known that they would urge all players to make every effort to play their games within the time frame allocated and for both challenger(s) and opponent(s) to converse with each other at all time to achieve a timely conclusion to the matches so that no unpopular decisions have to be made by the Committee.

SINGLES (MEN'S AND LADIES)

All singles matches to be played to 21 shots, except 2 bowl singles which is played to 21 ends. The winners of the 4 bowl (Rosebowl) and 2 bowl competitions will represent the club in the Champion of Champions County competitions in the following year.

PAIRS (MEN'S, LADIES AND MIXED)

All pairs matches will be played over 21 ends.

The two players taking part in the first game shall constitute the pair and would be required to play together throughout the competition.

If due to none availability of any partner during the whole designated period of a round (not semi-final or final), a substitute player supplied by the Competition committee may be called upon for one round only of the competition. The substitute used must not have played in the competition already. The Competition committee will keep a list of available substitutes. After the original draw has taken place any person not drawn in competition and wishing to be included on this list shall give their name to the Competition committee.

In the event of a substitute being required, a player will be provided from the availability list by a member of the Competition Committee. If these rules are not adhered to the pair concerned will be disqualified.

MENS DRAWN TRIPLES

All triples matches will be played over 18 ends. The competition secretary will draw the teams from all the entries. If you are a member of a triple you cannot play for any other triple.

MENS BENEVOLENT TRIPLES

You may enter this competition as a named triple, the winners will represent the club in the County Benevolent fund triples competition in the following year.

OPEN SINGLES

Open to All Members

This is played the best of 3 sets each set being the first to win 7 shots.

105 SINGLES

Open to All Members

Scoring will be:

- Shot wood. 4 points;
- Second wood. 3 points
- Third wood. 2 point.
- Fourth wood 1 point.

The player who reaches 105 points first is the winner.

NEVER WON (MEN'S AND LADIES)

Open to any member, male or female, who has not won any previous club singles competition.

ILLNESS

If due to long term illness or disability a player cannot complete in a pairs or triples competition a long term substitute can be allocated at the Competition committees discretion.