
Coltbridge Bowling Club

Information For New Members

WELCOME

On behalf of our Club President Alan Beattie and our ladies captain Dorothy Crystal as well as the rest of the club committee we would like to thank you for joining Coltbridge Bowling Club. This guide has been produced to give you information on what goes on at the club and how you can make the most of your membership.



As a start it may be useful to get to know the club's committee members and who is best to approach with any questions, queries or suggestions. Our club president Alan Beattie is also our club bowls coach and is responsible for looking after the condition of the green. Our Vice President is Derek Burgoyne, Derek who is also our bar steward, is the best contact for social events held at the club.

Our Honorary Secretary is Elizabeth Sharp and our treasurer is Pamela Paris. If you have any questions regarding the club's finances or administration which you would like clarification on just ask Pamela or Elizabeth.



Dorothy Crystal, as well as being our ladies captain, is also the club's welfare officer.

Other committee members include Thomas Hogg, John Glen, David Crystal, Sheila Baillie, Joyce Glen and Evelyn Connor. All are very approachable, friendly and keen to help new members settle into the club. Contact details of all the committee members can be found in the club fixture card which is distributed by club secretary Elizabeth Sharp.



Coach (and president) Alan Beattie delivers a bowl while Ken Dinwoodie looks on.

Colin Baxter is a past president, who along with Alan Beattie, looks after the green and knows all there is to know about the club and bowling at Coltbridge. Colin is very approachable and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Getting Started

If you have not played bowls before and do not own a set of bowls we are happy to offer bowls on loan to enable you to play both in competitions and for practice. It's not really a good idea to go and buy a set of bowls until you have found what size suits you best and what type you prefer. Once you are comfortable with a size and type of bowls you can then consider buying your own set, either new or second hand. Coach Alan Beattie can help you decide which bowls will suit you best. If you decide to buy a new set David Crystal is the man to speak to for advice and if you would like a second hand set, speak to Derek who had bought quite a few second hand sets for the club and can help you on your search.



You will be allocated a locker and given a set of keys which will let you into the club when it is closed to enable you to come down for a practice game or play a tie. The men's keys are looked after by Derek and the ladies by Elizabeth.

When you first start playing bowls it's acceptable to wear shoes with no heel on the green (such as trainers). However, we strongly recommend that you buy a pair of bowling shoes in due course. Ideally, we would like you to change shoes to play on the green as it's possible you could contaminate the green if you play in your normal street shoes/trainers.

You'll need some sort of bag to carry your bowls to the green, anything is acceptable from an old fashioned string back to a fancy bowls bag, again just ask if you would like advice.

What to Wear

When playing informal competitions such as the Monday Hat Night, Australian Bowls on a Friday, Sunday morning coaching, playing a tie against a fellow member or practising at any other time, casual clothing is the norm and if you prefer to wear smart shorts these are acceptable (don't worry about understanding these game names they are explained later).

For internal club competitions, which are usually held on Saturdays or Sundays, a slightly more formal dress code, consisting of a club strip or white shirt such as a polo shirt and grey or black trousers/shorts, may apply however the dress code will be advised on the competition entry sheet. Given our unpredictable weather a warm jumper or fleece and waterproofs are also highly recommended!

When playing for the club against another team or individual a club strip/shirt should be worn. If not available then white tops and grey or black trousers are the norm.

See David Crystal if you would like to buy a club shirt/strip or other club merchandise.

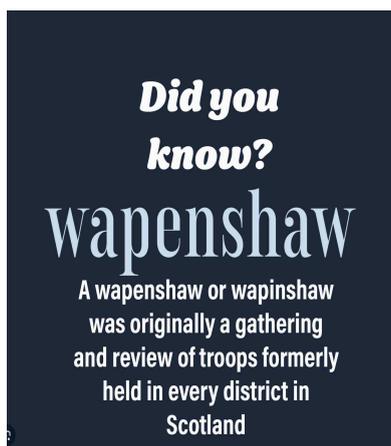


Playing Bowls

So, now you've got to the point where you have a set of bowls to use and you know what clothes to wear but maybe a bit uncertain about when you can actually play! The great news is that the club offers a wide range of games and competitions throughout the season and when they're not on you're welcome to come down and practice with other members or perhaps bring a friend who is interested in bowling.

Here, listed on a daily basis are some of the things that may typically be going on at the club during the season. The agenda can change from week to week and we therefore recommend that you regularly check the noticeboard in the club foyer and if possible join the club WhatsApp group (see Derek), information is also available on the club's website (www.coltbridgebowlingclub.co.uk) and Facebook page (just search for Coltbridge Bowling club on Facebook)

Monday - On Monday evenings we hold an open competition called a Wapinshaw or Hat Night. This is open to all members who draw a place in a team and playing position



(lead, second, third or skip). The team that wins by the highest score wins bar vouchers for each team member, and each player is also awarded points based on criteria (which only our wise wapinshaw score controller/guru Pete Schyma understands)! Pete keeps the players' scores and updates positions in the league regularly which are then displayed on the club notice board. At the end of the season the player with the highest score wins a trophy. This is always a fun evening.

Our ladies play in a League against other local clubs probably on alternate Monday afternoons. Contact Elizabeth if you would like to play for the club in this league (The Heather League).

Tuesday - not a lot is happening on Tuesdays other than members playing ties in internal club competitions (see later in guide) and in the morning a group of senior players enjoy an informal game.



Wednesday - the men's team play in their league on Wednesday evenings, contact Alan Beattie if you would like to join the team. In the afternoon the ladies section meet for a game of bowls.

Thursday - another seniors informal game in the morning and in the afternoon the gents seniors play in their league (see Alan Beattie or Jim Fraser if you would like to join the team).

Friday - every second Friday (can change so watch the noticeboard/Whatsapp group) we play a game called Australian pairs. It's a real fun game which is open to all (the rules are a bit different from other games - but are simple and fully explained). On other Friday evenings bowl and beer evenings are informally held (a fun game then a beer and chat in the bar).

Weekend - throughout the season a variety of club competitions are held, some on Saturdays and others Sundays. Unless stated as men or women only these competitions are open to all members. Watch the board for info on forthcoming competitions and check your WhatsApp if you have joined our group.



Sunday - Sunday mornings a coaching session/bounce game is regularly held between 10am and 12 noon. This is a fun time, coach Alan is usually there to offer advice on how to improve our game and includes some fun target style exercises. At 11:00 am we stop for a coffee break and then play a short game. Non members and people wishing to try bowls are welcome to these sessions.

At the start of the season members can also enter internal competitions, pairs, singles, handicap etc. Ties for these games are played at a time to suit both players. There are rules regarding who should contact who to arrange the games which are better explained face to face (ask Alan or a committee member).

Social Events

Apart from all the action on the green, the club holds social events throughout the year. These events are well publicised on the club notice board, on our Facebook page, website and WhatsApp group.

In the summer months we hold BBQs three or four times, usually accompanied by a fun game of bowls. Friends and families of members are encouraged to come along - we won't force them to play bowls - honest!

There is also a quiz night during the summer and other events - keep looking at the notice board!

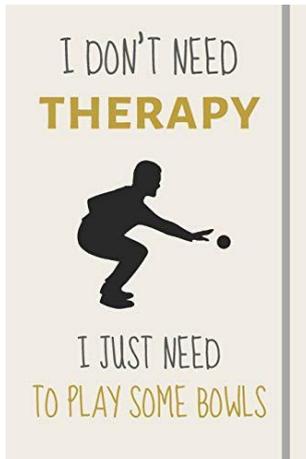
In the Winter we hold social events, fun dominoes evenings when pizza or pies are served up are particularly popular, quiz evenings and at Christmas our Christmas dinner is also very popular. During the Winter months we also have a carpet bowls session on Monday afternoons and a table tennis session on Tuesday afternoos. Family and friends are very welcome to come and participate in the Dominoes and Quiz evenings.



Our clubhouse is also available to members wishing to hold private social events, wedding anniversaries, birthday parties etc. Ask Bar Steward Derek if this is of interest.

You can keep up with all that's happening at the club by joining our WhatsApp group or visit our website www.coltbridgebowlingclub.co.uk.

Health & Safety



The safety of club members and visitors to our club is of paramount importance to us.

There is a first aid box in the clubhouse foyer. Please report any accidents to Derek or Elizabeth to ensure they are recorded in the accident book.

A defibrillator is located on the exterior wall of the clubhouse. Several members have been trained in the use of the defibrillator but it has been designed so it can be used by anyone, whether they have been trained or not. The most important thing to remember however, is to call 999 as soon as an emergency happens!

Always be careful when playing bowls, be aware of the bowls surrounding your feet as it's very easy to step backwards and trip over a bowl!

Bring Friends & Family Along For a Game

Members are welcome to bring friends and family along for a game of bowls. The charge for non members is £3 per game. On Sunday mornings we hold an open Try Bowls session, non members can attend this for free for three sessions.

Bowling Aids

At Coltbridge Bowling Club we want to encourage as many people as possible to play bowls and that includes anyone with mobility or flexibility issues. We have invested in a number of bowling aids which can help those not so steady on their feet or with flexibility issues. Coach Alan Beattie is the best point of contact if you feel that you may benefit from using a bowling aid.

Conclusion

We hope this guide has been of some assistance to you and that it will help you to get maximum pleasure from both your membership of our club and playing bowls. Please do not hesitate to ask any committee member any questions you may have.

More information

The following links will lead you to other information on the web which will help your understanding of the wonderful sport of lawn bowls.

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/bowls/bowls-basics>. **Bowls Basics**

<https://www.bowls.co.uk/flat-green> **Lawn Bowling - A Complete Beginners' Guide**

http://www.valebowlingclub.co.uk/bowling_green_etiquette.htm. **Bowling Green Etiquette**

<https://www.taylorbowls.com/faqs>. **Useful info from Bowls manufacturers Taylor's.**