

NEW MEMBERS INFORMATION

Welcome to our friendly Morrison Avenue Bowling Club. I hope you are going to thoroughly enjoy being a member. We have excellent all year round facilities for playing the game and also for enjoying the social side of bowls. Please make yourself 'at home'. This information pack should help you get up to speed quickly with most of the things you need to know – either as a new member, transferring from another club or as a new bowler.

As President I am there to guide you, answer your questions and generally 'look out for you' in your first season in the club along with our Club Captain.

Please feel free to call me Phone 021 354 187

Also available are our

Secretary: Margaret Shields Phone 352 5666 or 021 2340064

Club Captain: Lyn Wilmott Phone 354 0956 or 027 502 5091

I look forward to your company at Morrison Avenue Bowling Club.

Sincerely

Trish Hubble

President 2024-2025

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## **Club Premises Security**

**Our secretary –Margaret Shields 352 5666 – will explain how our security system works. Please ensure that you follow good safety procedures with the club's property. When you join our Club you will be given a key which enables you to enter both through the main Gate and the Main door to the clubhouse.**

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Membership – Junior Status (1 – 5 Years' experience)

When you start playing lawn bowls and join our bowling club for the first time as a full member you are classified as an "Under 5's Bowler" You will be an "Under 5's Bowler" for your first five years and get to play in your own Under 5's events in our club, at other clubs, and also in the Canterbury Centre Under 5's championships. There are well over 20 bowling clubs in our Centre.

Please note that "Under 5's bowlers" can also play in the Open events if they wish – and once you've learnt the basics of the game it is excellent experience for you to do this. For example, there is absolutely nothing to stop you playing in the Bowls New Zealand National championships (held at various venues in the late December – mid January period) in your very first season, if you should wish to do so.

Of course, you may not want to be what we loosely call a 'competitive bowler' at all and may decide to only play 'social' bowls and enjoy regular 'roll – ups' and that's fine too. Don't be in too much of a hurry to decide about just how competitive you want to be. Get in and give things a good go in your first year and see how you go! Many bowlers actually play a mix of social 'roll-up' bowls and some competitive games as well.

In Summary:

- Play in as many **Under 5's** events as possible
- Playing in **Under 5's** events allows you to play with and against your peers
- Try your hand in **Open** events to gain experience
- In your first 2 years, **Under 5's players** have the opportunity to play as **Colts** in a dedicated club championship singles
- **Under 5's** events are open to both men and women
- Mix your competitive bowls with social 'roll-ups'
- Take time in purchasing new bowls
- Take advantage of the coaching that is available to new members
- Most of all – **ENJOY** your bowls

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## **Coaching**

Like any game, bowls is more enjoyable and you will progress faster with a little bit of qualified guidance. Although bowlers all naturally develop their own individual 'trademark' style, it is important when you are starting out to get the basics right – your grip, stance, swing, rhythm, transfer of body weight and your follow through. All Club members can approach one of our club coaches at any time for some one on one coaching.

**Our coaches are listed in the Club handbook and here on this website**

Don't be shy – they are all ready to help you!

## **Roll-ups and social bowls**

In many ways social bowls are the 'life and soul' of the club. By participating, you will be able to practice and improve your bowls, and you'll quickly meet a lot of other members and start to enjoy all the benefits of membership. It is also a very good way of being 'spotted' by some of the more experienced players and getting an invitation to join them in their teams for competitions.

During the outdoor season (September to April) we have a roll-up (Club Day) every Tuesday and Saturday afternoons. You need to 'put your name in the draw' before 12.45pm and play is from 1.00pm to around

3.30pm. You put your name in the draw by removing your name disc from the names board and transferring it to the Game Board usually placed on the wall outside the Office by the Match Committee or the person arranging the day's teams for the games. Usually someone from the Match Committee will place you in a nice friendly team (usually, but not always, playing 3 bowl triples).

As a new player you'll find everyone will go out of their way to help you enjoy yourself. Don't worry that you haven't played much – nobody will worry a scrap. Roll-ups are played in good humour, with lots of talking and laughing and often a bit of friendly banter. Sometimes there may be a drink or two hanging on the result, but nothing too serious. Just be careful not to bowl too many 'wrong biases' – as we have a donation box in the club house, you are expected to contribute a 50c coin for every 'wrong bias' bowled! Roll-up players pay \$1.00 per person for afternoon tea to help us pay for the biscuits and to recover costs.

In addition, as a member, you can come down and make up your own games at any time – just as long as it doesn't clash with any competitive bowls being played in our club calendar (see club Handbook).

## **Indoor Bowls**

In the winter indoor season, which starts after summer closing day in April, (mufti is worn). You need to have your name in by 12.45 for a 1.00pm start. We normally play until about 3.45 -4.00pm. Players pay \$3.00 per person at the afternoon tea break which helps us pay for the tea, biscuits and recover costs. Indoor Bowls are played by Ladies on Monday and Wednesday (this is an organized team competition). Tuesday afternoons are for Men, Fridays and Saturdays are mixed.

## **Practice procedures**

Practice as much as you can as it helps you get a flying start with your 'bowling career' – and it's also a very good habit to get into no matter how long you've played. Your coach will suggest suitable practice routines – these notes cover the practical stuff you need to know to stay in the good books of the green keeping team!

In the winter, all bowling is Indoors. In the summer you can practice on either green, providing they are open for play. Check the MABC Website ([www.bowlsrus.co.nz/news-flash/](http://www.bowlsrus.co.nz/news-flash/)) to see if the greens are open.

If a green is not open there will be a bold 'GREEN CLOSED' sign near the edge of it. Next point – please look for the arrows indicating the direction of play on each Green, and you will see for either green whether you will be playing North – South or East – West. We rotate the direction of play (and also move the rink pegs around) to help wear the green

evenly. **Please practice on the pegs, not the rink numbers** – this means you place the mat and line up your jacks on the pegs, not the numbers as you would do in an organised roll-up or competitive game. To get out the mat and jacks for practice you will need to get the Jacks from inside the Club House, the mats are stored outside. Ask an established member to show you how the system works – and please don't forget to put all the gear away and if you are last on the green, lock up when you've finished including the Club House and the Gate.