

Members Information

Cheltenham Spa Bowling Club



History and Organisation



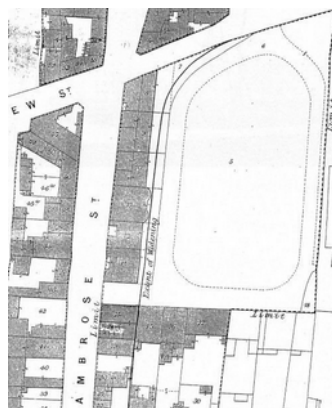
Cheltenham Spa Bowling Club has its origins in the United Services Club that played on the bowling green in Imperial Square after the first world war. Our green in St George's Square was constructed in 1924 as part of a job creation programme for ex-servicemen.

The Club became Cheltenham Spa when they moved to the new green on our present site.

St George's Square as we know it today was created by a road widening scheme in the 1880s to improve access to the growing Great Western railway station in St James Square when houses on the Ambrose St side of the Square were acquired by the Council and demolished to create the street that we see today. This gave the Council part ownership of the Square that led to the Square being handed over to them in 1924 by the then owners of the

houses that now face our green.

It is a credit to the workers who laid the green that the County Bowling Association played on



St Georges Square 1881

it just three months after it was laid.

The Pavilion that forms part of the building that we now call the Clubhouse was built at the same

time and has been improved and extended several times over the last hundred years, firstly by the Council but by the Club mainly in the 1980s.

The Club is a fully unified organisation with all our full members being eligible for election to all our Committee posts. Obviously election to bowling captaincy positions is based on gender.

The Club is managed by an Executive Committee of nine members and we have three trustees positions. The active bowling side of the Club is run by our Bowling Committee on which all our Ladies and Men's Officers and other elected members attend which is chaired by the Club President.

All Committee members are elected annually at two general meetings held at the end of each season in October and November.

Issue Five 2024 Season

How do I?

- *How is the Club managed?*
- *How do I join?*
- *I need Coaching?*
- *How can I play for the Club teams?*
- *Uniform and dress code*
- *Etiquette and Sportsmanship*
- *Can I help??*

How do I join and what are the fees?

Applying for membership is a simple process. Ask for an application form or download one from the Club website at

www.cheltenhamspa.org.uk

Send or bring the completed form to the Club where it will be displayed for seven days - a

requirement of the Licensing Authority and our Club Rules. If there are no queries concerning your application you will be notified by the Club Executive Secretary that you have been accepted as a member and once you have paid your subscription for the year you will have all the

privileges of membership. The fees are subject to change each year, at the AGM. For 2024 the Annual Membership is £80. A Rink fee of £3.00 is payable each time you play for the Club in a match. Various other competitions and activities have their own small charges.



Playing for the Club

Playing for the Club couldn't be simpler.

A fixture card is given to all members, normally on Captain's night, which is held before the start of each season.

An availability sheet will be posted on the Captains notice board and if you want to be considered for selection for that game write your name on the list.

The team will be picked by a selection committee and the chosen players will be named in the selected team sheet, again posted on the notice boards.

If you find that you are unable to play after having been selected please let the Captain of

the Day know and they will find a replacement for you. Do not just cross off your name or write someone else's name in place of yours.

The selectors try to give all players a fair chance of playing in games and will know who is appropriate in the reserves to take your place.

We play ladies, men's and mixed games afternoons, evenings and weekends.

If you are picked please arrive at the Club thirty minutes before the match is due to commence correctly dressed for the game...and don't forget your bowls. Two for rinks and three for triples games.

Most of all enjoy the game!!



Sportsmanship and Etiquette

Good sportsmanship makes the game more enjoyable and is simply the practice of old fashioned etiquette.

Always shake hands with your opponent at the beginning and end of each game.

Acknowledge good play by your opponents while trying to match their success.

Be a good loser as well as gracious winner.

Know the competition rules and dress codes. They can vary!

Never distract or disturb your opponent by

moving or talking when they are on the mat. Keep still, keep quiet! If you follow your bowl after delivery, keep within your rink and be behind the head before your bowl comes to rest. If you play when an Umpire is present you may be penalised if you annoy or distract your opponent by being between the mat and the head when your bowls stops.

Enjoy a lucky 'wick' or break, but don't pretend that it was what you intended!

Don't call your opponents bowls through the head or call for it to knock your bowl on for shot or celebrate their bad luck.

Unless it is your position keep out of the head while the shots are decided. Try not to stand in front of the rink markers, some players take their line from them when they bowl.

Follow the directions given by your skip whether or not you agree.

If you are a spectator avoid moving behind the head while players are on the mat.

Do not disturb players playing in competitions - wait until they have finished playing unless it is an emergency.

The Green

It is a bit of an understatement to say that the green is the most important part of the Club.

We can't play without it...look after it.

Always wear the correct shoes when playing on the green.



Looks Good. Let's keep it that way

Don't drop or throw your bowls onto the green. Deliver the bowl without scuffing or damaging the green. In wet weather this requires extra care. It is not helpful to criticise the playing state of the green; instead protect it, learn to bowl it and please don't bounce your bowls on the green.

The green is changed daily with each rink having four positions. Some are easy to play and some more difficult. More experienced players will have the ability to read these rinks and play within the limitations of the rinks. Not try to beat them! Our green is maintained

all year round by our member's dedication and hard work.

If you want to help to maintain the green, see the greenkeeper...helping is far more useful than complaining!!

Please enter the green by the level entrances if you have problems stepping from the banks either getting on or off the green, but remember if you cross other players rinks do so with care without interfering with play.



Club Competitions

Bowls provides numerous opportunities to test your skill against other bowlers.

Whether it is individual or team games you can enter as many or as few as you wish.

Competitions are run by our Competition member who sits on the Bowling Committee. Entry forms are available in the Club at the beginning of the season and these are played off up to the Finals Days in September.

The Club runs two triples competitions. The William Sillman Trophy is for Club members only. The top four teams in this have the opportunity to enter the Invitation Triples event that is held on the second weekend in August where you can pit your skills against up to twenty four teams from across the

County or further afield.

The Men's and Ladies Club Champions are eligible for entry into County and National Champion of Champion events.

The Club has a Monday afternoon triples league that is open to all members with an entry list on the notice board at the end of each season for next year. Occasionally vacancies can arise during the season - check the triples notices for more information.

Friday mornings is the Parasol Competition where players turn up by 10.00am on the day and teams are drawn with results counting toward a trophy or small prizes for the 'top' players at the end of the season.

See the Club Competition member for more information if you are interested in competitions.

If you can't play why not come and support the competitions as a spectator?



County and National Competitions

The County Association and Bowls England run national championship qualifiers and finals which need to be entered in September for the following years play. These competitions are the highlight of the bowling year with most finals at Royal Leamington Spa during Finals Fortnight.

The Club and individual members or teams enter National Championships organised by Bowls England.

Our Club teams play in the North Gloucestershire League, Gloucestershire County League, Gloucester Ladies League and County and National team competitions.



Pam & Margaret – National winners

Entry forms for :-

Club competitions are available in the Clubhouse

National Competitions can be downloaded from the Bowls England web site.

Coaching for beginners ..and others

The Club has highly experienced bowlers available for new and existing members who hold regular coaching sessions on Tuesday evenings.

Attending these sessions is a requirement for new members who have not bowled previously and is intended to teach the basics of the game and develop your own personal grip, stance and delivery before you move on to play for the Club in matches.

How far or competitive you would like to be is up to individual players...but there is no better

advice than to practice whenever you can and always play the game by the Laws of the Game so that this becomes second nature to you. Bad habits develop quickly and will lessen your achievements and enjoyment of the game.

Advice on the Laws of the Game, measuring and marking in competitions is available from qualified Umpires at the Spa.

Spare sets of bowls are available for use while at the Club for new members.





Club Dress Code

Cheltenham Spa matches are played in club coloured shirts. Below the waist, the general rule is whites for afternoon games and greys for evening matches although some competitions will vary this. Always check the fixture card!

Coloured shirts, if not available from the club, are available from Zapkam of Stroud if you follow the link on our website.

If you are unable to arrive in club colours you should change into the appropriate clothing for matches and competitions as soon as possible. If we look like a team we will play like a team!

Home or away, club colours should be worn until all formalities (food, raffle, speeches etc) have been completed, which requires staying in club colours after you leave the green.

All competitions are played in whites or club coloured shirts as required by the specific rules of each competition.

Casual play on the green has its own code where smart casual clothes can be worn but not T-Shirts, football shirts, jeans or cargo shorts etc. If you have got to ask then you probably shouldn't wear it! We wish to present

the best possible image to the public. A relaxed but acceptable standard of dress when playing at the Spa may even encourage passers-by to join.

Club Officers and Constitution

Club Officers are listed annually in the Club Fixture card if you haven't got a copy please ask someone.

Clubs cannot run without a constitution and rules but these are intended to resolve or avoid problems not create them. Copies are available in the bookcase in the Clubhouse.



Photo by peter langley

Volunteers...where would we be without them?

The Club depends, for its continuing success, on members volunteering to run or help with all our activities.

If you would rather not hold a Club Office and work on Committees there are many other ways that you can help.

Catering and Bar Duties. Every home match requires help from members to prepare whatever food is required and to staff the bar. A volunteer sheet for food preparation is posted on the notice board and a rota is drawn up by the bar member.

The green and buildings are maintained almost entirely by our members. The green is swept every day of the year except Christmas Day and requires very little skill - just dedication to turn up every week about 9.30 am.

Other tasks are more demanding of skills and you will not be asked to do anything that you

think outside your ability

We depend on a number of organisers to run our winter activities. You can either help or,



Looks like a hole what can we do about it??

if you can't help for any reason, supporting and encouraging those who do is always welcome.

Try to join in - you will always be more than welcome.

Cheltenham Spa Bowling Club

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"This publication is intended to answer some of the many questions posed by new and existing members. If you think that we have missed anything please let us know and we will include it in future editions."

Pam Margrett - Chair