

INDUCTION GUIDE - SOUTHWICK PARK BOWLING CLUB

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Southwick Park Bowling Club (SPBC). This guide is designed for new members to familiarise themselves with the club, the different types of matches and competitions and an understanding of the basic rules of the game. The season starts mid to late April and ends in late September.

CLUB

SPBC, which was founded in 1986, is a club made up of male and female members. There are 3 types of membership full, social and honorary membership. We share the clubhouse with Southwick Bowling Club and the two clubs are jointly responsible for the maintenance of the clubhouse under the forum of the Southwick Association Bowling Clubs (SABC). Each club has its own green with Southwick to the north of the clubhouse, and us, Southwick Park to the south. Both clubs have their own notice boards and books for booking rinks for competitions. You can practice/roll-up any day from 10am to twilight except Tuesdays when the green is cut and maintained but you can play from midday.

STARTING-UP

When you join you will receive a number of coaching sessions from one of our registered coaches who will train you into how to deliver your bowls and the various 'components' that are used in the game. You will be taught the correct etiquette which should be used and observed whilst playing or watching all bowls matches whether it be an informal roll-up session or a competitive match and you will be provided with a number of information sheets. Your coach will also explain the rules of the game including the roles of each player in a team environment and how the scoring works and they will also advise on the best type of bowls to purchase either new or second-hand. You will then be given an application form to join.

In terms of dress code, during coaching sessions and practicing with a full member you should be smart casual with flat soled footwear. After this, when representing the club in either friendlies or league and club competitions you are required to wear a club shirt and blue trousers/shorts/skirts for all games. There is no additional charge for friendlies or roll-ups as this is all included in your annual membership fee.

You will be given a key to the padlock to the side gate (small deposit) and a locker key located in the appropriate dressing room. You will also be given a club book of fixtures including members names, addresses and contact numbers. You will be shown around the clubhouse, where keys are kept, alarm code etc

MATCHES

When your coach feels you are ready to represent SPBC you will be advised to put your name down on the match sheets located on the club noticeboard. These will be friendly matches which will normally be triples which start at 2.30pm (for home friendlies) against a team of three opponents, a lead, a number two and a skip. Friendly matches are normally 18 'ends' with a tea break after 9 ends. After each home friendly you will be expected to buy your direct opponent a drink from the bar and to assist with the tidying-up of the clubhouse before you leave. For away friendly matches which normally start at 2pm you will be offered a drink again from your direct opponent. There is also a raffle at £1 per strip which raises funds for the club.

FORMATS

- Singles – Four bowls each, first to 21 points
- Pairs – Four bowls each, 18 ends.
- Triples - Three bowls each, 18 ends.

- Fours (Rinks) – Two bowls each, 18 ends
- Aussie Pairs – Four bowls each, 18 ends but different mat positions.

LEAGUES AND OTHER COMPETITIONS

In addition to home and away friendly matches SPBC are represented in a number of leagues:

- Men's League a team of 12 players who play on a Tuesday evening.
- Ladies League a team of 6 players who usually play on a Tuesday morning.
- Hove League a team of 9 players (mixed) who play on an undefined morning.
- Adur League a team of 12 players (mixed) who usually play on a Friday evening.

There are also a number of county and national cup competitions. For men the Edward Rowland, Bill Hawkins and The Abergavenny, for women the Gladys Rowland, Top Club and Double Rinks and mixed competitions include the Tony Alcock.

There are also the internal 'Club Competitions' which is on a knock-out basis across a number of different formats singles, pairs etc which culminates in a 'Finals Day' in August which all members are encouraged to attend. There are competitions suited to new bowlers and quite often members win a trophy in their first season.

Last but not least are our Monday evening club nights where you can join others in a group roll-up starting at 5pm followed by a drink at the bar in a friendly environment. This offers a great opportunity to meet your fellow members when you first join.

COMMUNICATION

The club uses WhatsApp for the majority of its communication (with a strict curfew from 9pm – 9am) for team selection from the club captain/vice-captain where you will be asked to use the 'voting' option to confirm your attendance at a match. There is another WhatsApp group to communicate any day-to-day internal Southwick Park News.

There are two meetings per year which you are required to attend, the Annual General Meeting in October/November time and the Spring meeting in late March/early April just before the Greens open where you pay your annual fees.

OTHER DUTIES

The success of the club is built upon every member doing their little bit to contribute to the smooth running of the club and clubhouse. There are two rotas on the club noticeboard one for making the teas at home friendly matches, the other a cleaning rota which will be explained once you join.