

LYMINGTON BOWLING CLUB

COVID-19 PLAYING ARRANGEMENTS

REMEMBER

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE FOR CLINICALLY VULNERABLE PEOPLE, INCLUDING HEALTHY PEOPLE AGED 70 AND OVER, IS

- **YOU COULD BE AT HIGHER RISK OF SEVERE ILLNESS FROM CORONAVIRUS**
- **BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL AND DILIGENT ABOUT SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HAND HYGIENE**

Covid-19 Supplementary Guidance for Lawn Bowls Clubs

Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions by HM Government, and updated guidance from Bowls England on the 2nd of July 2020, the following protocols and procedures have been implemented by the management committee to enable additional limited formats of bowling to continue at the club.

Risks and Responsibilities

The following procedures are intended to mitigate the risks of contracting COVID-19 while bowling by adding specific local arrangements to government and Bowls England guidance. In this way risks are reduced, they are not eliminated. Each bowler has to make their own decisions about whether to bowl and to take responsibility for their choices. The government advice on social distancing is to keep a distance of 2 metres between people from different households, or 1 metre plus mitigations such as face coverings or avoiding face to face contact. The committee recommends the Bowls England advice which is to maintain 2 metres distance and that guidance is used throughout this document.

In Case of Accidents or Emergencies

There will not be a steward to assist with any accident or emergency that may arise and members must take any necessary action themselves. Should the clubhouse be locked, the keys are in the key safe which can be opened with the usual number.

The clubhouse telephone can be used to call for help or for emergency services however it is anticipated that many members will have mobile phones that would be more convenient and quicker to use.

A first aid kit and bottled water are available in the clubhouse on the stewards desk just inside the door together with the Accident Book to record any events.

A defibrillator is positioned on the wall outside the back of the clubhouse and can be accessed by going straight through the clubhouse towards the tennis courts and out through the rear door.

The following arrangements and rules are mandatory.

General Arrangements

An electronic rink booking system has been established using Google Calendar and email. All bookings must be made using this straight forward system which is described in more detail later in this document. Bookings must be made at least one day in advance and will be for sessions lasting for a maximum of 2 hours. Members without access to the internet will need to enlist the help of a friend or playing partner to book on their behalf. Do not visit the green unless you have booked a date, time and rink.

All Members are eligible to book a rink to play or watch. Everyone using the booking system is considered to have given their consent for their details to be passed to the health authorities if this is necessary.

Bookings will be on a first come first served basis but members are asked to reasonably restrict their bookings to allow the opportunity for others to also book rinks.

Associate Members may bowl subject to the normal charge, currently £3.50, and use of the bowls booking system. An 'honesty system' for collecting green fees will be used with payment preferably made by bank transfer to the club or by cheque. Please telephone the Treasurer on 01590 644252 for account details or address to send the cheque.

Up to 6 spectators are allowed to watch the bowls during any one session. Spectators must be booked into the bowls booking system in the same way as players and will be identified in the calendar by a letter S by their name. This is necessary so that a record of people in the area of the green at any time is available for 'tracking and tracing' should it be required.

A 'one way' system has been established around the green to minimise the times members may need to pass each other on the narrow pathways around the green. Signage around the green indicates the direction and reminds players of the requirement.

To avoid the chance of players leaving and arriving at the same time with the potential of congestion leading to a breakdown of social distancing, the rink booking system will inject a minimum of 30 minutes gap between bookings on any rink. This will give both the leaving and arriving players time to carry out the required hygiene actions (described later) in order to prevent any virus being present on shared equipment. It is important that players arriving before their time do not enter the green any earlier than 10 minutes before their booked slot.

A maximum of 12 bowlers and 6 spectators are allowed within the area of the green at any time, and only during the booked session or in the 10 minutes grace before and after.

There will be three rinks in use at any one time with a vacant rink between them. This will allow players to maintain the recommended 2 metre distance to anyone else, either on their rink or on an adjacent one. The rinks will be shown on the booking system as A, B or C and will be either across the green or up and down. There will not be any rink numbers out but rink A will always be the one nearest to the equipment shed.

The rinks will be ready for play for the first session each day with rink markers, jacks and mats in place. Pushers are allowed but will not be put out. Players wishing to use pushers can take them from the equipment shed as required and return them when they are no longer wanted. It is not permitted to use other non-essential club equipment such as 2m measuring sticks, rink numbers or score boards so that the risk of contamination via shared equipment is minimised.

Members may use their own measures and spray chalk but should not allow others to handle them. Do not use a measure if the distance requires more than one person's participation. Members with their own jacks or mats may wish to use those and reduce the chance of contamination while avoiding the need to sanitise equipment.

A maximum of 4 players are allowed on a rink allowing for individual practice, informal roll ups pairs and singles matches. The rinks are 5 metres wide, sufficient for social distancing both within the rink and between rinks, however bowlers need to stay alert to the 2 metre rule.

The toilets are now available for use by playing members, spectators and visitors to the club. There will be no access to other areas of the club and the changing rooms remain out of use.

The entrance door to the ladies and the gents toilets are fixed open to avoid the need for contact with the door handles, please do not close them. Only one person is allowed into either the ladies or gents toilets at a time to maintain social distancing. If you enter and see another person is using the facilities, retire until the person has left, maintaining social distancing. Only one cubicle in the ladies is in use, the others are taped off.

Sanitising gel and wipes are provided and, of course, soap and water. Everyone using the facilities must use the wipes that have been provided to clean any touched surfaces before and after use. This is to protect oneself and the next person using the facilities. Waste bins for disposal of wipes, tissues etc are provided in the toilet area and everyone is asked to maintain a high standard of tidiness so no debris is left on the floor or in other areas. Playing members and any committee members will check the toilets during a playing session and rectify any unsafe situation. Disposable gloves in the toilet areas are provided so everyday remedial activity can be safely carried out. Our cleaner will also be carrying out normal cleaning duties but members are asked to assist in keeping the toilet areas sanitised, tidy and safe.

Instructions are displayed in prominent areas at the main door of the clubhouse and adjacent to the toilets to guide members and particularly visitors.

The clubhouse is now unlocked but Members and visitors should not use the clubhouse for shelter, if the weather is poor, as social distancing will be difficult to maintain and less safe indoors. Members and visitors still need to provide their own food and drink.

Players with bowls stored in the clubhouse will be allowed to remove them on the first occasion they bowl, making sure to sanitise all contact areas such as keypads, keys, door handles etc. when they leave.

There will be sanitiser gel and spray provided for each rink. Before starting play use the sanitiser on the jack and mat and allow them to dry before putting them on the grass. If using a pusher sanitise the handle area. Sanitise your hands. Arrangements for ensuring the mat and jack remain virus free are described later. Repeat the procedure at the end of your game so that everything is left ready for the following booking. This 'belt and braces' approach should eliminate any cross contamination from one session to the next, after all, what's a little sanitiser between friends.

A roll of paper towel is available in a receptacle on the post by the clubhouse door where it is sheltered from the weather. This can be used to wipe away any excess sanitiser, at the end of the game please take any used towel away with you. There is a convenient litter bin in the alleyway alongside the main gate.

Note: There will not be a steward on duty but rinks, jacks and mats will be set out and put away by volunteers each day. Initially this will be done by committee members but as the system settles down other volunteers from among the bowlers will be expected to come forward and help out.

Booking a Rink

Each day is divided up into 2 hour sessions with a 30 minute interval between sessions. The 30 minute interval allows each player 10 minutes before and after the session to change shoes and sanitise their equipment with a little spare time to provide a little leeway for 'the unexpected'. The whole session is booked but players may arrive, play and leave for any duration within the session. You don't have to be there at the start or stay to the end but you may only play during the allotted session and after playing sanitise the equipment, collect up your rubbish and go.

Sessions are :-
from 10.30 to 12.30,
from 13.00 to 15.00,
from 15.30 to 17.30,
from 18.00 to 20.00.

Rinks are booked by sending an email after going online to look at the rinks calendar and choosing an available rink and 2 hour time slot. This is the only method of booking rinks and members without internet access will need to seek assistance from a friend or colleague. When the emailed request has been received, it will be entered into the calendar by the 'rink controller' who will then reply with a confirmation email. The calendar can be found at:-

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?
src=lbcrink%40gmail.com&ctz=Europe%2FLondon](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=lbcrink%40gmail.com&ctz=Europe%2FLondon)

The email address for requesting a rink and time is lbcrink@gmail.com

The email to reserve a rink must include the name for the booking plus that of all other players or spectators, and the required date and time. The reply will confirm the details of time and date plus the letter of the rink allocated. Remember, rink A is nearest to the equipment shed, then B and then C.

Once the confirmation email has been received it will be possible to see that the slot is reserved by looking again at the calendar.

Playing Bowls

Do not go to the club if you or anyone in your household has, or suspects they have, corona virus symptoms.

Go to the club suitably dressed for bowls as there will not be any changing facilities once you arrive. Shoes can be changed by the rink before and after the game.

Enter the green carefully and follow the one way signs to your rink.

Keep 2m distance from each other unless you are from the same household.

Each of the 3 rinks will have rink markers and a centre marker at each end. These are not to be moved or changed, it should not be necessary to touch the markers. Also each rink will have 2 jacks and a mat at one end of the rink. Sanitise these before playing and allow to dry before placing on the grass.

For 2 people from different households playing Singles

The following procedures minimise the chance of spreading the virus by touching shared equipment.

Agree which person is to handle the jack and mat, this can be the same person or one for the jack and the other for the mat. Once decided, that person is the only one who touches the jack or mat with their hands throughout the game and there is no need to sanitise again until the end of the game. The opposing player may instruct where the mat or jack is to be placed when it is their turn.

Place the jack in the required position don't bowl it. Take the other jack and the mat down to the other end of the rink and start bowling. Do not hand each other bowls, jack or mat, it is acceptable to herd the bowls and jack by using your feet but only one person handles each piece of equipment.

If keeping score, use a single scorecard and take it home with you. A number of spare scorecards are available in a receptacle by the clubhouse door where they are sheltered from the weather, bring your own pen or pencil.

If measuring for shot use your own measure and do not allow others to touch it. Avoid using a measure if the distance requires more than one person's participation and remember the 2m rule.

For 4 people playing Pairs

The following procedures minimise the chance of spreading the virus by touching shared equipment.

The Mat - When playing pairs the mat is handled at both ends of the rink; once by the lead player to position the mat and once by the skip to remove it from the rink. If both players are from the same household this does not matter and that household can always position the mat as required. When 4 bowlers from different households are playing it is necessary to nominate one lead and one skip that will always handle the mat. One end of the mat will be marked so that both lead and skip can make sure they only handle 'their end' of the mat. If there are any concerns about possible cross contamination, sanitise your hands again.

The Jack - Each lead has a jack which they keep with them when the other jack is being used. One has a white jack and the other yellow. The jack can be bowled by the lead in the normal manner and lined up by the skip using their feet. Skips don't touch the jacks with their hands and leads always use the same jack. (If the skip is in the same household as the lead then they can handle the jack should they wish).

The easiest way to maintain a 2 metre gap while moving from one end of the rink to the other is to adopt a one-way system by always walking along the left hand side of the rink.

Use score cards to keep score and take them home with you after the game. A number of spare scorecards will be available by the clubhouse door, bring your own pen or pencil.

If measuring for shot use your own measure and do not allow others to touch it. Avoid using a measure if the distance requires more than one person's participation and remember the 2m rule.

Roll-ups for 3 or 4 people

With roll ups it is possible to have all the bowlers at one end of the rink at the same time and therefore the greatest potential for losing the 2 metre distancing. Be Aware!

Roll ups can follow the procedure for either singles or doubles as appropriate, as there are potentially 3 or 4 people at one end of the rink, moving the mat up the rink by a metre or two will ensure that there is plenty of space around the bowler. Minimise any cross contamination by nominating players to handle the jack and mats.

For all formats

Leave promptly when your time is up to avoid overlapping with any incoming players.

At the end of the game return the jacks and mat to the same end as you found them and sanitise them along with your bowls and your hands. Take any rubbish away with you e.g. wipes, drinks, sweet wrappers etc.

If you are the last person to leave the rink, make sure the clubhouse is locked up securely, the keys are in the key safe and the gate is padlocked.

ENJOY your game,

The Committee
23rd July 2020