

Berkhamsted Bowls Club - Our Roadmap upto 21st June 2021

Membership

A big 'Thank You' to all who have renewed their membership this year. If you haven't given it your best attention yet, would you kindly do so, if you are not intending to re-join we would still appreciate you letting us know by April 14th. Your prompt returns have been much appreciated.

Bowls England's guidance information

Bowls England has issued guidance on Restarting Bowling Step 2: To view their eight page document please click on the link towards the top of our website HOME page.

When do we Open?

We open for Bowling on Saturday April 24th at 10am. The clubhouse will only be open for use of the changing rooms and toilets, no other areas are accessible. Seating in both changing rooms has been spaced to allow for social distancing, masks will also have to be worn on entering the clubhouse. In order to minimise use of the changing rooms we will be making our gazebo available again as an outside changing room and encourage this use if possible.

How many players will be allowed on the green when we start?

We will be making four rinks available on a daily basis until further notice. The Committee has agreed to limit use of the green to a maximum of 20 players per session. The breakdown of rink usage is as follows: 2 rinks for Triples (max 6 people/rink), 2 rinks for Singles or Pairs (4 players/rink max). There will be NO Fours yet. There will be rink gaps between the triples rinks as per BE guidelines.

What session times are available?

These will be the same as last year: 10am to 12noon, 12.30pm to 2.30pm, 3pm to 5pm, 5.30 to 7.30pm. The final session can go on until dusk if required.

How do I book a rink?

As last year, this has to be done through our website Rink Booking System. All rinks must be pre-booked – it doesn't take long and is quite straightforward once used to it – Instructions are given on the website Rink Booking page under the Calendar. The Club will try to hold some tutorials to help anyone struggling but rest assured its creator (& Comp Sec) Paul Sims is on hand to talk any rink booking 'virgins' through the process! He will also be available to take telephone bookings if booking via this method is a problem.

If you want to have a trial go between now and April 22nd without any commitment or risk of error do the following:

Go to our website: www.berkhamstedbowlsclub.co.uk. On the HOME page shown, click on the Maroon Rink Booking button, that should take to the Rink Booking page. The Rink Booking Calendar is shown under a few lines of text. Detailed instructions are shown under the Calendar.

Are we playing friendly fixtures and competitions this season?

The Committee have agreed in alignment with BE guidelines all friendly fixtures upto June 21st will be played as three rinks of triples if our opponents are in agreement. These will be entered into the rink booking system once agreed. External competitions at District, County & National levels will be going ahead although team comps have been delayed until a little later in the season. All these will also be put on the rink booking system when known to ensure capacity.

To sign up for Matches and/or Social Events:

Very shortly a link to sign up sheets for Matches and/or social events will appear on the website HOME page -When it does, clicking on the link will take you to a Sign up sheet where you can add your name.

NOTE: We intend to produce two fixture cards this season to help us provide as accurate information as possible during these uncertain times. The 2nd fixture list will be for the 21st June to 30th Sept.

What about taster events and coaching sessions?

The Club intend to go ahead with public taster events to aid recruitment, these will be bookable via our website when details have been released. We will also hold member coaching sessions that include tutorials about all bowls matters on and off the green early in the season to especially aid our new or inexperienced members. Coaching can take place on a 1:2 basis.

Will Club afternoons be taking place?

BE Step 2 only allows Organised Bowling – so until further notice our previous Tuesday & Thursday afternoon 'Roll Ups' now need to be 'Organised'. To do this we will require members to sign up for an afternoon event and only a maximum number will be allowed. Sign Up will be via the Rink Booking System

Are spectators allowed to watch up to 21st June?

Unfortunately, the BE rules state that spectators are only permissible in public areas so will not be able to have anyone just wander in and sit down. Dacorum have Covid Marshalls on patrol every day and have already checked we are meeting all guidelines, transgressions are £1000 fines!! They will be visiting on our opening weekend to double check our safeguarding practices. Remember we are allowing a maximum of 20 players on the green playing organised sport with up to 4 others there in an organisational capacity only. The restriction on spectators doesn't apply for people with disabilities, or adults needed to supervise U18's in a safeguarding role.

Car sharing to and from bowls matches or venues

No car sharing is permissible with people from outside of your bubble.

Hospitality & Social Events at the Club

Our bar is closed until May 17th when we will review the situation and hopefully provide a service in accordance with hospitality settings. We shall try to provide tea & biscuits at our friendly and competitive external matches when played at home. Social events inside the clubhouse may only be able to take place after 21st June, we are working on other external social events in the interim period.

Please note there is no Open to Season Supper as usual.

Green Equipment Use

Mats, jacks, scoreboards, measuring sticks, scorecards and green protectors will all be available to use and housed at the far end of the clubhouse outside. Pushers can be used but are not encouraged if not necessary, these are housed in the middle shed. We may be able to house a selection of woods for those members who do not have their own yet also in this shed. (details to follow).

Please remember to use the sanitisers & wipes stored outside in storage boxes to clean your equipment after use before returning to their pickup place

Administration:

As we were unable to hold an AGM in 2020, the Committee agreed to continue until we can hold an AGM in 2021; This means that for Playing – Ladies - Captain Anne Furlong, Vice-Capt: Kay Lingwood; Men: - Captain Gary Fisher, Vice-Capt: David Brown; Mens Watford Vets League: Brian Ralphs; and W&D Evening League: Alan Jones.

Our Club Covid Marshalls are: Kevin Clarke, Bob Anderson, Geoff Drew, David Brown & Dagmar McKay

Finally, and most importantly

There will be teething issues! Please be patient and understanding, it is important to let us know of any problems or queries so we can address & resolve them promptly – Communication is key for the best season possible! We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Kevin (President), Christine (Sec) & fellow Officers

11th April 2021