

SOME USEFUL NOTES FOR NEW BOWLERS AT LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT by Val Williams

I'm sure there are lots of things I've missed off here. If there's anything major I've missed, please let me know and I'll try to include it in the next edition.

Club opening hours

- On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the green is cut and maintained and no-one is allowed to play until after 11 a.m. without special permission from the greenkeeper (Peter Gentry).
- On the remaining days, if you wish to play during the morning or the evening and there are no other matches on, then you will have to open up the clubhouse and set out the green yourself. It is not recommended that you practise on your own (Health & Safety).
- The Club's booking sheets give details of what matches are on and therefore what rink space is available. It's always advisable to book a rink as you might find that there is no room for you to practise.

Notice Boards in various places

- Blackboard – stop press messages.
- Friendly matches – throughout the season, we have friendly matches against other clubs. Put your name down on the list if you want to play in these and keep an eye on the board to check whether you've been picked to play, at which point, you will need to put a tick alongside your name to indicate that you've seen it. Costs involved vary depending on what food is provided at the end of the match. It's customary to buy your opponent a drink at the end of the game and also to purchase your own raffle tickets.
- Social Events – quite a few throughout the season and also in the off-season too. Put your name down on the list if you're interested in any of these.
- Posters about various Mixed Drives and Miscellaneous Competitions – usually displayed on the Social Events Noticeboard.
- For Sales.
- Statutory Notices.
- Rule Books, score cards etc. are kept in drawers near the main entrance door.
- Secretary's Notice Board – Management Committee minutes and other stuff.
- Mixed Gosport and Fareham League (G&F). Lee has three teams – Woods, Jacks & Greens. (Tick if you're picked to play).
- Hampshire Men's competitions.
- Outside competitions.
- All the Club internal competitions. You enter these when you re-join at the beginning of the season and the draw is made mid-April.

Men's notices are in the men's changing room

- Men's Portsmouth and District (P&D) Leagues - games and availability lists. (Like the friendly games, if you're picked to play, you must tick your name). Lee has teams in P & D, Combination and Afternoon Triples.

Ladies' Notices are in the ladies' changing room

- These consist of League games and competitions. The ladies are in two divisions of the P & D League – currently, A and B. At the end of each season you register to play in the leagues for the following season. The Ladies' Captain decides in which division you will play at the beginning of each season. Entry in Ladies Competitions (P&D and Hampshire) is made at the end of each season for the following season. There are also P&D Friendly games. You have to put your name down on the list and you are advised by letter if you have been picked to play.

Club League (currently on Tuesday evenings)

Teams are drawn on the night and you accumulate points throughout the season. It's an excellent way to get to know people and I highly recommend joining in as soon as you can.

Roll ups

These take place on Mondays at 2 p.m., Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. if no other events clash with these days/times.

Dress Code

- All Ladies League Matches and Competitions are played in Club Shirts and White/Cream Skirts/Trousers/Cut-offs/Bowls England shorts.
- Men's league games and the mixed G&F games are played in club shirts and greys.
- Friendly games – the dress code can vary and you will need to check the particular match to find out what the dress code is. Generally speaking, though, it will be club shirt and white or grey trousers/cut-offs/skirts.
- Mixed Drives and other Club events – generally greys with club or white shirts, but for special occasions, such as Anniversary Day or President's Day, this may be different. Watch the notice boards or check in your Fixture List.
- For Roll-ups, Club League nights or your own personal practice sessions, you do not need to wear regulation bowls clothes but you are expected to dress reasonably smartly and jeans are a big no-no!!
- Club Finals are played in whites.

Useful Websites

www.leebowlingclub.co.uk

The Club's website which I try to keep up to date but am not always successful!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II_FRVw15Wk

A Youtube video which is quite good if you can put up with the American accent!

Rob Judson is a retired coach from Australia who has produced lots of invaluable coaching information. This particular document is probably the most comprehensive free document that is available. It's downloadable from the Vale of Leven Bowling Club website (www.valebowlingclub.co.uk) under the Game of Bowls tab and then Useful Downloads, (This is a large document with 133 pages so depending on the speed of your Internet connection it may take some time to download and also to wade through.)

<http://www.ecoachbowls.com/index.html>

Some of the stuff on here you have to pay for but there is a lot of free information as well.

Bowls Shops & Websites

- [BOWLSWEAR DIRECT](http://www.bowlsdirect.com) – This Company visits the club every year at the beginning of the season with a whole range of bowls equipment. If you require bowls from them, you would need to contact them beforehand as they don't bring bowls with them. You can also order direct from the website www.bowlsdirect.com.
- [GAME, SET & MATCH](http://www.game-set-match.co.uk), Unit 1, Beaver Trade Park, Quarry Lane, Chichester PO19 8NY, Tel: 01243 538800. You can try bowls out here and they quite often have second-hand bowls. They also let you take them away and try them for a week or so and will take them back if they're not suitable.
- [TROPHYMAN SPORTS](http://www.trophyman.co.uk), 2-4 Kathleen Road, Sholing, SO19 8EX. 02380 444000.