

# Welcome to Olney Bowling Club

This leaflet is intended for new members. It aims to provide information to help you get the most out of your membership. The club of some 100+ members is run by a Committee, whose roles, names and faces are displayed in the clubhouse.

## How do I get started?

If you have not bowled previously at another club your assigned qualified Coach will have taken you through their approved coaching course which usually comprises four sessions of about an hour to an hour-and-a-half each. Once your Coach is satisfied you have become a competent bowler you will be free to practise on your own, or join in the Club sessions mentioned below.

## How do I improve my game and meet other bowlers?

Pre-booking of rinks is currently needed due to Covid. Email Liz at [robandlizmurdoch@btinternet.com](mailto:robandlizmurdoch@btinternet.com) You are free to practise/ "roll up" by yourself or with other members on most days after 11 am except

- when club matches are being played at home (see fixtures list booklet and match notice board)
- between 4.30 – 6 pm Fridays when a session for juniors is held
- on rinks booked for organised "roll ups" or by members for internal club competitions (post Covid see rink booking folder on shelf to the right of the bar, with other club documents)

To meet other members you are welcome to join in the informal club roll up currently on a Friday afternoon 1.45 for 2pm start. New members welcome. Email Alison [alisonmstringfellow@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmstringfellow@gmail.com). Members are arranged into teams, usually pairs or triples for a friendly game. Alternatively there are usually informal "roll ups" on Monday evening and Thursday morning - email [Jean.jeancobelli@hotmail.com](mailto:Jean.jeancobelli@hotmail.com).

If you feel you need some additional coaching as your game is "off" our coaches are there to help – their names and numbers are in the fixtures booklet. You can arrange to meet for a one-to-one session – but it is up to you to ask when you need their support.

## Can I play in club games?

Yes. There are a series of friendly matches held with neighbouring clubs and, once you have the basics, joining in matches is one of the best ways to gaining playing experience. There are also internal club competitions – members sign up for some of these when renewing at the start of the season. Other club competitions are run as one day events. Entrance to friendly and one day club competitions is normally by entering your name on the relevant sheet on the main match notice board inside the clubhouse. This sheet will also give the match fee and dress code. The Club operates a policy for friendly matches of choosing the newer members for teams to give them match experience, but be reassured, this will be within a team with more experienced bowlers.

A "New Members Guide to a Bowling Match", which forms part of the welcome pack and is also available on the clubs website at [www.olneybowlingclub.btck.co.uk](http://www.olneybowlingclub.btck.co.uk) will advise you what to expect in friendly matches.

### **What do I need to wear?**

This varies. For informal roll ups as long as you have flat or bowling shoes then casual clothing is fine.

Most internal club competitions or friendly matches during the week require “greys” i.e. grey below the waist and white club shirts. Weekend friendly matches and more serious league games may require “whites” to be worn i.e. white club shirt and white below the waist. The required dress is indicated on the fixture list and on the forms on the competitions board. In 2021 whilst changing rooms are closed “greys” will be the norm.

### **How do I join in social events?**

When social events resume the events are usually publicised by e mail (your e mail will be added on joining the club). In the season there are lists for members to sign if they wish to attend and indicate whether they wish to bring a partner/guest. The lists are on the general notice board at the side of the bar. Do join in. A Presentation Dinner (and dance) is held in November for the competition winners but all members are welcome.

### **Are refreshments available during the daytime?**

Currently the bar and kitchen are closed. Once we are allowed to reopen the facilities you can use the club kitchen to make yourself a cup of tea or coffee, but please place 20p in the jar provided – and wash up your mugs after use.

### **Security**

Members must check that the equipment shed, both clubhouse doors and the main gate are locked and all lights are switched off if they are last to leave. Your coach will have shown you where the equipment shed key is stored. All equipment used for your game or roll up (mats, jacks etc) must be returned to the rack and jack tray or shed by the team using the rink and not left on the green. Please note that the bar area is protected by an alarm system.

### **Volunteering and how the club operates**

All the bowling and associated social activities and facilities of the club are run by volunteer members of the club. Only specialist bowling green maintenance work is carried out by external resources. Volunteers are always needed to help the club continue to function and prosper. For new members who are able, volunteering is a quick way to become integrated into the club and get to know others. At the start of the season all members, especially those under 75, are asked to volunteer to be on a rota to help with clubhouse cleaning, bar duty, helping to serve teas etc. Please consider offering some of your time.

### **Photography**

Photographs are normally taken of new members and displayed on the general notice board. Photographs of play and matches may be taken and used in newsletters, social media and local press.

Please ask any Committee Member for more information. We look forward to seeing you on the green. Happy Bowling!