



Boronia Bows

The friendly club

Boronia Bows Club

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Handbook for New Members

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Prepared by Boronia Bowls Club Incorporated.

Owing to changes to Club policies, changes may occur with some articles shown in this booklet.

Please check with the Executive Secretary for clarification.

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Welcome

This document has been prepared specifically for the purpose of providing information about our Club, for the assistance and guidance of new members. If you have any queries or problems or feel that you do not fully understand any of the information contained in this document, please do not hesitate to ask your proposer, seconder or any member of the Club Committees, either in person or by telephone. Names of the Members of the Management Committee and also the Bowls Committee are on display on the Committee Board which is located in the foyer of the Clubrooms.

Telephone numbers are shown in the rear pages of the Fixture Book. It is the object of all Committees to ensure whatever time you spend at Boronia Bowls Club will be most enjoyable.

Fixture Book

Each season the complete bowls program is published in a Fixture Book which is available free to all members. These books are generally available at the start of the bowls season. Information contained in this book includes details of all elected committees, list of umpires, sponsors, advertisers, fixtures of all Pennant sides and a complete listing of scheduled bowls events at the Club for the season. Also listed at the rear of the booklet is a listing of members' phone numbers at the time of printing.

Please check notice boards in the foyer regularly for possible changes to dates and times for each event, as these can be altered due to unforeseen circumstances.

Websites

If you have access to the Internet, the Boronia Bowls Club website is a complete source of information for bowlers. During the season, it is updated with news, teams, results, and changes to the events calendar. It also has links to other websites of interest. The Bowls website is at the following address:

<http://www.boroniabowls.org>

Other websites you will find useful include:

- Bowls Australia <http://www.bowlsaustralia.com.au>
- Bowls Victoria <http://www.bowlsvic.org.au>
- Eastern Ranges Bowls Region <http://www.easternrangesbowls.org.au>

Management of the Club

There are two main committees, namely the Management Committee and the Bowls Committee.

Both committees are elected annually. Full and Life Members are entitled to vote in the election of both committees.

In addition the Bowls Committee has a number of Selection and Tournament Committees. These consist of five members each and are also elected annually.

Committee of Management

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Control the financial affairs of the Club.
2. Employ Greenkeeper or Greens contractor.
3. Maintain all buildings, pathways and car park.
4. Admit new members to the club.
5. Appoint Greens Director.
6. Appoint Bar Manager and set bar prices.
7. Appoint Membership and Bowls Promotion Committee.
8. Appoint Social and Fundraising Committees.
9. Organise cleaning of all buildings.
10. Organise all catering arrangements.
11. Allocate use of greens.
12. Approve all items of expenditure.
13. Co-ordinate club sponsorship.
14. Manage Constitution and By Laws of the Club.

The Management Committee may, with mutual consent, delegate any of its responsibilities to the Bowls Committee. It may also, with mutual consent, take over responsibilities of any functions of the Selection and Tournament Committees.

Bowls Committee

Duties and Responsibilities

1. The organisation of games in conjunction with the Tournament Committee.
2. Fill casual vacancies on the Selection and Tournament Committees sub-committees.
3. Appoint Coaching Panel and Chairperson.
4. Settle disputes relating to bowling matters.
5. Deal with matters relevant to affiliation with the controlling bodies.
6. Accept or reject any matter the Committee of Management may wish to delegate.
7. Delegate, with mutual consent, any responsibility to the Committee of Management.

Selection Committees (Midweek and Saturday)

The roles of the Selection Committees are to select teams and sides to represent the Club in the Metropolitan Pennant Competitions. The number of sides to be entered into Midweek and Saturday competitions each year, is decided by the Bowls Committee after recommendation by the Selection Committee.

NOTE: All matters pertaining to selection of Pennant players shall remain the exclusive responsibility of the relevant Selection Committee.

Tournament Committees

The roles of the Tournament Committees are to select, arrange, control and manage championship and other Club events, social bowls and other such special events and tournaments as directed by the Bowls Committee. Tournament Committees are not involved with Pennant bowls.

Members Obligations, Rostered Duties and Voluntary Work

As a member, it is your Club and subsequently part of your responsibility to make a contribution to help complete the numerous tasks which are constantly needing attention throughout the year.

All members, except for those specifically exempted by the Committee of Management are therefore rostered for duty throughout the year. In general terms, members are rostered to assist in catering and Clubhouse cleaning.

There are occasions when members will be requested to assist with other forms of duty. No member will be rostered for duty too often and the duration of each duty could only be 1 hour or so. In addition to the duties for which members are rostered, there are ongoing maintenance and improvement programs underway which depend on volunteer labour.

Working on the principle that many hands make light work, the Committee of Management expects that members will come forward to assist whenever volunteers are requested for a special project.

Members who have a specific trade or particular skill or hobby which may be of use to the Club, are requested to inform the Executive Director or Executive Secretary, in order that their skills may be used to best advantage.

Sponsorship

The Club has a considerable number of sponsors and advertisers offering a huge range of products and services to members and their families. Many of these sponsors and advertisers do offer discounts if you mention the Club, so all members are encouraged to support these sponsors and advertisers at every opportunity and when doing so,

ALWAYS MENTION THE CLUB.

There is an incentive scheme to encourage members and visitors to support these sponsors and advertisers. This scheme takes the form of prizes of \$200 and \$50. The winners are drawn at the Club's Annual General Meeting. In order to enter this competition, all that members need, is evidence of the transaction with any of the Club's sponsors or advertisers. Once you have evidence of the transaction, write your name on it and drop it in the Sponsors Competition Box, which is located near the doors at the western end of the Clubhouse. All club sponsors should issue a receipt as evidence of the transaction if asked.

Sponsorship is extremely important to the Club and if we all, as members, support these sponsors and advertisers, we can be assured that they will continue to support the Club.

Equipment

A new member will eventually need the following equipment:

1. A set of bowls and a carry bag.
2. A good bowls polish.
3. A polishing cloth or sleeve.
4. Chalk for marking “toucher” bowls.
5. A ball point pen or pencil.
6. A bowls measure.

However, before any equipment is purchased, it is strongly recommended that all new bowlers seek the advice of a coach.

Coaches will advise on the size of bowls you require, explain the different types of bowls, measures and polishes that are available and also when various equipment will be needed, as it is not necessary to obtain all the equipment at the same time.

Clothing

The official regulations of bowls attire is displayed on the Committee Notice Board which is located in the foyer of the Clubhouse. As with equipment, before purchasing any attire, seek the advice of a coach.

Commitment to Play Bowls

Lawn bowls is unique in that it is possibly one of the only sports which a player can determine his or her level of commitment. In deciding your commitment, you must consider the following questions:

- How often do I wish to play?
- How well do I wish to play?

This will be your individual decision, however, your ultimate level of skill in this sport will be governed by two factors, concentration and practice. Obviously, the more frequently you practice, the more skilled you will become. Discuss practice methods with any of the Club coaches, who will assist you to reach the level you require.

A word of advice, particularly when you are first learning the game, many well-meaning people will advise you of your bowling deficiencies. Be courteous to these people, but always seek out your coach for help to sort out any problems you might have.

The golden rules you will hear frequently when starting bowling from coaches and experienced fellow bowlers are

SLOW DOWN

GET DOWN

STAY DOWN

Coaching

Our Club is very fortunate to have a dedicated Coaching Panel. They did not become coaches for their benefit, they became coaches to help us improve our game so to raise the standard of bowling at our Club.

IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST TO SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE

Regular coaching is held on late Wednesday afternoon during the bowls season. You may approach any of the coaches for assistance at any time.

The Bowls Season

The official commencement of the bowls season at our Club is traditionally held on the afternoon of the last Saturday in August each year. All members and partners receive an invitation to attend this function. At this function the greens are officially declared open for the season by the guest of honour, who has been invited to carry out this ceremonial task. While a small part of this afternoon is devoted to formalities, the major emphasis is for members to get together again after the winter recess. Afternoon tea is served on this occasion. Once the greens have been officially opened, play can commence, subject to weather conditions.

Throughout the season a daily assessment of the greens is held, and if in the opinion of the Green Director the greens are not fit for play, the "GREENS CLOSED" sign will be posted. If no signs are posted, the greens are open and fit for play. The greens are open for practice after 2.00 pm, except for Pennant and Tournament days as indicated in the Fixture handbook.

Bowling on both greens will normally continue until the last Sunday in April each year, after which the greens may be closed for winter.

The last official function for the season is Presentation Night, which is usually held early May. Trophies are presented to winners and runners-up in Club events held throughout the bowls season. All members and partners are welcome to attend this important function.

During the winter break the Club still has various activities organised in the Clubrooms, such as Carpet Bowls (indoor) and some bowls tournaments if the weather permits and greens are deemed suitable for play. Watch the notice boards or our web-site to keep in touch with what is on during this time.

You may also play bowls during winter at other Clubs which have synthetic grass greens. See the section of this booklet dealing with "Bowling at Other Clubs" for more information.

Practice

Throughout the Bowls season members can practice on any day the greens are open or any scheduled bowls events (both Pennant and Club competition) have finished and **ALL** rinks are vacated.

Direction of play each day is given in the Fixture book and also posted on a sign on the front of the Clubrooms. The change of direction of play and use of the orange pegs (for practice) is taken to decrease the wear on the grass greens.

Mats and jacks are available in the special box provided between the two greens. As a member you will be able to purchase a key (at nominal cost) to access the Clubrooms and the Mat and Jack box.

Casual clothing can be worn during practice with the only requirement being suitable flat soled shoes.

Various Levels and Types of Competitions

Pennant Bowls

Boronia Bowls Club currently enters:

- 3 Sides of 16 in Saturday Pennant competition
- 4 Sides of 12 in Midweek Pennant played on Tuesday

Saturday Pennant

Saturday Pennant is an 18-week season, beginning early October, and completing in mid- late March each year. Most sections run a 16 person, 10 team competition, and we play each side twice, once at home, and once away. There is a mid-season break between Christmas and mid-January each year. Whilst the rules governing Pennant each year do change, the key elements you should be aware of for Pennant are:

- Bowls Victoria current runs a Premier Division (1 Section), Division 1 (4 Sections), and Divisions 2-7 (8 Sections each). They also run a 12-a-side Division (4 Sections).
- Pennant teams are made up of 16 players, played in four rinks of four players each.
- The team earns 2 points for each winning rink, and 10 points for winning overall. Drawn rinks split the points. Ladder positions are determined by total points, then by the difference in shots for and shots against.
- The top four sides in each section play knockout finals to determine the Section winner with the top 2 sides having home side advantage in the Semi Finals.
- Section winners in Divisions 2-8 play a knockout competition against the other 7 Section winners to determine the Metropolitan Champion for each Division.
- Division 1 play a knockout competition against the other 3 Section winners.
- Premier Division plays a final 4 system over 3 rounds, 1v2, 3v4; Loser 1v2 v Winner 3v4, Grand Final.
- There is also a Women's Only Pennant Division on Tuesday.

Midweek Pennant

Midweek Pennant is divided into three competitions, a Women's Only Pennant and two Open Pennants. The first is obviously restricted to women only, while participants in the Open Divisions can be any combination of women and men.

The Women's Only Pennant currently runs a Premier Division (1 Section) and Division 1 (2 Sections). The Open Pennant currently runs Divisions 1 to 4 (8 Sections), and a Division 5 (6 Sections). The Open 6-a-side Pennant currently runs Division 1 (5 Sections).

Midweek Pennant follows the same format as Saturday Pennant, except that Sides are made up of 12 bowlers in 3 teams of four or 6 bowlers in 2 teams of three. Allocation of points, and the finals formats are as outlined for Saturday Pennant.

Club Championships

Included in the Fixture Book are the Club Championship events scheduled for the year. Participation in these events is a great way to get to know your fellow members, and to improve your game. The following Club Championship events (separate for men and women) normally scheduled each season include:

- Men's and Women's Singles

- Men's and Women's Pairs
- Men's and Women's Triples
- Men's and Women's Fours
- Men's Minor 2 bowl Singles
- Men's Open 2 bowl Singles
- Men and Women's Minor 4 Bowl Singles
- Men and Women's Proportional 100 Up Singles
- Novice Singles (Ron Eastlake Trophy)
- Mixed Pairs

Eastern Ranges Bowls Region Titles

Eastern Ranges Bowls Region conducts annual Region Championship Events, which are open to all bowlers who are currently affiliated with Bowls Victoria, including:

- Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Under 25 Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Over 60's Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Over 60's Pairs (Men's and Women's)
- Novice Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Pairs (Men's and Women's)
- Triples (Men's and Women's)
- Fours (Men's and Women's)
- Champion of Champions Singles (Men's and Women's)

Bowls Victoria State Titles

The winners of the Regional titles are then eligible to participate in the corresponding events for the State Championships conducted by Bowls Victoria.

The Over 60's State Singles (Men's and Women's) are contested towards the end of November, while the Over 60's State Pairs (Men's and Women's) are contested in mid- December.

The State Men's and Women's Novice Singles are contested in early January, with the Men's and Women's Under 25 Singles contested in mid-January.

State titles for the remaining Region events are conducted during State Championship Week in April.

Bowls Victoria also conducts annual State Championship Events for Under 18 Singles, Pairs and Triples (Men's and Women's). These events are spread out during the season, with the finals held in the first week of April.

Club Tournaments

Boronia Bowls Club also runs a number of Invitational events throughout the year. These events are often sponsored either by the Club or outside organisations, and currently include:

- Open Triples and Fours (self selected teams)
- Gala Day (self selected teams). This is a major fund raising day for the Club
- Classic Day Open Fours
- President's Day.(Members only)
- Ladies Trophy Day (Members only)
- Chandler Triples (Members only)
- Easter Cup (Members only)

Please refer to the Calendar of Events in the Fixture Book and the Tournament noticeboard for further information.

Bowling at Other Clubs

Bowling Clubs around Australia usually welcome visiting bowlers, so when you go on holidays, always take your bowls, shoes and clothes. Bowling at other clubs, both in Victoria and interstate, gives you good experience with different environments and types of greens. Also, bowlers are generally a friendly group and usually make you welcome at their club.

Social Bowls & Activities

Social bowls is a fantastic way to be involved and also helping to raise much needed funds for the Club.

Boronia Bowls Club has a reputation for running a fabulous program of events for bowlers both from Boronia and other clubs held regularly throughout the season.

Mixed Social Bowls events are held regularly throughout the bowls season year. They include:

Wednesday Mixed Pairs (entry fee and prizes)

Sunday Mixed Fours scheduled bi monthly during the season. These events are enjoyable days for all.

There are also other events throughout the year, including Melbourne Cup Day Eve, William Angliss Charity Day in March and Easter.

Team lists and dates are maintained on the Notice Boards for all the events mentioned above. For most of these events, in addition to nominated teams, there is usually a list for those who want to play casually and/or who are not in a team on a regular basis, or be an emergency should the event be filled on any particular day. All events are usually listed in the Fixture Book.

Indoor Carpet Bowls events are held regularly throughout the autumn to spring seasons, May to August.

Throughout the year there are various social activities arranged for the benefit of members and friends. Some of these activities are detailed in the Fixture Book and others are advertised on the Social Notice Board, which is located in the foyer of the clubrooms. The cost of these activities is quite reasonable, and profits from these functions are used to improve facilities and amenities of the Club.

Guests are welcome at any of the Social functions held at the club.

Guests at the Club

Always feel free to bring family and friends to the Club as your guests. However, whenever you do, you must ensure that they sign the Visitors Book located in the foyer of the clubrooms. The Visitors Book is a requirement of the Liquor Control Act. Whilst your guests are at the Club you are responsible for their behaviour.

If you have any family members or friends interested in playing bowls invite them along the Barefoot Bowls on Friday nights held during the bowls season.

General Information

Good sportsmanship and Etiquette

Unusual incidents not provided for in the Laws of Bowls will occur occasionally. You should remember that the Laws and By-Laws have been framed in the belief that TRUE SPORTSMANSHIP WILL PREVAIL.

Bowls Accessories

Club bowls accessories such as badges, bowls rings, caps and hats as well as other items can be purchased from the Bar. Rule books are available the Bar.

Lockers

For a nominal annual fee a locker may be available for storage of bowls, etc. Enquiries to the Executive Secretary.

Clubhouse Keys

Keys are available from the Executive Secretary for a nominal deposit. This key enables access to the Clubrooms during the day, as well as the Mat and Jack box.

Club Newsletter

This newsletter is entitled "Toucher Topics" and is published periodically throughout the season and available free of charge for members on-line or hard copy. Members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication in this newsletter.

Club Uniform

The club shirts with the colours brown and gold, as well as cream or white shorts or pants are required to be worn for pennant games. You will be required to buy one of these shirts before playing in any game (see the Executive Secretary for cost etc). Other Club games require either pennant or bowls uniforms unless they are designated Mufti (street clothes).

In Conclusion

The Club is always looking to welcome new members, whether new or experienced bowlers.

If you know of anyone of any age, who may be interested in bowls, please invite them to our club. A good starting point is our regular Friday Night Barefoot Bowls.

Do not consider bowls to be a sport for old people, it is a sport older people can play.

Above all else, ENJOY bowling to the best of your ability at the friendly Boronia Bowls Club.