

You will get a great welcome... and a membership card with details of all members and most of the bowling fixtures and events that take place. Social Events will be advertised on the noticeboard.

Parking and Access to the Bowling Club

Preferably use the car park by the cricket pitch if there is space. But we do share the use of this with Ashted Cricket Club whose it is (so we need to take great care ... to park neatly between the lines and not block in our friends in the cricket club). Alternatives are Moat Court, behind the library when it is closed, Meadow Road or Walter's Mead. Always respect the need for access of local residents.

Avoid parking in Woodfield Lane if possible, even when the parking restrictions in the Lane are not in force, and definitely do not park on the pavement.

When walking between the car park and cricket pavilion, if a cricket match is in progress, to avoid disturbance to the batsmen, please do this only between overs or when the wicket keeper is at the footpath end of the cricket pitch.

Playing Details

Members may bowl at the club during the season as indicated in the fixture card.

Mondays evenings are general mixed club nights, Wednesdays evenings are for ladies, and Thursday evenings are for men.

At other times, for competitions you may book a rink by entering the details in the rinks book which is on the table by the serving hatch, or play in other roll-ups that may be arranged from time to time. Rinks are allocated by the green ranger.

The rinks book indicates the direction of play on each day, either Hillside or Pavilion, and this must be strictly adhered to. Play can commence at 12.00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and at 10.30 on other days.

You may arrange to play a fellow member after these times when a rink is available. If the green is "soft" due to rain or at the start of the season, then it may be necessary to use the mesh mats that are provided in the Shed. Please watch for notices regarding the need for mesh mats. There's information about how to use mesh mats under 'Bowling at Ashted'.

Dress code

Generally you must wear white above the waist and grey below the waist and flat-soled shoes, except for matches in the afternoons against other clubs when you would normally wear white below the waist. Also you would wear a club shirt for all matches. For more information please see under 'Bowling at Ashted'.

Matches

The club plays in various leagues, and also plays friendly games against many clubs. All members are welcome to offer to play in these matches, and “sign up” sheets are posted on the men’s and ladies notice boards about 4 weeks before each match. If you wish to play, just tick your name and make a note in your diary. About 10 days before each match, the teams are chosen from the names offered, and the sheets are then turned over to advise members of the teams.

For league matches, the strongest team will be picked to represent the club. If you have been selected, please tick your name again to confirm. If you have become unavailable, please talk to the match captain as soon as possible and then cross out your name on the team sheet.

If a member signs up for a friendly match, and is picked as a Reserve and does not play, they will be selected for the next appropriate fixture they sign for.

When a player is a Reserve, they should remain available for the day of the match. Reserves should be available to be contacted by the Captain of the day, and if not called by 12.00 noon can consider themselves not required. Members listed as Reserves on the team sheet are in no particular order i.e. there is no 1st Reserve or 2nd Reserve, etc. A Reserve will be selected based on their ability to fill the position vacated by the player who has withdrawn.

If a member has been picked and subsequently has to withdraw, they should ‘phone the Captain of the day immediately. The Captain will contact the appropriate Reserve. The Captain is the only member who can transfer Reserves names to a team. If a player is selected as a Reserve and then “Crosses Off”, they are no longer a Reserve and the “Reserve” category does not apply.

If playing in a match, please arrive at least 15 minutes early. Your bowls must have club stickers. These are available from the bar or from the captains.

Refreshments are usually provided at the end of the match and the type of refreshments for each match is indicated in the fixture card. If the match is away, car transport is arranged between the players and a “fare” is indicated on the team sheets is paid by passengers to their driver. After any match, it is traditional for each member of the home team to offer to buy a drink for their opposite number in the team, and for this offer to be reciprocated later. Members are expected to stay for the refreshments unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The club needs your support in playing in matches, so please offer to play when you are available.

For home matches, the captain will select a rink that will be responsible to arrive 30 minutes early and put out all the equipment necessary for all the rinks. Check if you are required to do this.

After the refreshments, 4 members will be nominated to help with washing-up.

During a match:-

Watch the line of the jack and the bowls and the development of the head, and be ready to bowl when it is your turn.

On the conclusion of each end and when the score has been agreed, assist in removing the bowls, mat and jack in order to keep the game flowing.

After you have bowled, stand back 2 metres from the mat and watch the rest of the bowls. Stand still and do not talk when players are bowling.

If the jack is driven close to or into the ditch, stand on the bank. Allow the number 3s a clear view of the rink so that they may advise your skip if required.

Keep away from the head when the 3s are measuring.

Reserve your conversation for the time between ends if at all possible.

Club Competitions

Many different competitions are held during the season and an application form will need to be returned as advised, normally in the 1st quarter of the year.

In your first year, an Australian pairs, a 100-up pairs and a "0 to 3" handicap competition will be available.

Some of the main competitions have a handicapping system.

Handicaps

You will be given a handicap up to level 10 before each season starts. The handicaps are internal and not comparable with other Clubs. The previous year's handicap is used as a base. The latest year's performance in general play and Club competitions is used to adjust each member's handicap as necessary.

Each player in a handicap group is compared with the players in the same group to check whether any member should be moved up or down if they do not fit comfortably by ability.

Each group is compared with the one above and below for the same reason. These then become the new handicaps for the year.

The handicap is a measure of a member's general standard of play and is not based solely on results; there are too many variables. Players are observed throughout the season to arrive at as fair a judgement as possible.

The handicaps are considered for League matches and some internal competitions.

Around and on the Green

It is important that bowlers are not disturbed when bowling and that you are ready to bowl when it is your turn. Please observe our etiquette - see under 'Bowling at Ashtead'.[\[add link\]](#).

Winter Activities

Many members join and play at local indoor clubs during the winter, e.g. Mole Valley, Wey Valley, Donyngs, and King George V. In our pavilion, we play short mat bowls.

Social events are held about once a month in the pavilion. Details are posted on the notice boards.

Lockers

The club provides lockers in the changing rooms for bowling equipment and clothing that members wish to leave on the premises. The club cannot accept responsibility for any personal items left on the premises.

Smoking Policy

The club operates a strict non-smoking policy in the pavilion, changing rooms, on the decking and on the green.

How you can assist in the Club

The club needs your help in many different tasks. If you are able to help, you can volunteer for:

- Changing rink markers and/or mowing the green in the summer

- Brushing the green in the summer and winter

- Acting as a bar steward. The bar manager will provide training.

- Assisting with refreshments

- Occasional washing up duties

- Joining the working party that meets at 09.30 each Wednesday morning to maintain the fabric of the club house and grounds.

- Assisting in the running of the club via the committees.

- Helping to arrange club bowling events or social events.

Club Security

The club house has a keypad door lock. Our membership secretary will provide you with the details. All the other buildings are locked and you will be told where the keys are kept.

If you are the last person to leave the grounds, you must ensure that all buildings are locked and that the keys are safely stowed, and that all windows and doors to the club house are securely closed and locked. Also check that the building is left reasonably tidy.

Finally, if you are the last to leave in the winter please check that the thermostat is turned down low.

Communication with Members

A newsletter is sent to members occasionally. There are three meetings each year, a spring pre-season meeting, an autumn Section AGM meeting and a Club AGM. In addition, check all the notice boards in particular for club events, both bowling and social. Members must request the permission of the club secretary before posting notices. Please advise the membership secretary of your email address.