

# WELCOME TO THE WEST MELTON BOWLING CLUB

## President's message

*Welcome to our friendly Club.*

*I hope you are going to thoroughly enjoy being a member. We have excellent facilities for playing the game and also for enjoying the social side of bowls. Please do make yourself 'at home'. This information pack should help you get up to speed quickly with most of the things you need to know – either as a new member, transferring from another club or as a brand new bowler.*

*As President I am here to guide you, answer your questions and generally 'look out for you' in your first season in the club along with our Club Secretary, Match Convenors and Coaches.*

*Please feel free to call me Phone 021 0639355*

*Also available to help:*

*Secretary: Tracey Liddicoat Phone 027 4743915*

*Treasurer: Phillip Townsend Phone 029 4472450*

*Mens convenor: Bob Burnett Phone 942 9662*

*Womens convenor: Mary Burke Mobile 022 600 5297*

*Coaches: Bill Paekau, John Waller, Ron McNicholl and Lorraine Davis*

*Other key positions are listed on the General Noticeboard in the clubhouse and the Officers page on the club's website. The website has a wealth of information, covering all sorts of topics and I encourage you to browse through:*

[www.westmeltonbowlingclub.com](http://www.westmeltonbowlingclub.com)

*I look forward to your company at our West Melton Bowling Club.*

*Sincerely*

*Gretta Leigh, President 2022*

## Brief club history

The club was formed in 1978 and has a maniatoto green. The clubhouse was extended a few years later. We currently have approximately 66 members drawn from West Melton, Kirwee, Rolleston and even from Christchurch city. Two thirds are men and about one third ladies. Members ages range from the forties to the almost nineties. The club is run as an incorporated society with proper rules etc governed by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies. All positions are voluntary and members have freely given their time and skills to make your introduction to bowls a pleasant one.

## **Subscriptions**

We offer discounted fees for players new to the game of bowls.

First year you are required to pay just half the normal sub = \$92.50. Incidentally levies the club is required to pay to Bowls New Zealand, Bowls Canterbury and Malvern sub-centre are currently around \$100, so effectively all club stuff is free.

Thereafter full subs are payable, currently \$185. Those who have been members of another club transferring to West Melton pay the full subscription. They may be paid preferably by direct credit to Westpac Bank 03-1553-0026387-000 or by cheque or cash to the Treasurer or EFTPOS at the club. Our constitution gives a maximum of sixty days for payment otherwise membership can be forfeited.

## **Club Premises Security/ Code of conduct**

Our secretary or our property person or most club members can explain how our security system works. Please ensure that you follow good safety procedures with the club's property. When you join our Club, you may obtain a key on payment of a small charge from the bar manager which enables you to enter both through the main Gate and the kitchen door adjacent to the green. Ask about this at the bar.

By signing your application form with a nominator and seconder you agree to be bound by the club's code of conduct and constitution. Details can be found in the club's constitution on our website. The board then must deal with all membership applications and for virtually all members this is a formality.

## **Under 5's / Development / Junior Status**

When you start playing lawn bowls and join a bowling club for the first time as a full member you are classified as a 'Under 5's' (you may also see or hear the terms 'Development' or 'Junior' used) Bowler for five years. This has absolutely nothing to do with your age, whether you are a younger player or a seventy year old, you start as an Under 5's Bowler. This system applies at all clubs affiliated to Bowls New Zealand. You will be an Under 5's Bowler for your first five years.

Previously this was known as a Development or Junior bowler. Some competitions held by various clubs still retain this terminology.

You are very lucky because you get to play in your own development grade events in our club as well as club events that have no status limited (e.g.: Fours, Triples and Pairs), at other clubs, and also at the Bowls Canterbury Centre, Colts, Junior and other championships. There are well over fifty bowling clubs in our Centre. Please note that you can also play in the Open events if they wish and once you've learnt the basics of the game it is excellent experience for you to do this. For example, there is absolutely nothing to stop you playing in the Bowls New Zealand National championships (held at bowling clubs somewhere in the country in around January each year).

In your very first season, if you should wish to do so you may not want to be what we loosely call a 'competitive bowler' at all and may decide to only play 'social' bowls and enjoy regular 'club night roll – ups' and that's fine too. Don't be in too much of a hurry to decide about just how competitive you want to be. Get in and give things a good go in your first year and see how you go! Many bowlers actually play a mix of social 'roll-up' bowls and some competitive games as well. Some want to get into it competitively, and that's fine too.

The main thing is – ENJOY YOUR BOWLS!!

## Your Bowling Gear

### Bowls

By far the most important purchase you will make will be your choice of bowls. At first glance it appears to be a fairly simple choice, but when you have played a few times you will understand that there is much to be considered. Firstly, there is the make of bowl. Each manufacturer produces a range of models unique to them. Each model within the range has slightly different characteristics and an individual bowl line. Lawn bowls are biased causing them to travel in a parabola (curve). Some take a narrower parabola and some are wider. Some follow a more even parabola and some have more of a distinct hook at the end of their travel. As well as bias there is size and weight to be considered. Bowls range in size from size 00 (smallest) to size 5, and there will be a size that is correct for your hand. It is very important that a bowl feels comfortable in your hand when using your preferred grip. Bowls can be either medium or heavy in weight with some makes and models offering extra heavy.

They can be regular or slim in their profile and this has also an effect on the size bowl you can manage. Some bowls have dimples on the side to assist your grip and others are smooth. It's a personal choice, choosing what feels best. Every set has its own individual colour markings and a motif. With some manufacturers you can pay a little extra and order your own personal motif. Obviously you will then have to wait for them to be made in Australia and shipped. Most people are happy to 'buy off the shelf'.

Our club has a number of sets of club bowls (located in boxes in the store-room) - We make these available to new bowlers to try out. We only ask that you sign them out in the book provided and sign them back in again at the end of the game. However, they **must not** be removed from the club premises without permission from a member of the board or member of the match committee. As a new member we encourage you to experiment with and practice with our club bowls (for free for the first season) before you decide to buy your own set of bowls. The second season onwards, we expect you to have purchased your own bowls either new or second-hand. Trademe is a good site. The Bowls Canterbury shop at their office also have a good range of bowls and equipment competitively priced. Brand new bowls cost anywhere from around \$550 to around \$600 – with coloured bowls usually being more expensive than black bowls. Most bowlers prefer coloured bowls these days.

Checkout the following manufacturer's websites:

[www.henselite.co.nz](http://www.henselite.co.nz)<<http://www.henselite.co.nz/>>

[www.comfitpro.co.nz](http://www.comfitpro.co.nz)<<http://www.comfitpro.co.nz/>>

[www.bowlsdirect.co.nz](http://www.bowlsdirect.co.nz)<<http://www.bowlsdirect.co.nz/>>

Talk to one of our club coaches, quiz other members on their choice – read up about the manufacturers and generally take your time before buying. Some manufacturer's /agents have sets of trial bowls available – and it's well worthwhile to trial if you can before you commit. Remember, even experienced, successful bowlers are very unlikely to have personally used certain makes and models and bowlers have a natural tendency to recommend what they use! Some bowlers inherit a set of old family 'heirloom' bowls – beware – it is unlikely they will fit your hand properly and the bowls being made today are definitely superior in handling and running characteristics. Like all sports gear, bowls move on and improve!

When you find a set that suits you – cherish them. A well looked after set of bowls should last you 15 or 20 years. Dry them thoroughly after use and apply a sparing amount of bowls polish regularly to help protect them from scratching and marking. A few marks on your bowls won't affect their performance but over time as the bowls wear and get progressively scratched it does affect their bias and run on the green.

## **Bowls Bags**

Look around at what other members are using. Bowling bags need to hold a complete set of four bowls, compartments for other gear, are priced from \$60 to \$140. A lot use a hand luggage bag; you do not have to have a purpose built bag.

Many women bowlers (and a growing number of men), are now using the 'glide' type of bag, with wheels that you can easily pull along, rather than lifting. Bags are typically made in tough vinyl or fabric. The fabric tends to last longer. Check the zip, this is very important. To start, you may opt to use an older, second hand bag and that's OK – as long as it protects your bowls properly. Do not overfill your bag with unnecessary items as you will soon find it can get rather heavy – a particular problem if you have to park some way away from the club you are visiting.

## **Measures**

You won't need a Bowl to Jack measure as soon as you start (you can ask to borrow someone else's) but it's definitely something you will want to own eventually. Henselite and Taylors both make measures. They are surprisingly expensive, around \$45 plus, so you'll want to look after your measure and keep it in a safe place in your bag. Perhaps you can suggest to your family or friends that it will make a good Christmas or birthday present – becoming a bowler opens up a whole new range of possibilities for presents!

## **Bowling Shoes**

To protect the Bowling Green, flat soles are essential. It is important to have comfortable, good fitting bowling shoes, when you are spending all day on the green, especially in the hot summer months. There is a great range of makes and styles available and a wide range of prices. A good suggestion for when you are starting out is to go to Kmart or 'The Warehouse' and get yourself a pair of their cheaper white bowling shoes ('British' brand – usually under \$35). This will get you started and you may even find they are so comfortable you don't need to invest in more expensive shoes. If you do buy some more expensive shoes, your 'Warehouse' shoes will still be useful for practice sessions and as a back-up. A tip to make your bowling shoes last longer is to change into them just before you play and keep them only for bowls. If you walk around the shops and on concrete surfaces with your bowling shoes on they will wear out much faster!

## **Apparel**

West Melton Bowling club shirts and are available and you will probably want one of these sooner rather than later. If you are representing the club in interclub you will definitely need one, the cost is around \$50 each.

Both men and women will need Royal Blue or White/Cream trousers or shorts for the hardy men or calf length for women. It is suggested that you wear White Underclothing, as coloured under garments do stand out quite strongly beneath the white outer garments.

To stay warm you'll need a suitable white or cream pullover (vest or long sleeves or you can buy a smart, well designed West Melton Bowling Club jacket.

Having the right clothing is important so that you look your best on behalf of the club.

When you are playing on behalf of the club the rules say that you must all be wearing the same colour / design shirt and trousers/shorts. Of course you can all opt to wear plain white but, if your team is playing in a Bowls Canterbury Centre competition, it is great if you all choose to wear the club's colours.

One good suggestion for men (and women) bowlers is to go to a sports shop that stocks cricket gear. Often you will find that the drawstring type of white pants that cricketers wear are

comfortable and smart on the Bowling Green. Another tip – when the cricket season is finishing (March/April) you can often pick up white clothing including trousers, socks, shirts and pullovers at SALE prices, to put away for the next bowls summer season.

When you have been playing for a season or two and you are starting to play in a lot more competitive games, you may want to consider buying yourself some white wet weather bowling gear. Playing interclub, you can normally expect some games to be affected by the weather and unless it's really raining, play often continues.

There are no storage facilities for your bowls at our club.

## **Coaching**

Like any game, bowls is more enjoyable and you will progress faster with a little bit of qualified guidance. Although bowlers all naturally develop their own individual 'trademark' style, it is important when you are starting out to get the basics right – your grip, stance, swing, rhythm, transfer of body weight and your follow through. In addition, group coaching is available by arrangement. For Development or Senior bowlers and you can approach one of our club coaches at any time for some one on one coaching.

Our coaches are:

John Waller accredited (also an accredited Umpire), Ron McNicholl, Bill Paekau and Lorraine Davis. Session usually Monday 6pm or by arrangement.

Don't be shy – they are all ready to help you!

## **Roll-ups and social bowls**

In many ways social bowls are the 'life and soul' of the club.

By participating, you will be able to practice and improve your bowls, and you'll quickly meet a lot of other members and start to enjoy all the benefits of membership. It is also a very good way of being 'spotted' by some of the more experienced players and getting an invitation to join them in their teams for competitions.

During the summer season we have a roll-up at 6pm sharp every Tuesday (Ladies) Wednesday (Men) unless there are Club competitions taking place or there are spare rinks and on Saturday afternoons when there are no Interclub or Malvern competitions.

For Men most club competitions that is the Triples and Pairs are played on Wednesday evenings. Fours are usually over a spare weekend all day both days and Singles arranged in your own time. The Match committee (i.e. the Match convenor and his/her assistants) select teams for the club Triples and Fours by seeding positions and drawing names. West Melton does not select teams for club games based on who happen to be the top players. For the club Pairs you can pick your own partner.

You will find everyone will go out of their way to help you enjoy yourself. Don't worry that you haven't played much – nobody will give a toss. Roll-ups are played in good humour, with lots of talking and laughing and often a bit of friendly banter. Just be careful not to bowl too many 'wrong biases' – as we have a donation box in the club house, you are expected to contribute \$1 for every 'wrong bias' bowled!

In addition, as a member, you can come down and make up your own games at any time just as long as it doesn't clash with any competitive bowls being played in our club calendar (see club

Handbook). Unless otherwise advised by the Match committee, casual dress is the norm. The club's coloured uniform is mandatory for all games representing the club as well as Canterbury Centre events. A club shirt must be worn if having a roll up or other game (e.g.: club Singles match) if there is an interclub or Canterbury fixture in progress.

During the winter indoor season there are no bowls as our green is not suitable for winter playing. The normal bowling season is around mid-Sept to mid-April.

## **Practice**

Practice as much as you can as it helps you get a flying start with your 'bowling career' – and it's also a very good habit to get into no matter how long you've played. Your coach will suggest suitable practice routines – these notes cover the practical stuff you need to know to stay in the good books of the Green keeper.

In the summer you can practice on the green, providing it is open for play. If the green is not open there will be a 'GREEN CLOSED' sign on the board just inside the gate.

Next point – please look for the arrows indicating the direction of play on each Green. We rotate the direction of play (and also move the rink pegs around) to help wear the green evenly. Please practice on the pegs, not the rink numbers – this means you place the mat and line up your jacks on the pegs, not the numbers as you would do in an organised roll-up or competitive game.

Mats and jacks for practice use can be found outside in the shelter. Ask an established member to show you how the system works – and please don't forget to put all the gear away and if you are last on the green, lock up when you've finished including the Club House and the Gate.

## **Entering Events**

See your Match convenor early in the season and they will help you enter these events.

Club championships are defined as separate Men's and Women's events (singles, pairs, triples and fours) with the winners going on to the champion of champion Bowls Canterbury Centre play-offs. Other Club trophy events such as Presidents, Mixed Pairs, Husband and Wife Pairs etc are also there for you to enter.

Caution about entering events. Don't over commit yourself or enter without checking the follow up date or dates for playing in the events – meaning that if you survive the opening day games you also have to be available for subsequent play. Of course, if you happen to be ill, or there is some unexpected or compelling reason why you become unavailable, you will need to arrange a substitute or replacement for team events but obviously not for singles.

Under 5's players can also enter Open events as well and you enter the same way as described above.

Give it a go!

### **Your Match Committees are:**

Ladies: Mary Burke, Joyce Walsh, Vonnie Clark.

Men: Bob Burnett, Andy Weber

### Entering Bowls Canterbury Centre competitions

The first thing is to make sure you get a Bowls Canterbury Handbook or check in the copy held in the Club Room Office (available from around mid-September at the club). This Handbook has all the details about entering Centre competitions – playing dates, playing formats and conditions of play, closing dates for entries and, importantly, the actual entry forms for each event. You fill in your entry, pay online the specified amount and send to the Centre – see the Handbook. When you play in Centre events you are playing to win a Centre title – something that all bowlers value highly.

### Champion of Champion Events

Club championship winners at West Melton automatically qualify to represent the club in the Bowls Canterbury Centre champion of champion play-off events. If you qualify for a champion of champion event, our club will take care of the entry form and entry fee. Please note that each Championship event has cut off dates for completion of all rounds, this is to ensure that the Final is played in time for the Club to enter the winner(s) with the Centre.

If you fail to play your game by the cut-off date you WILL be disqualified.

### **Interclub competitions**

Our club selects and enters teams in various grades of the Bowls Canterbury

Interclub. There are separate competitions for men and women. Interclub is open to all players including 'Under 5's' players and is played on specified weekend dates.

There is also a separate Under 5's Interclub competition (either Pairs [2-4-2] or Triples) played on Thursday evenings and this is a mixed competition – any combination – meaning our selectors pick the best possible teams irrespective of gender.

You will receive an availability sheet on which you can indicate that you wish to play in any particular event (if selected).

If you get the chance to play interclub – grab it – its good fun and camaraderie and great experience playing as part of a team at other bowling clubs in the Centre. Your Selectors are in effect the applicable match committee.

To enter open competitions at another club you ring the contact name listed in the Centre Handbook. Less experienced bowlers are frequently asked to play in teams being entered by experienced bowlers – but there is also nothing to stop you entering your own 'Development' team. Again, good fun and a really good experience when learning to play on various greens surfaces.

Other clubs also have dedicated Under 5's/Development/Juniors only mixed – any combination tournaments, usually all played on Sundays. They're all fiercely contested by some of the best development bowlers in the Centre. Look in the Bowls Canterbury Handbook for the complete programme of events.

## **Club social events**

On a Saturday evening in early December we have our Club Christmas Dinner which is usually catered. We also have a BBQ or fish n' chip dinner from time to time to which all club members are invited, usually under way about 5pm onwards.

Between seasons (i.e. over winter), there are fortnightly card / board game evenings with \$2 per person charged which helps us pay for the supper.

## **Newsletters and Club Website**

There is a weekly newsletter sent by email during the bowling season. This has results, info on upcoming events etc, along other information from time to time. Often there are links to web pages/files for more info.

Current and Past newsletters can be found at [www.westmeltonbowlingclub.com/newsletter](http://www.westmeltonbowlingclub.com/newsletter)

Unfortunately, this service is only available to those with an email address. See Andy Weber for details.

Other emails are also sent as needed so keep an eye out for them as well. You should add [newsletter@westmeltonbowlingclub.com](mailto:newsletter@westmeltonbowlingclub.com) to your address book and safe senders list to make sure the emails make it to your Inbox.

Adding [secretary@westmeltonbowlingclub.com](mailto:secretary@westmeltonbowlingclub.com) to your address book and safe senders list is also a good idea.

Keep an eye on the club website at [www.westmeltonbowlingclub.com](http://www.westmeltonbowlingclub.com)

There is lots of good information about the club, history, photos, all sorts of information. The website was developed as a place where you get information about the club, club weekly program and other events and results.

**Have a happy and enjoyable time bowling  
at West Melton!**