

1. Booking Rinks for Play.

- 1.1. The Online Rink Diary is on the Club Website and indicates the rinks for play for each day and is used to book rinks for play.
- 1.2. All play on the day will be played as indicated without exception.
- 1.3. Rinks are pre-booked by the Competitions Secretary for all Club Competitions
- 1.4. Players requiring a rink for other Competitions should book an available rink for the appropriate session.
- 1.5. Players requiring a Rink on the evening when the whole green has been booked for an event in the day *must* consult the Competition Secretary who will make very reasonable effort, without compromising the booked event, to accommodate the request.

1.6. Rules for Reservation of Rinks 2026.

1.6.1. Time Slots

There are five two-hour slots during the day, plus a four-hour slot in the evening. This is more flexible and economical. Two slots can be reserved for long games during the day, such as County Pairs, Triples and Fours; Single slots can be reserved for short games or practise thus avoiding rink blocking which can occur with longer time slots. These timings also fit well with Club Events, Leagues, Progressive Competitions and Social Bowling. It is assumed that most County Competitions will be scheduled for the longer evening slot. If they are played in the afternoon, reserve Time Slots 4 and 5, i.e. from 14.00 to 18.00 hrs.

1.6.2. *Do not reserve double slots from 16.00 hrs. (i.e. Time slots 5 and 6).*

Time Slot 1: 0800 to 10.00 hrs.

Time Slot 2: 12.00 to 12.00 hrs.

Time Slot 3: 12.00 to 14.00 hrs.

Time Slot 4: 14.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Time Slot 5: 16.00 to 18.00 hrs.

Time Slot 6: 18.00 to 22.00 hrs.

1.6.3.Timings

All games, (apart from those reserved by the Competition Secretary for Progressives, Leagues and Fixed Day Competitions), must begin as soon as possible after the start of the reserved Time Slot, and must be completed before the end of the reserved Time Slot

1.7.Rink Reservation

Rinks reserved by the Competition Secretary, (for Progressive Competitions), the Men's Captain and the Ladies' Captain, (for National Competitions), are for actual Rink Numbers.

All other Rink Bookings are not for a specific rink. They are to reserve a rink at that time slot. A draw for available rinks will be carried out by a responsible person before the start of the games. In the evening session, when most County Competitions will be played, one rink has already been reserved between Friday 1 May 2026 and Saturday, 18 July, so that the final game in the draw will have a choice of two rinks. (i.e. only five rinks can be reserved on any one day).

It is therefore not necessary to reserve two rinks on the same day for National or County Competitions.

1.8.Provisional Rink Reservations.

Provisional Rink reservations should be made when offering dates, (three dates for Bowls England competitions; two dates for Bowls Lancashire competitions). Provisional reservation is only possible 48 hours in advance. The Rink Diary will offer between 1 and 3 days for the duration of the provisional reservation; select the three-day option to give the opposition time to respond.

When the opposition has made their choice, confirm the date manually within the Rink Diary (within 3 days), or all provisionally reserved dates will be deleted.

1.9.Payment

Club Members can reserve a rink free of charge for practice, re-arranged games for League or Progressive competitions, County competitions and National competitions. However, any members

of their team who are not BFGBC members are subject to a £10 green fee. The BFGBC member is responsible for collecting and paying these fees. Failure to do so will rescind the Rink Diary registration.

Non-Members of BFGBC who choose to play their County or National competitions at BFGBC (subject to rink availability) are subject to a green fee of £10 per person. Booking will not be allowed where only two slots remain on any individual time slot. Rinks must be reserved and paid for in advance through the Rink Diary administrator (currently Ken Hayes).

1.10.County Events, Leagues, Fixed Day Competitions, Progressive competitions, Friendly Games and all other Club events.

The Competition Secretary will reserve all these events in the Rink Diary.

2. General Rules

2.1.Club Competitions are organised by the Competitions Secretary assisted by the Competitions Sub Committee.

2.2.Club Competitions, except where specifically stated are played according to the **Laws of the Sport**.

2.3.The Dress Code for Club Competitions is Smart Casual except Finals Weekend when Whites with Club Shirt are worn.

2.4.Players in Club Competitions are required, if they qualify, to compete on Finals Weekend. Once they become aware that they cannot play on Finals Weekend they are *required* to immediately withdraw from the competition. Dispensation *may* be granted by the Competitions Sub Committee, for a Player *required* to play in a County, Regional or National event in which case an alternative date will be designated by the Competition Secretary.

2.5.By reference to the Criteria for Play, the Green Steward, the Green and Surrounds Team Leader or, if neither is present, a Member of Club Executive, will rule on the fitness of the green for play, if necessary.

2.6. Players who enter competitions are required to fulfil their obligations to the full. Failing to do so may result in their entitlement to enter Club Competitions being reviewed by the Competition Sub Committee.

3. Club Competitions

The Club runs a wide range of Competitions for members. These fall broadly into three categories:

- Knockout Competitions usually played through the season with fixed dates, times and rinks for each round with the Final played on Finals Weekend.
- Round Robin Competitions played to provide finalists over a single day with the Final played on Finals Weekend.
- League Competitions played over a number of weeks during the season.

3.1. Played through the season on allocated days / rinks

Name	Type	Format	Starting the game
Williamson Trophy	Men's Singles Championship	21 Up	2 Trial ends of 4 bowls each
Hunt Cup	Ladies Singles Championship	21 Up	2 Trial ends of 4 bowls each
As the winner of the Williamson and the Hunt Cup qualify for National Champion of Champions in the following season, members who also belong to another Club from where they enter their National Championships OR where they enter the Club Championships, will not be permitted to enter.			
McNair	Handicap Singles M/F <i>See rules below</i>	21 Up	2 Trial ends of 4 bowls each
Challenge Pairs	Open Pairs M/F	16 Ends	No Trial Ends – 2 Shots maximum on 1 st end only
Lawrence Gordon	Sets Singles M/F <i>See rules below</i>	2 Sets of 9 Ends 3 Tie Break ends which are decided by end won.	2. Trial ends of 4 bowls each

3.1.1. General Rules of competitions played through the Season on allocated days / rinks

a) Playing the game:

In singles the first drawn in each match is the challenger and must provide a competent marker.

Games must be played on the date and time scheduled unless the competitors mutually agree to play the game earlier. They may not be played later.

However, if the green is unfit for play, and no official (See 2.5 above) is present to rule on the matter, the players must agree and sign a declaration in the Pavilion Diary. They must then agree a time and date within seven days to play the fixture.

If the game is abandoned due to the green becoming unfit for play, the players must then agree a time and date within seven days to complete the fixture.

If one side is not available to play within fifteen minutes of the scheduled start time the opponent may claim the game.

If both players fail to turn up, they will both be scratched from the competition.

The winner(s) must both notify the Competition Secretary of the result and update the Draw Sheet

b) Wild Cards

The Competition draw, at the discretion of the Competitions Committee may include Wild Cards. These are reserved for new members who join the Club after the Draw has been done but will be allocated no less than 8 days before the date when matches are to be played.

They will be allocated to "first come, first served" by the Competition Secretary

Players nominated to play against a Wild Card must be prepared to play as scheduled.

c) Matches that clash with County or National competitions

If a Club Competition has been allocated on the same date a County or National Competition has been scheduled, arrangement should be made to play in advance. If a date cannot be agreed then the matter must be referred by the player who has the conflict to the Competition Secretary, at least 5 days before the match is scheduled, for a decision. Failure to do so will result in the game being forfeit.

3.1.2.Additional Rules: Lawrence Gordon

- a. Handicaps (for new entrants in the competition) will be allocated by the Competitions Committee
- b. The winner of the toss may keep or give away the jack.
- c. The winner of the 1st set has the mat, jack and first bowl for the second set
- d. The winner of the toss for the 1st Tie Break end may keep or give away the Jack.
- e. Thereafter the winner of the previous end has the jack, mat and first bowl.
- f. If the jack in play, is hit beyond the boundary of the rink it must be placed 1.5 metres to the side of the centre line that it left the rink and 2 metres from the ditch.
- g. If the jack in play rebounds within the rink to a distance of less than 20 metres from the mat it must be placed on the centre line 2 metres from the ditch
- h. If the jack passes above the bank, it must be placed on the centre line 2 metres from the ditch
- i. If the appropriate placement spot is obstructed by a bowl; the jack must be placed on a straight line from the ditch through the designated spot at the nearest clear point available nearer the mat

3.1.3.Additional Rules: McNair Singles Handicap

Handicaps will be allocated by the competition Committee

a. Handicaps will commence at scratch

b. Minimum handicap is -6

c. The maximum handicap is 10

d. Initial Handicaps will reflect:

e. Past performance in club Singles Competitions

f. Past performance in County / National Competitions

g. Current and recent (last 5 years) International performance

h. Subject to (J and K), above: T

i. The previous year's Handicap winners handicap will be reduced by 2 shots, the Runner up will be reduced by 1 shot, and first round losers increased by 2 Shot.

j. Both players commence the game with the number of shots of their handicap.

3.2. Competitions played on a fixed day through to finalists

Name	Type	Gender	Format	Starting the game
Readey Trophy	Club Championship	Ladies / Gents	21 up	2 Trial ends of 4 bowls each
Les Colbourne Memorial Shield	Balloted Pairs (M/F)	Ladies / Gents	Round Robin competitions. The number of matches to be played and the number of ends per match will be determined by the Competitions Sub Committee once the number of Entrants is known. Start time is usually about 9:30 and the day will usually end by 18:00. Whilst players will be unlikely to be playing all day; they must be available to do so.	
Margaret Baker Trophy	Balloted Triples (M/F)	Ladies / Gents		
Atherton Thind Trophy	Mixed pairs	Mixed		
Howlett Trophy	Ladies Pairs	Ladies		
Spencer Trophy	Mixed Triples	Mixed		
Eddie Morgan Trophy	Over 50's Pairs	Ladies / Gents		
J & W Cropper Trophy	Early Bird Singles	Ladies / Gents		
J & B Branche Trophy	Australian Pairs Balloted	Ladies / Gents		
	Two Bowl Pairs	Ladies/Gents		

3.2.1. General Rules for Round Robin Competitions

a. The Competition Steward will make any necessary decisions about the fitness of the green for play

- b. The Draw and Programme for the Competitions will be published at least 7 days before the competition
- c. Players should be ready for play at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of their first match and each subsequent match (subject to having completed their previous match)
- d. Notwithstanding Rule 3.2.1 c. above, players will be permitted a 5-minute break between playing consecutive rounds.
- e. If there is insufficient time to complete a competition due to the number of rounds to be played, or if later rounds are deferred by the Competition Steward due to weather, then outstanding matches will be played by the date(s) set by the Competition Steward."

3.2.2.Additional rules for Balloted Competitions

- a) Players will be seeded by the Competition Secretary or Steward.
- b) Once seeded, players may play in any order and may change the order for each match.

3.3. League Competitions

3.3.1.General Rules for Leagues

- a) Leagues are played on fixed days of the week at fixed times. If you enter a League Competition, it is essential that you are available to play on the day specified for that particular competition.
- b) The Club Executive will decide each year which Leagues will be run that year and day and time for each league
- c) Once entered players are expected to fulfil all their fixtures, failure to do may result in exclusion from leagues in subsequent years
- d) If, in exceptional circumstances, (i.e. illness or holidays), it is necessary to re-arrange a fixture, it should be played on or before the next allocated "catch up day". The need to re-arrange the fixture and the plans to

reschedule must be notified to the Competitions Steward.

- e) If it is necessary to suspend a match, due to weather or exceptional circumstances, arrangements must be made to complete the match at a later date.
- f) Players should be in attendance at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time and ready to play on time.
- g) If, once all matches have been completed there is a tie, on points at the top of the table, the winner will be the player with the better shot difference. (If shot difference is equal, the winner will be decided by the individual game between the two teams/players)
- h) Dress for Leagues is greys with Club or white shirt.

3.3.2.Singles League

- a) Players will be scheduled to play only one match per day and will also be scheduled to mark a match on some of their match days
- b) Games are "21 up" with a maximum of 1 shot on each of the first two ends.
- c) 2 Points for a win.

3.3.3.Pairs League

- a) A maximum of 3 players may be registered for each team
- b) Players will be scheduled to play only one match per day
- c) 16 Ends with a maximum 2 shots on each of the first 2 ends
- d) Burnt ends are replayed
- e) 2 points for a Win and 1 for a draw

3.3.4.Triples League

- f) A maximum of 4 players may be registered for each team
- g) Players will be scheduled to play only one match per day
- h) 16 Ends with a maximum 2 shots on each of the first 2 ends

- i) Burnt ends are replayed
- j) 2 points for a Win and 1 for a draw

3.3.5.Australian Pairs League

- a) A maximum of 3 players may be registered for each team
- b) Players will be scheduled to play only one match per day
- c) 16 Ends with a maximum 2 shots on each of the first 2 ends
- d) Burnt ends are replayed
- e) 2 points for a Win and 1 for a draw
- f) Order of Play
 - Player 1 in each pair plays 2 bowls, Player 2 plays 4 bowls, then Player 1 plays 2 Bowls.
 - On each successive end the order reverses. i.e. On the next end; Player 2 plays first and deliver 2 bowls then Player 1 delivers 4 etc.

4.Finals Weekend

- a)** No player will be required to play more than 3 matches on a single day.
- b)** The Finals Weekend programme will be provided to competitors and officials not less than 6 days in advance
- c)** The draw for rinks will take place in the Clubhouse 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of the first match of the day
- d)** Players must report at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time. Failure to do so may result in disqualification
- e)** Dress for Finals Day is whites with Club Shirts
- f)** Matches will be played to the respective rules set out above.

Winners' names will be inscribed on the Honours Board when a substitute has been used, the names inscribed will be those playing on Finals Day.