

Birstall Bowling Club Newsletter

April 2021

Season 2021

Welcome to the 2021 outdoor season. With many restrictions still in place, the first half of the season won't be the same as usual but if things stay on track, we should be back to some sense of normality from the end of June...fingers crossed!

Many improvements have been made to the club during the winter and thanks should be given to a number of willing volunteers who have done, amongst other things, plastering, painting, electrics, guttering repairs and work around the green.

Coronavirus has affected everyone's lives in the past year. Many people won't have seen family or friends for months and haven't had the freedoms that they have been used to. There have been job losses and workers put on furlough and sadly, many deaths. Our thoughts should still be with those who have lost loved ones in the past year. Hopefully most of you will have had at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine but please bear in mind that the virus is still here and we are all too aware of how it can affect anyone.

Return to play: The good news that we are able to play again from Tuesday 6th April. This is limited to four players per rink if the whole green is being used. You can play as triples (6 on a rink) but there must be a rink gap between you and the next set of players. No mixing between groups of four or six is allowed and no spectators can attend at present.

For the first week please ring Richard Smith on 07816 284991 to book a rink. Further updates relating to the booking system will be circulated in due course following the government announcement concerning the next stage of the easing of restrictions, which is due w/c 5th April.

The green is open from 10.00am-8.00pm each day and you can play for as long as you like. Please do not arrive at the club more than ten minutes before your start time. You should be dressed to play, only changing your shoes near to the rink you are playing on. Mats and jacks must be sanitised before and after play with the facilities provided on the table near the entrance to the club. Only the toilets are open, the changing rooms and clubhouse are closed. There will be a QR code for you to scan so that we can support the NHS test and trace system.

Please remember to maintain 2 metre distancing at all times and you shouldn't visit the club if you have any symptoms of the virus or are feeling unwell.

Subscriptions due: Thanks to everyone who has paid their subscriptions for the year. A gentle reminder that you will not be allowed to play unless your subscription has been paid! Please contact Jan or Rick Everitt to arrange payment if you haven't done so already.

Club fixtures: All men's friendly fixtures for April have been cancelled. It is hoped that some internal matches will take place from mid-April and that friendly matches may resume in May. Although ladies' friendly fixtures for April haven't been cancelled, this is being reviewed as we go along. Emails will be sent members with any updates when arrangements have been made.

Club competitions: Competition entry forms are now available and were sent out with membership letters, please speak to either Jan or Rick Everitt to get a form if you haven't filled one in already.

Club website: For the latest news about the club, please visit the website where you can register to receive the latest updates by email. www.birstallbowlingclub.co.uk is the address

Updates: As we are in uncertain times at the moment, please keep an eye on the club, county and Bowls England websites for the latest updates. Emails will be sent out to members as soon as possible after any government announcements have been made.

National and County Competition News

Bowls England. The national competition draws are due to be published on their website by Friday 9th April. The closing dates each round for some of the national competitions for 2021 may be different so please be aware of this. Also, the format (number of bowls per player and number of ends per match) of certain championship qualifiers and competitions has changed to provide more flexibility for match arrangements in the qualifying stages and to enable the national finals to take place over a shorter period. These have been summarised [here](#)

The national finals will now run from Thursday 19th August to Sunday 5th September this year with a reduction in the number of qualifiers per county in each competition. This is a later start than normal to enable counties to get the qualifying rounds played should there be any delay in the relaxation of restrictions.

There is comprehensive information including competition dates as well as useful guidance in the News and Media section of their website www.bowlsengland.com

Bowls Leicestershire. The county championship and competition draws are on their website www.bowlsleicestershire.com Please be aware that some of the original dates have been changed to accommodate the restrictions that are currently in place regarding participating numbers per rink. It is probably wise for you to check which competitions you are in and which date your first game will be as it may have been 18 months since you entered!

As mentioned above, the format (number of bowls per player and number of ends per match) of certain championship qualifiers has changed so please check before you play your first game. The formats (taken from the Bowls England website above) are as follows: Singles (2 bowls/21 ends or 4 bowls/21 shots); Pairs (3 bowls per player/18 ends); Triples (2 bowls per player/18 ends); Fours (2 bowls per player/15 ends)