



Members' Guide

Welcome

This guide is designed to assist you in finding out information about the club, whether you are experienced or novice settling in, on or off the bowls green, or just being inquisitive!

If you have any queries, at any time, please contact any of the members detailed on the final page....particularly if you think we may have missed something in this guide and you'd like it adding.

Enjoy your bowling!

A copy of this guide and other club documentation relevant to the 2026 season is available [here](#) and also in the 'members Section' of the club website -

www.fleetsocialbowlingclub.co.uk

Introduction

Ours is a friendly, yet competitive club for both men and women of varying abilities. We provide a warm welcome to both beginners and experienced players – there is plenty of patience and assistance on hand to assist new members whatever their ability.

Beginners will be helped with coaching and guidance. The club has spare bowls available for use by beginners if you do not have your own set or need to practise before committing to buying a set.

The club is very flexible in the way in which it operates in that members can select the type of games and matches that best suit their lifestyle, whether it be friendlies, club competitions or league matches that are held throughout the season during the weekends or on weekdays.

Fleet Social Bowling Club [the Bowls Club] is part of Fleet Social & Bowling Club so all bowlers must take out membership of that organisation at the same time as joining the Bowls Club. The great advantage of this is that all members can make use of all the facilities of Fleet Social & Bowling Club, including the Social Club [the Social Club], *throughout the whole year, not just during the bowls season*. There are few bowls clubs with a fully staffed bar and club house. Further details are below.

If you are joining at the start of the season we'd encourage you to enter the internal competitions. Entering competitions is a great way to not only improve your bowling but most importantly to meet other players.

The Social Club

The Club is a private members club providing a full bar service at very competitive rates. Lunchtime and evening food is available. Snooker, Darts, Cribbage etc can be played. There are various competitions and social events during the year. The Steward is Mick, and the contact number is 01252 614835.

Bowls Club Constitution

A copy of the Bowls Club's Constitution is available [here](#).

Annual Subscription

For new members to both the social club and bowls club:

£140 – this comprises the Social Club's annual membership fee of £40, a once only joining fee of £5, and as a result of the generosity of our sponsors, a FREE club shirt and a pair trousers or shorts (see note below within 'Clothing & Equipment').

For existing members, including members of just the social club:

£100 for the bowls club plus £40 for the social club, payable separately.

Playing

The playing season is from mid-April through to late September/early October (depending on the weather and winter maintenance plans) – the green opens daily at 1030 hrs. This may be delayed until 1045/1100 hrs on Wednesdays whilst the contractor mows and otherwise attends to the green.

Please note the dress code guidelines [here](#). At all times on the green, flat soled shoes MUST be worn.

In order to reduce wear on the green we bowl both up and across the green on alternate weeks, in accordance with the Direction of Play Calendars displayed in the changing rooms and on the club website. Members must check before commencing play that the rink markers are correctly located for that day's play. Where the rink markers are incorrectly located for that day's play, the Member shall reposition the markers so that they are correct. It is Members' responsibility before play to do their best to ensure that any debris is removed from the green and the whole green is brushed and swished to remove any wormcasts. If the green is soft following rain, in order to avoid damage, the green representative may require the use of protection mats. A separate guide is available explaining their use.

The Club has spent many £'000's on maintaining and improving the green. It is a valuable club asset and needs to be protected. We have issued a '[Preservation of the green guide](#)' which explains about bad bowling, the damage it can cause and the Club's policy.

If you have any questions - ask! We try to cover most of the points within our coaching sessions.

BIAS

We have an on-line administration system, BIAS, which manages membership, leagues, games, knock out competitions, rink reservations and match fees . Guides to BIAS are available in pdf or on-line format. Please ask the BIAS admin team for more detail.

Reservation of Rinks

Rinks can be reserved at any time, but competitions and friendly matches against other teams have priority. Rinks are reserved using the BIAS app.

Roll-ups

If the green is open (see 'Playing' section above for opening times) any members can play or practise on any rink not booked, subject to the green being playable. For members who want to meet other bowlers, organised roll-ups for all skill levels are held weekly on Tuesdays starting at 1030hrs, Wednesdays at 1100hrs and Friday starting at 1600hrs. These usually consist of round robin games of limited length giving a great opportunity to meet new members on a casual basis. Players should try to arrive 15 minutes ahead of start times. There is no obligation, but some members stay after for some well-earned refreshment. Dress code for roll-ups is smart casual and flat soled shoes.

Club Competitions (Formal matches against fellow club members)

- **Men's Competitions:**
 - Men's Championship – singles, four woods, first player to reach 21.
 - Men's Pairs – players choose their partner. Four woods, highest score after 18 ends.

- **Ladies' Competitions:**
 - Ladies Championship – singles, four woods, first player to reach 21.
 - Ladies Millennium – singles, three woods played over 15 ends
 - Ladies Pairs – players choose their partner. Four woods, highest score after 18 ends.

- **Mixed Competitions**
 - Handicap Singles - four woods, first player to reach 21. Players are handicapped according to ability.
 - 2-Wood pairs – pairs, score after 21 ends.
 - 2-Wood Singles – score after 21 ends.
 - Garoka Pairs – pairs chosen at random. Four woods, highest score after 18 ends wins.
 - Mixed Pairs – players choose partner, four woods, highest score after 18 ends wins.
 - Novice Singles - four woods, first player to reach 21. Open to all members who have not previously won a singles competition in this club or any other club.

Inter Club Competitions (Formal matches against other local Club's members)

- **Aldershot & District (A&D) League - 3 x Mixed Rinks**
 - Tuesday evenings, 1800/1830hrs start.
 - Matches are in the fixture card.
 - The league has 5 divisions - we currently have four teams.
 - The format is 3 x teams of four players, each player having two woods, and is a great way to improve your game. If you are interested in playing, please contact the A&D Organiser.
 - Team selection is via BIAS.
 - Dress code – club colours.

- **Stan Hardman Thursday League - 3 Mixed Triples**
 - Thursdays, 1400hrs start.
 - Matches are in the fixture card.
 - These are mixed games, played in a friendly, yet competitive environment.
 - The League has four divisions – we have two teams.
 - Dress code – club colours.
 - If you would like to play, please contact the Stan Hardman organiser
 - Team Selection is via BIAS

Friendly Matches

- Saturdays and Sundays throughout the season, 1430-1500hrs start. Occasionally also Wednesday evenings.
- Matches are in the Club fixture card.
- These are semi-formal inter-Club games, very friendly fixtures, a great way of gaining playing experience and meeting other players. Refreshments are usually provided at the end (to be determined).
- Dress code – club colours.
- If you would like to play in a friendly game, please enter via BIAS.
- Team selection is via BIAS

District and County Competitions

If you are interested in entering District or County competitions, either as a single player or as part of a team, the Club Secretary will normally ask for confirmation of interest around December/January ahead of the forthcoming season.

Coaching

The club has a number of Qualified club coaches who prepare activity plans for new bowlers. Coaching and etiquette sessions are held on Friday evenings at the beginning of the season just before the Friday evening Roll up. Other sessions will be held as required.

Clothing & Equipment

Due to the generosity of our sponsors, the Club provides members with a FREE (see note below) club design shirt as well as a pair of club design trousers or shorts. Club kit must be worn on the following occasions:

- External facing games, including friendlies.
- Internal Club Competitions.
- Internal Club Competitions where all matches are held on the same day – eg Tim Kite Two Wood Memorial, Drawn Triples. (September Shield is excluded).

Club kit is not required for roll ups and other non-organised matches - smart casual wear is acceptable.

FSBC Clothing Guidelines, design and sizing guides are available [here](#).

FSBC Club design clothing can be ordered direct from our on line Club Kit Shop – just click [here](#). There is a five week lead in period. However BEFORE placing any kit order speak with the club kit coordinator as we do hold some spare kit.

Note re free club kit: *If you are a new member the club will refund the cost of a shirt and a pair of trousers or shorts by way of placing equivalent funds within your BIAS account, which can then be used to pay match fees. New members do not have to order kit from day 1 – it can be delayed until members wish to enter into competitive games as set out above.*

New members will require a pair of flat soled shoes – specific shoes designed for bowls are available.

The Club has a number of spare woods to assist new members in choosing their preferred size, weight and bias. Before purchasing, either new or second hand bowls, have a chat with your playing partners. They will be able to guide you with the choice of woods to suit your game and budget.

There are specialist bowls equipment retailers at Guildford (www.bowlsdirect.com) and Mortimer (www.cotswold-bowls-centre.co.uk/mortimer-bowls-shop).

Ebay, Facebook, Gumtree and club notice boards can be a good source for second hand equipment.

Changing rooms

There are separate men's and ladies' changing rooms – keys to each are contained within the key safe outside the ladies changing room. The code is 1923.

Green maintenance

A Contractor is employed to maintain the green. During the bowling season, the contractor mows on Wednesday, members mow on Monday and Friday. We're always after more helpers! If you are able to assist, please contact the green representative for details.

Social Events

We organise a number of social events throughout the year. Details are e-mailed to members.

Guests

You are welcome to have playing guests. A guest's name must be recorded in the Green Fee Book together with the signature of the member. There is a £5 per head green fee for each guest. The fee to be deposited in the Green Fees Box. Both Box and Book are located in the men's changing room. The member is responsible for the guest during the entire visit. The dress code applies and flat soled shoes must be worn by the guest.

Winter Bowling

The outdoor season is from Mid-April until Mid-September/October. During the Winter months a number of members play indoor bowls. If you are interested in taking part please ask the Secretary for information. This does not fall within the scope of the club's activities.

History of the club

The Club was formally known as the Fleet and District Bowling Club. Bowling started at the Fleet Station Hotel in 1907 (now The Station Pub) - there is now a car park on the original site.

In 1923 the club moved to its present site in Clarence Road. The club was started by three prominent businessmen - Mr Nash, the founder of Nash & Vann the solicitors, Mr Goddard, of Goddard's the builders and undertakers, and the third, Mr Brothers, who ran a large hardware store.

Two of these businesses still operate today, and old pictures in the club show these gentlemen of Fleet in club shots and in club presentations.

Safeguarding Policy

No person participating in a sport or a social activity; whether they are a volunteer, participant, spectator or elite athlete, should ever have to worry about abuse or harassment of any kind. This includes bullying, anti-social behaviour and this is to protect everybody; but particularly those that are vulnerable, have a disability, or are under 18-years old - or the other end of the age spectrum.

We are committed to safeguarding all those who participate in our sport here at Fleet Social & Bowling Club or simply enjoy the social side of the club, as our aim is to ensure we provide a safe, positive and enjoyable environment for everyone. If you have any safeguarding issues, In the first instance, please either have a word with a committee member / or one of the bar staff (if the issue needs immediate action); or email the safeguarding officers at FSBC.safeguarding@gmail.com. Alternatively if the issue is urgent see the safeguarding contacts at the end of this document.

Keeping updated

We keep in touch in a number of ways. The best way of course is face to face at the Club, but that's not always possible. Social media is becoming increasingly important. E-mail and a bowls Whats app group are the chosen forms of communication, as well as Facebook. There are other What's App groups as well. Do let us know the best way to contact you.

Our Website

The website covers both the Social and Bowling sections. It is a hub for club information and updates, allowing us to share information in one convenient place. On the website you will find useful information about the club, bowling fixtures and results, a photo gallery, social and bowling calendars and details about forthcoming events. Members also have access to a password-protected area, which contains additional content such as internal notices, BIAS user guides, meeting information, and other useful documents which are not relevant for casual visitors to the website

Finally....

It is important to remember that the last person to leave the green is responsible for making sure that everything is put away and all changing rooms and the store shed are locked.

Bowls Management Team:

President	Lou Foulger	Louis.foulger@ntlworld.com	01252 683340
Vice President	Judy Brown	judy_brown1943@talktalk.net	01252 615249
Secretary	Maggie Marsh	m.marsh4@ntlworld.com	01252 623267
Treasurer	Andy Shrimpton	andrew.shrimpton@hotmail.co.uk	07885 412819
Club Captain	Peter Sunderland	peter.sunderland@aol.co.uk	07899 968471
Club Match Secretary	Stephen Major	s.major@btopenworld.com	0779 5010757
Competition Secretary	Dave Bacon	dave.bacon@ntlworld.com	01252 406633
A&D Captain	Dan Rogers	rogersdj766@googlemail.com	07885 786394
Stan Hardman	Peter Hudson	pjhudson1422@gmail.com	07342 740306
Organisers	Peter Sunderland	peter.sunderland@aol.co.uk	07899 968471
Green Representative	Trevor Bromelow	trevorbromelow@yahoo.co.uk	07807 505178
New Members & Membership	Ben Holt	bandcholt@ntlworld.com	01252 628884
Communications	Mike Gilbert	mikegilbert100@gmail.com	07540 281960
Social & Fundraising	Alex Pickup	pickup@ntlworld.com	07890 481713
Safeguarding	Douglas Millard	Douglasmillard2@gmail.com FSBC.safeguarding@gmail.com	07547 826094
Coaching	Ben Holt	bandcholt@ntlworld.com	01252 628884
	Peter Sunderland	peter.sunderland@aol.com	07899 968471
BIAS	Jeff Davis	jdavis2459@btinternet.com	07775 660028
	Bill Moore	bill_moore_7@hotmail.com	07928 345066

Social Management Team:

President	Steve Pape	steve.pape@me.com
Chairman	Chris Maybury	famouseccles1907@gmail.com
Vice Chairman		
Secretary	Kathy Jasper	kmjas@hotmail.com
Acting Treasurer	Steven Jezard	
Entertainment	Anne Gamblin- Payne	annegamblin01@aol.com
Entertainment	Steve Pape	steve.pape@me.com
Committee Member	Sue Butterfield	sue.alangig1@btinternet.com
Committee Member	Ian Shrimpton	lshrimp11@gmail.com
Committee Member	Richard Nicholls	
Bar Stewards	Mick & Jenny	michaelandjenny@btinternet.com