



New Member's Guide

Wey Valley Indoor Bowls Club

web: weyvalleyibc.com

email: weyvalleyibc@outlook.com

Welcome

On behalf of the Board and the membership, it is great that you have chosen to join us at Wey Valley and become part of our happy and successful bowls family.

Whether you are a brand-new bowler, an outdoor bowler wanting to add a new string to your bow, or you are returning to indoor bowls after a break, you are very welcome, and we are pleased you are here.

At Wey Valley you can expect a warm welcome both on and off the green. We work hard to make this great sport accessible and exciting, and hope you enjoy your time with us.

We have produced this guide for new members to let you know a bit more about the club and how everything works. If any information isn't clear or if you have any questions, please contact us.

Contact Details

Web: weyvalleyibc.com
Email: weyvalleyibc@outlook.com
Tel: 01483 560844

Introduction

Wey Valley IBC has been established for over 50 years and is regarded as one of the top clubs in the South East. We have members of all ages and abilities, with midweek and weekend friendly matches against other clubs as well as a wide-ranging Monday to Friday leagues schedule from 10.30am to 9pm.

Wey Valley also host the Surrey Short Mat Bowling Association. They use their permanent 10 mats for roll-ups, midweek leagues and weekend county matches, as well as entering national competitions over the season.

On site at the club is the Daisy Chain Café, who cater for all our friendly matches, as well as being a public café Monday to Sunday, for example, hosting the Guildford Park Run at the weekend. We also host Bowlsweat Direct, the largest bowls wear supplier in the country.

In addition to our website, facebook and noticeboards, members are kept up to date with news through our emailed monthly newsletter. If you don't receive this, please let us know so we can add you to the circulation list.

When you join us, you will be given a key fob which will allow you to access the building and relevant changing areas (so keep the fob with you!). During the main playing season (October - April), the club is usually open 8.30am to 9pm, Monday - Friday and 8.30am to 6pm at weekends (extended to 8pm if there is a home match in the afternoon). Summer opening times will be announced in the newsletter.

During the day, car parking is free for the first 4 hours, but you must obtain a ticket from one of the two machines and display it in your vehicle. A ticket is not required after 6pm. If you are staying longer than 4 hours, e.g. playing in an inter-club friendly or returning for a further visit, then you also need to collect and display a dated parking voucher available from the bar.

New bowlers

For those of you who have never bowled before, the club has a number of qualified coaches who provide four free coaching sessions covering how to play and the etiquette of the game. Once you have had your initial sessions with a coach and learned the basics, you can take your first steps into bowls club life. Please contact our club coaching coordinator (details on noticeboard) to arrange a coaching session.

We have a new bowlers league, starting the second Tuesday of the season from 6.30pm, where bowlers with less than 2 years indoor experience are welcome. In the session, bowlers are placed into teams, normally triples, with the coaches focusing on encouraging communication. There is no need to book for this, but please arrive by 6pm for registration.

We also run group 'Skills' sessions on a Monday afternoon from 2.30pm - 4.30pm. You need to pre-register for these sessions using the sheet on the noticeboard.

In addition to the above, the coaches are very happy to work with bowlers by arrangement.

The club is developing a **bowls buddy** scheme to support new bowlers and help them to get the most out of the club.

BIAS

All members at Wey Valley IBC can have access to BIAS, our online membership system. You can use BIAS to see when rinks are free, and should you want to book one, send an email to weyvalleyibc@outlook.com specifying the date, time and game you're booking for. An example would be: A Bowler, 10th October, 1030-1230, roll-up.

Whilst you can request a rink booking, there may be times when you will be asked to 'give-up' this booking to enable another member to play national or county competitions.

BIAS allows members to track their league teams, make themselves available for matches and manage their membership. From a club perspective, team managers can see who has applied, select teams and update league results.

You can find the contact details of another member easily using the Membership Directory in BIAS. If your details are incorrect, you can amend them in BIAS. If you do not want your email and telephone number to be visible in the Directory, you can do so by editing your BIAS profile (Membership>My Details).

Want some help? Please contact us at weyvalleyibc@outlook.com and we'll arrange for someone to help you.

Green fees

In addition to the annual membership fee, everyone who plays pays a nominal fee each time they use the green (green or rink fees).

For the 23-24 season, green fees for practise (roll-ups) and internal league and skills sessions are £3 for two hours. For other matches, costs will vary as they may include a meal. For these, please see the team sheets on the noticeboard.

First steps

As a full member you can practise or play social bowls during the season. The green is normally available for roll-ups (practise) at 8.30am, and when leagues or matches are on between 10.30 to 9pm you may go on any available rink. You can check rink

availability using BIAS or simply by asking at the bar. Rinks fees should be paid at the bar.

It is normal protocol to invite people playing on their own to join you (although they may not always do so if they are practising seriously).

The next stage (friendly games)

It is hoped that once you gain a little confidence you will want to play more competitively, and you will put your name down for an inter-club 'Friendly' or an internal 'Drive'. The club organises friendly matches against other clubs in the area who are also out for an enjoyable game often with a meal afterwards. We play to win of course but it's not the end of the world if we don't. Friendly matches can either be men's, ladies or 'mixed' and are normally played in the afternoons. Most of the friendly matches are arranged on a Home and Away basis so you get a chance to see other clubs and play on different greens.

For all the above games the club noticeboard will display match sheets where you can put your name if you wish to play (or apply on BIAS), then simply check to see if you have been selected and then 'tick' to confirm. If you applied on BIAS you will receive an email if you are selected, to which you should reply to confirm availability. You can see on BIAS all the club fixtures and venues for the year allowing you to plan ahead. If you have any questions, most members will be happy to help answer these, or ask any committee member or match captain. All members are welcome and encouraged to put their name down for these games.

Internal leagues

The club run a number of internal leagues, running from 10.30am to 9pm Monday to Friday. These leagues vary from pairs, triples

and fours. They are member led teams, with team captains providing a playing rota for their teams. These are very popular and all members are encouraged to set up teams or join existing ones. If you want to learn more contact Marilyn Murphy via weyvalleyibc@outlook.com. You can also indicate your availability on the club noticeboard.

Competitive games

The club participates in national competitions, where we compete against other clubs in the country. These are competitions such as the Denny Cup (men), Yetton Trophy (women) and Egham Trophy (mixed). Players for these are selected by nominated team managers. All members are eligible to be considered, although the standard is high and it may take time to earn a place in these teams. The team managers or other members would happily talk through what is involved and how to be selected. You can come and cheer on the teams, which typically play on a Saturday morning.

Individual members can also enter national competitions. Applications are made directly by members through the EIBA (English Indoor Bowling Association) website. The closing date is early June.

Members can also enter Surrey County competitions. For men, entries are made on behalf of the club by our SCIBA (Surrey County Indoor Bowls Association) representative. For women, individual entries are made by completing the form available on the SCWIBA (Surrey County Women's Indoor Bowls Association) website. Deadline for applications is early October for men and late October for women.

The club participates in the Men's Surrey League, a competitive league against other Surrey indoor clubs. The matches are typically played at the weekend. Once you are of a reasonable

standard and confident to play in these games, please enquire with the team captain.

There is also the opportunity to play in County ('Patrons') friendlies. Further information is available from the SCIBA and SCWIBA website or by contacting our Surrey Patron representatives.

In-house club competitions

The club runs internal competitions and bowlers of all levels are encouraged to participate. Playing against better players is a good way of improving your game. Competition entry forms will be made available in the early part of the season. These will have an entry closing date. Following this the draw will be completed and posted on the noticeboard. Please contact the Competition Secretaries for more information.

One way for your ability to be noticed is to take part in club competitions.

Dress code

Proper bowls shoes, i.e. shoes with a flat sole, must be worn at all times on the green. You must change into your bowls shoes inside the club.

For practise, smart casual mufti clothing can be worn.

For internal leagues, members typically wear a white top or bowls shirt and grey/black below the waist.

If you are representing the club, e.g. inter-club friendly or a national club competition, the dress code is club shirt with black below the waist (these are the 'club colours').

Lockers are available in the changing rooms for a nominal fee of £2 per year. You will need to provide your own padlock.

The social side

The bar area is open every day with self-service drinks (vending machines) and a staffed bar during inter-club matches and other key events. Social events are arranged throughout the year and these are advertised on the website, in the monthly newsletter and on the noticeboard.

Safeguarding

As Wey Valley is a member of the EIBA, it follows the policies of the BDA (Bowls Development Alliance). Copies of these are available through the BDA website.

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of/is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from our Safeguarding Advisor (details on notices around the club), or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Parents are responsible for their children when on site and should ensure a responsible adult is present at all times.

And finally...

We aim to welcome and encourage all new or returning members, whether you are new to the game or new to Wey Valley.

If there is anything we can do to help or if you have any questions, please do [contact us](#) (contact details on page 1).

Useful websites

BIAS www.ourbias.co.uk

BDA bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com

EIBA www.eiba.co.uk

SCIBA sciba.co.uk

SCWIBA www.scwiba.org.uk



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