



**Mulgrave
Country
Club**

Your Club

Mulgrave Country Club *Bowls Section*

INDUCTION MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome as a member of the Mulgrave Country Club Bowls Section. We hope you enjoy your membership of the Club, and enjoy the friendship, fantastic facilities, and wide choice of social and competitive bowls offered. This Manual is designed for the information and guidance of new bowlers, but hopefully contains something for all members, new and old.

Note: *In this manual, as with all other bowls documentation, any reference to the male gender also includes the female gender and vice versa.*

WHERE TO FIND BOWLS INFORMATION

Within the Club and its surrounds, you will find a number of areas that are of interest to bowls members, and information relating to bowls activities in the Club. The main areas include:

1. Notice Boards in the Members Area

These notice boards are in the corridor leading to the squash courts. Here you will find a range of information about current events, contact lists, requests for bowls attire (jackets, name badges etc.), and tournament entry forms for all Club championships and events. Lists to record unavailability for Pennant, and to record players travelling direct to venues for away games will also be found here.

2. External Notice Boards

The external notice boards are located outside the entry to the corridor to the squash courts, adjacent to green 1. These notice boards are used to post all Pennant draws, teams, and ladders, as well as information on current Club Championship events, and Bowls Victoria tournament entries.

3. Storeroom

The storeroom holds all our bowls equipment and is also where you can collect items of bowls attire, including shirts, caps, and jackets. The storeroom is opposite the notice boards in the corridor leading to the squash courts.

4. Bowls Accessories

Bowlers can purchase items such as bowls grip, bowls polish, spray chalk, and hat bands, available from committee members during Club events and prior to Pennant games.



BOWLS COMMITTEES

Included in your members handbook is a list of all the committees and committee members:

- Bowls Section Committee of Management
- Managers and Co-ordinators
- Group Representatives
- Midweek & Saturday Pennant Selectors
- Wednesday Triples Convenors
- Friday Pairs Convenors
- Bowls Attire
- Coaching Panel
- Umpires

KEY EVENTS

The member's handbook contains a complete calendar of all events run by the Club throughout the year. Some of the key events that you should be aware of include:

- Greens open for practice - late August/early September
- Pennant practice matches, Tuesdays and Saturdays in September
- Pennant commences late September or early October
- Pennant break over Christmas / New Year
- Pennant practice - early January each year
- Pennant recommences around mid-January
- Annual General Meeting - April
- Winter bowls - May to August

MORE INFORMATION

Once you are familiar with the content of this Manual, you may like to explore additional information about bowls in general, and Mulgrave Country Club in particular. The following is a list of additional information.

Documentation

- The Rules of the Bowls Section, which govern the activities, membership and operation of the section.
- The Rules of the Club Tournaments, which are arranged by the Match Committee appointed by the Bowls Committee.
- Elementary Coaching Guides.
 1. In The Groove
 2. Guidance for New Bowlers & The Etiquette of Bowls

Note: The By-Laws of the Club which are used in conjunction with the Constitution of the Club are set out in the Club Members Handbook which is forwarded each year to all members.

The Handbook is an important source of information as it includes the names of the Board of Directors and the members of the various sporting Committees as well as an alphabetical listing of the names and phone numbers of all members of the Bowling Club. It also includes a program of various bowling events throughout the season.

BOWLS SECTION WEBSITE

If you have access to the Internet, the Bowls Section website is a complete source of information for bowlers. During the season, it is promptly updated with news, teams, results, and changes to the events calendar. It also has links to other websites of interest. The Bowls website is at the following address:

<http://www.mulgravecc.com.au/clubs/bowls/mulgrave-country-club-bowls-section.php>

Other websites you will find useful include:

- Mulgrave Country Club <http://www.mulgravecc.com.au>
- Bowls Australia <http://www.bowlsaustralia.com.au>
- Bowls Victoria <http://www.bowlsvic.org.au>
- Eastern Ranges Bowls Region <http://www.easternrangesbowls.org.au>



BANKERS

The time spent in "The Bankers" Section gives the new player valuable learning experience and a degree of breathing space. This allows the player to put into place the lessons from Coaches, your practice sessions or even the helpful advice from all and sundry.

It could just be for one week or it could be longer. Perhaps Pennant one week and Bankers the next until you have the knowledge and skills needed to play consistently.

Banker's games are played correctly but not with any pressure. The object is to give the novice the chance to learn, observe and ask questions, but most of all to listen to the answers and advice in a relaxed atmosphere.

You get the opportunity to play in different positions, learn the scoring and measuring procedure and hopefully get the opportunity to act as a "skip". This gives you an overview and an appreciation of the importance of each player and the level of concentration needed.



Photo: Our Midweek Women's Only Pennant Side 1 (season 2012/2013) celebrates winning their Division 1 Quarter Final at Bennestwood

COACHING

THE ROLE OF THE COACH

Like any activity involving skill, it is necessary to have someone show you the basics so that you can begin to participate. Lawn bowls is no different, and it is the job of the Coach to introduce you to this great game. It is mandatory for new bowlers to be passed by a Coach as having reached a minimum level of skill before a bowler can begin to participate in organised games. As well as teaching the basic physical aspects of the game, the Coach will also give you guidance on points of etiquette, and outline the basic necessary laws of the game which must be followed. As you develop your level of skill, the Coach can assist in teaching and enhancing specific skills, and teach you about tactics involved in the game. Coaches are also encouraged to approach bowlers that they can see have a fault in their game.

If one of the Club Coaches approaches you and asks if you would mind him pointing out a problem, and a solution, please listen courteously. Coaches want to help everybody maximise their skill level and hence their enjoyment of the game.

HOW TO CONTACT A COACH

When you first take up bowls, the Coaching Co-ordinator will assign a Coach to you. This Coach will give you the essential basic introduction to the game, and will be responsible for clearing you to take part in organised games. After this basic introduction, it is expected that organised group coaching will be available for new bowlers, and you are invited to join in these sessions. If you have any specific problems you wish to discuss, you should approach the Coach assigned to you for assistance. You are of course, always free to approach the Coaching Co-ordinator for assignment to another Coach/Mentor, or to directly approach any of the Club Coaches, and this is certainly the correct procedure once you have progressed beyond the first twelve months and you are looking for more advanced coaching. The Club Members Handbook lists the names of the Coaching Panel on the page containing the details of the Bowls Committee, and their telephone numbers can be found in the Members Listing Section.

COACHING GUIDES & AIDS

The following publications are not included if you access this manual on the Web Site. They are available from the Club Coach.

- In The Groove
- Guidance for New Bowlers & The Etiquette of Bowls

Please read these carefully. They provide valuable information to help you when you start the game of Lawn Bowls, but they can also be used as a reference source in years to come.

IMPROVEMENT TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF SKILL

After you have been taught the basic skills, it is essential to practice. It cannot be over emphasised that the basic shot in the game of Lawn Bowls is the draw shot. Practice and master this shot, and all the other shots will follow. As you begin to master the basic draw shot, you will be looking at the techniques involved in playing the other shots used in the game. Participate in appropriate organised coaching sessions put on by the Club Coaches, and approach the Chairman of the Coaching Panel, or directly approach any of the Club Coaches to request specific skill development.

PENNANT BOWLS

PENNANT OVERVIEW

Mulgrave Country Club currently enters:

- 9 Sides of 16 in Saturday Pennant competition.
- 10 Sides of 12 in Midweek Open Pennant.



Photo: Our Saturday Pennant Side 1 (season 2012/13) celebrates winning their Division 2 Quarter Final against Mitcham. This followed winning promotion the previous week to Division 1 for season 2013/14.

SATURDAY PENNANT

Saturday Pennant is an 18-week season, beginning early October, and completing in late February - early March each year, followed by finals in March. There is a mid-season break between Christmas and mid-January each year. Whilst the rules governing Pennant each year do change, the key elements you should be aware of for Pennant are:

- Bowls Victoria currently runs a Premier Division (1 Section), Division 1 (4 Sections), Divisions 2-6 (8 Sections each), Division 7 (7 Sections), and a Division 8 with a 6-a-Side competition (6 Sections).
- Sections contain 10 teams, playing each other twice, once at home, and once away.
- Pennant teams are made up of 16 players, played in four rinks of four players each (with the exception of Division 8, 6-a-Side).

- The team earns 2 points for each winning rink, and 10 points for winning overall. Drawn rinks split the points. Ladder positions are determined by total points, then by the difference in shots for and shots against.
- The top four sides in each section play knockout finals to determine the Section winner.
- Section winners in Divisions 2-8 play a knockout competition against the other 7 Section winners to determine the Metropolitan Champion for each Division.
- Division 1 play a knockout competition against the other 3 Section winners.
- Premier Division plays a final 4 system over 3 rounds, 1v2, 3v4; Loser 1v2 v Winner 3v4, Grand Final.
- A promotion / relegation system is in place between Divisions. The bottom two Sides in all Divisions and Sections are relegated. The two finalists from the Division 1 grand final are promoted to Premier Division. The Section winners in Division 2 are promoted to Division 1. In Divisions 3-7, the Section winners and the runners-up are promoted to the next higher Division.
- Bowls Victoria also runs two separate competitions on a Saturday, outside the main Pennant competition, to cater for smaller Clubs and/or Sides. One competition has 4 Sections of 10 Sides playing 12 a side, and the other has 4 Sections of 10 Sides playing 6 a side, 2 bowl triples.

MIDWEEK PENNANT

Midweek Pennant is divided into two main competitions, a Women's Only Pennant, and an Open Pennant. The first is obviously restricted to women only, while participants in the latter can be any combination of women and men. Mulgrave Country Club currently only enters Sides in the Open Pennant.

The Women's Only Pennant currently runs a single Division 1 of 2 Sections, each having 6 Sides. The Open Pennant currently runs Divisions 1 (4 Sections), Divisions 2 to 4 (8 Sections), Division 5 (7 Sections), and a Division 6 with 6-a-Side competition (5 Sections). All Open Pennant Sections consist of 10 Sides.

Midweek Pennant follows the same format as Saturday Pennant, except that Sides are made up of 12 bowlers, in 3 teams of four. Allocation of points, and the finals formats are as outlined for Saturday Pennant.

SELECTORS

There are two Selection Committees, one each for Saturday Pennant and Midweek Pennant. The Selection Committees are appointed by the Committee of the Bowls Section prior to the commencement of each Pennant Season, with one member of each being appointed Chairman. The number of bowlers on each Selection Committee is as follows:

- Saturday Pennant - six (6) members plus the Club coach
- Midweek Pennant - six (6) members

The successful appointees are appointed for two (2) years unless they resign or are removed from office under Rule 18.3 of MCC Bowls Section Rules, with three positions becoming vacant each year.

During the winter months, prior to the season, Selectors meet as needed to update player lists, consider the grading of players, and to set dates for practice matches prior to the commencement of Pennant. During the season, Saturday Pennant Selectors meet on Monday nights, Midweek Pennant Selectors meet on Wednesday mornings.

The Selection of any Pennant player is not easy. It involves the evaluation of ability, suitability and character of the player concerned, which determines the side in which the player is selected. It needs to be understood that the Bowls Section of the Mulgrave Country Club is large, around 300 members. It is our commitment and endeavour to give every player including you a game in Pennant if you want one, taking into consideration the progress you have made through the Bankers.

It is important that any player selected for a Saturday Pennant match and subsequently not available shall notify the Chairman of Selectors (or failing the Chairman any Selector) as soon as possible but not later than 9.00am on the morning of the match and Midweek Pennant match no later than 7.30am on the morning of the match.

Furthermore players who have prior knowledge of their unavailability for a forthcoming Tuesday or Saturday must place their names on the Unavailable List, provided on the Bowls Section Notice Board, no later than 5.00pm on Mondays for Saturday Pennant, and 9.00am on Wednesdays for Midweek Pennant.

The Selectors wish you all the best and will give you every encouragement in your endeavour to establish yourself as a regular Pennant bowler with the Mulgrave Country Club.

PENNANT PRACTICE

Pennant practice for all Pennant competitions is held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons throughout the season. Coaches can make themselves available for tuition during these sessions, and it is recommended that Saturday Pennant teams practice in their nominated rinks on a Thursday afternoon.

Coaches also arrange practice drills throughout the season to enable bowlers to focus on particular bowls skills.

SELECTORS NIGHTS

Throughout the season, the Selectors will arrange meeting nights to enable the exchange of information, and to answer any questions Pennant bowlers may have throughout the season. In the recent past there have been the following sessions:

- Round 1 Pennant Team selection - Saturday Pennant - Monday prior to the first Pennant match in October.
- Round 1 Pennant Team selection - Midweek Pennant - Tuesday prior to the first Pennant match in September or October.
- Mid-Season Information Night - usually near the recommencement of Pennant after the Christmas/New Year break.

These are very open sessions, and a great opportunity to gain an understanding and ask questions of the Pennant Selectors on their thoughts about the season, selection policies, and any general questions about Pennant.

CLUB, REGION, AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Included in the Member's Handbook are the Club Championship events scheduled for the year. Participation in these events is a great way to get to know your fellow members, and to improve your game. The main events normally scheduled each season include:

- Singles Championships (Men's and Women's)
- Pairs Championship (Men's and Women's)
- Proportional Singles
- Over 65 Singles
- Geoff Woodley Legacy Pairs
- Mixed Pairs
- Triples Championship
- Fours Championship

Note that apart from the first two championships listed above, all other events are open, meaning that both men and women are eligible to participate in any combination, except for the Mixed Pairs where teams must have one woman and one man.

EASTERN RANGES BOWLS REGION TITLES

Eastern Ranges Bowls Region conducts annual Region Championship Events, which are open to all bowlers who are currently affiliated with Bowls Victoria, including:

- Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Under 25 Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Over 60's Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Over 60's Pairs (Men's)
- Novice Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Pairs (Men's and Women's)
- Triples (Men's and Women's)
- Fours (Men's and Women's)
- Champion of Champions Singles (Men's and Women's)

BOWLS VICTORIA STATE TITLES

The winners of Regional Singles titles are eligible to participate in the corresponding events for the State Champion of Championship titles conducted by Bowls Victoria. Otherwise State events are open to all affiliated bowlers.

TOURNAMENTS

Mulgrave Country Club runs a number of Invitational Events throughout the year. These events are sponsored either by the main club, or by outside organisations, and currently include:

- Wheelers Hill Traders Invitational Triples.
- Peppertree Hill Retirement Village Triples.
- Mixed Fours Classic.
- Easter Monday Open Triples.

Please refer to the Calendar of Events in the Member's Handbook for further information, and also to the flyers (or Bowls website) for full details and entry forms.

SOCIAL BOWLS

INTRODUCTION

Social bowls is a fantastic way to be involved with the Club, and Mulgrave Country Club has a well-respected reputation for running a fabulous program of events for bowlers both from Mulgrave, as well as the many visitors we see regularly throughout the season.

Team lists and dates are maintained on the Notice Boards for all the events mentioned below. For most of these events, in addition to nominated teams, there is usually a list for those who want to play casually and/or who are not in a team on a regular basis, or be an emergency should the event be filled on any particular day. All events are normally in the Members' Handbook.

MONDAY NIGHT TRIPLES

Monday Night Triples is highly recommended for new bowlers, as well as anyone wanting a relaxed game of bowls. Bowlers wanting a game put their name on the list before 5pm on the Monday, and the convenors will make up the teams, giving consideration to the experience of the bowlers.

WEDNESDAY TRIPLES

Wednesday Triples runs throughout the bowls season, and through to the end of June, and is a nominated event.

FRIDAY PAIRS

Friday Pairs is also a nominated event. It is run on the 1st, 3rd and 5th (when it occurs) Friday, from October through to the end of June.

WINTER BOWLS

Following the end of the Pennant season, social games are organised on Saturdays through to the end of June. Entries are singles, with convenors making up teams of 4.

SUNDAY HAPPY DAYS

Mixed Fours Happy Days are scheduled monthly during the season, generally on the first Sunday of the month. These are very popular events, attracting many visitors from other Clubs. Happy Days are also a nominated event.

OTHER SOCIAL BOWLS EVENTS

The Social Bowls Committee organises a variety of other events throughout the year, including on Melbourne Cup Eve, and Easter Saturday. Challenge matches are held annually against Vermont South Bowling Club and Cumberland View Retirement Village.

INDOOR CARPET BOWLS

Indoor Bowls is a separate sporting section within Mulgrave Country Club, with its own committee, and full details can be found in the member's handbook.

Indoor Carpet Bowls events are held regularly throughout the autumn to spring seasons, May to August:

- Mixed social bowls every Tuesday.
- Pennant - 14-week season, plus finals.