



BEGINNERS GUIDE TO BOWLS

BROWNS BAY BOWLING CLUB

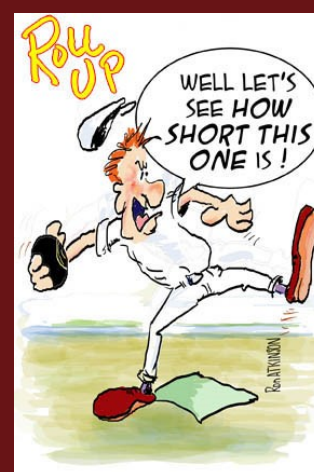


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HOW TO GET STARTED

We'll arrange to meet you at the club!

We've found the best way to interest people in lawn bowls is to let them try. Men and women of all ages and degrees of fitness participate successfully in this sport. To get you started we will arrange a meeting date at our club, show you around the facilities and discuss what you are looking to achieve from the sport. Joining a new club can sometimes be daunting but at Browns Bay we want you to feel part of the team from day one.

We'll even lend you the gear!

Lawn bowls is played with a bowl that is manufactured to roll in a curve (the bias) towards the objective (the jack or another bowl). Several sizes of bowls are available depending on your hand size and there is a wide range of different brands. Our club has sets of bowls to lend to new recruits for practice while they learn the game and get to understand what the best bowl is for them.

We'll arrange for free coaching!

It is possible to start the wrong way and everybody will give you helpful advice. To avoid the confusion and teach you the basic skills and objectives of the game, its rules and the etiquette that goes with it, we offer free lessons with our highly qualified club coaches. Regular coaching sessions are available to all members.

We'll tell you about levels of competition!

Like every sport bowling has many levels of participation and competition. Start by getting some coaching and practising the basics and play in club roll- ups and social games. As you develop more control and technique, you will soon advance to play in club tournaments and Championships which lead onto Centre and National events.

We'll explain how little it costs!

You will be surprised to find out how little it costs to belong to a bowling club for a year. Once you have joined a club (a minimal fee compared to a lot of other sports) your only other expenses are your own set of bowls (they'll last a life time), your clothing and footwear

THE GAME

The object of the game is to get as many of your bowls (or your teams bowls) nearer the little white ball (called the Jack) than your opponent(s). The game can be played as singles (one against one), pairs, triples, or fours (four players against four). In each game, the number of bowls played by each bowler participating varies -, in singles and pairs, four for each player; triples usually three; and fours, two bowls.

A game lasts about one and half hours (although there are shorter versions) and consists of a pre-determined number of ends, (the delivery of all bowls from one end of a rink to the other). The green or playing area is a level surface of carefully maintained close cut grass measuring a minimum of 31 metres (102 feet) in each direction. Up to 8 games can be played on the one green at the same time.

The game can be played in numerous different formats which you will get to experience as you progress in the sport.

THE PLAYERS

Both men and women are equally welcome in the world of bowls. There are many married couples involved, but it is also a great game for singles. While there are separate men's and women's competitions, both genders share the same club facilities and many participate in mixed bowls events.

You can never be too young to start. Many of the top bowlers are now young people and performing at National and International level.

A team of four consists of a skip (or captain), a third (in charge of the head while the skipper is bowling), the second and the lead (who delivers the jack and the first bowls). The bowls are delivered alternately by the players in each team.

It is normal for new players to start as leads. You will get the chance to play in other positions but remember, a good lead is very important. Some bowlers specialise in this position.

Areas of participation

To start with, most of your bowls will be played at your home club. You'll find its members to be good friends and very helpful during your learning period.

There will be opportunities for informal "roll-ups" when you can practice by yourself or with other club members. This is the time to improve your skills and enjoy an informal game. Your club coach will advise you when greens are available for "roll- ups".

Club social games provide the first level of competition. Usually all you have to do is put your name down on club social days and you will be included in a team.

There are numerous club competitions in which you can participate. There are also many opportunities to visit other clubs and play in their Tournaments

LOW ANNUAL COST

No two clubs are the same in their annual costs but they are alike in that the amount required is low compared to a lot of other sports.

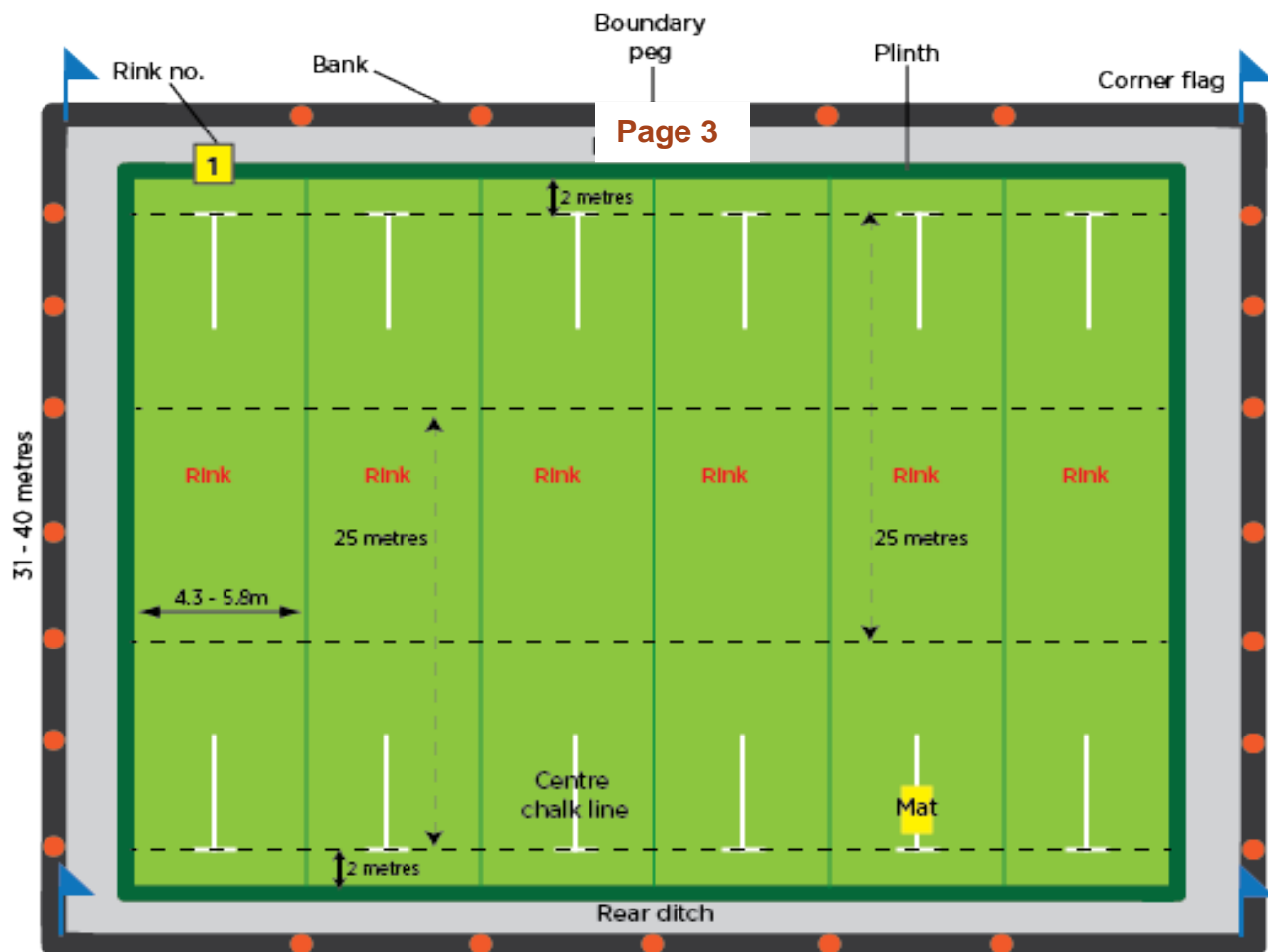
Your own set of bowls and carrying case are a onetime expense and it is possible to purchase used bowls at a reduced price. A tube of polish and a polishing cloth in addition to your clothing are the only other additional requirements.

For a comparatively small outlay you obtain for yourself the lifetime privilege of participating in an outdoor sport, providing you with exercise and much sociability in very pleasant conditions. Carpet greens mean you can also play over the winter as well as during the summer.

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THE GREEN

The Green or playing area is a square, flat surface of grass (although there are some artificial greens at different clubs. The Green measures 31 – 40 meters long (and wide) and each game is played on a rink.



The green comprises:

Corner Flags: They indicate wind direction at green level.

Bank: Outside wall of ditch above green.

Ditch: Excavated area between edge of green and bank (usually filled with sand). Bowl entering here is dead unless a toucher (you'll learn about these later).

T-Piece: Is 2 metres from the ditch. Mat placed here to start the Game.

Rink Boundary Pegs: The pegs are at each end of the green and denote the outside boundary of the rink. The bowl can travel outside this line, but must finish inside.

Rink Numbers: Indicate the number of rinks on each green and are situated on the bank at the centre of each rink.

The Game: The Game is started by the Skip or Captain tossing a coin to see who wins the right to play first. The Lead then rolls the jack to a predetermined length. He then rolls a bowl to finish closer than his opponent. The Game is made up of Ends:- 15,21,25 or the ringing of a bell. Sets play has also been introduced into the sport, especially for televised games. The Game is usually played in an east-west direction in the morning and a north-south direction in the afternoon.

The Score: After each end has been played the player/Team with the most number of bowls closest to the jack is the winner, scoring 1 point for each closest bowl.

Commonly Played Games

SINGLES: A vs B plus marker

PAIRS: 2 players per team

TRIPLES: 3 players per team

FOURS: 4 players per team