

Dear Outside-Section Bowler

21st May 2020

The Board of Hatfield Bowls Club have considered Government and Bowls England guidelines and decided that the outside green will conditionally be made available to members who have paid the 2020 subscription for outside bowling from 25th May.

Some members' bowls and shoes are still in the changing rooms. Those wishing to collect them may contact Shirley Benett on 07798 803267, or bksbenett@hotmail.co.uk and she will make arrangements with them for collection. Once members have collected their bowls they should keep their bowls at home. The changing rooms and lockers will not be available.

This document incorporates the essentials from the **Bowls England Covid-19: Supplementary Guidance for Lawn Bowls Clubs Approved by Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) – May 14th 2020**

The Covid 19 Guidance is in *blue italics* followed by action to be taken at Hatfield BC.

Clubs – Summary of Recommended Action

Play arrangements

- *Off-site booking system for rink allocation*

Kay Havord has very kindly produced a system using Google Sheets which can be used by individuals using their own computers/devices which will update 'live' instantly. Kay will be communicating with all members who have paid their subscriptions with the details on how this works. Play is only allowed if a rink has been booked. Those without computers may phone Kay or another member who will book on their behalf. Do not turn up on the off chance that a rink is free.

- *Minimum of 20 minutes between allocated time slots to enable players to arrive/depart safely.*

For Hatfield this is 30 mins, as per the timings on the online booking diary.

- *Clubs to communicate in advance with players to advise on social distancing requirements that are being applied on arrival at the club – for example not leaving cars until a certain time before their allocated time slot.*

Arrive ready for play. Change shoes in car or on an outside bench 2 metres away from anyone else present. Players arriving should enter the green area no more than 10 minutes before their booked time.

- *Only play on alternate rinks e.g. 1, 3, 5 OR 2, 4, 6 (keep an empty rink between rinks that are being played on)*

As per Kay's booking diary.

- *Maximum of six players on club premises at any one time (assuming average of two people per rink who are not from the same household). Clubs may wish to increase this number if more than two people from the same household are to participate on the same rink.*

Maximum 6.

- *No visitors/spectators to be admitted to the club*

Absolutely.

- *Capping the number of occasions a player can book a rink each week to ensure that the available capacity is distributed fairly.*

Should not be necessary, but Kay has overall charge of the online diary and will take action if she feels the system is being used unfairly.

Playing Formats

The following playing formats are in accordance with Government guidelines:

- *Individuals playing bowls on their own on a single rink*
- *Two individuals from two different households playing on a single rink (no marker)*
- *Members of the same household on a single rink (no marker unless from same household)*

Social distancing rules must be strictly adhered to; you must remain at least two metres apart from other bowlers (who are not part of your household) at all times.

These are the only formats allowed at Hatfield BC until the Guidelines change.

Clubhouse and Facilities

- *Until further notice, all clubhouses must be closed*

The clubhouse is closed. It is not possible to enter the clubhouse by any door. The swipe card mechanism is disconnected and the alarm on.

Access to the green is by the side gate, on which the locking mechanism and padlock are now on the car park side.

- *Limited essential access (for example to use the toilets and hand washing facilities) may be allowed by the club.*

For now, the club is not making it possible to enter the clubhouse in order to access the toilets. This decision has been taken for sanitation reasons and for club security. The geography of the club makes it difficult to access the toilets without touching door handles and other surfaces. The door near the smoking shelter cannot be opened from the green side. The swipe card mechanism on the main door to the green does not work. This decision will be reviewed in the light of any relevant changes made to the Guidelines.

- *Sanitiser must be available for cleaning hands and equipment before and after playing*

The club has purchased wall mounted sanitiser holders, worked by pressure from the palm of hand. These are not yet installed and will probably be used inside the club house when it reopens. Players are asked to bring their own supply of sanitiser, or soap and towel. There is an outdoor cold water tap on the side of the garage/shed. Soap is as effective as alcohol based sanitiser and much cheaper. It is expected that every player takes responsibility for their own hygiene and safety and is mindful of leaving equipment and surfaces clean for others. The outdoor environment and sunshine helps to limit the life time of the virus on any surface.

- *No rubbish bins – players must take any rubbish away with them*

The small rubbish containers attached to the rink numbers should not be used.

Players – Summary of Recommended Actions

Bowls England recommends that all players follow the guidance below (the guidance may be adapted if necessary to meet individual needs, so long as they remain consistent with Government advice and social distancing requirements):

In advance

- *Do not go to the club if you are experiencing any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or any cold or flu-like symptoms, in particular a cough or a high temperature. Use the NHS 111 website or helpline and seek advice. For your own protection, follow the advice about self-isolation if you are, or are living with, someone in one of the vulnerable groups*

- *Dress appropriately before you get to the club to avoid the need to change clothes – change shoes immediately before and after your game*

Arrive ready for play. Change shoes in your car or on an outside bench 2 metres away from anyone else present.

- *Travel to the green on your own or with members of your own household only – do not offer a lift to, or accept a lift from, anyone outside your household. Do not arrive more than 10 minutes before your allocated booking time.*

All recommendations endorsed by the Board. It is expected that players will comply.

Playing the game

- *You should only play with people from your own household or by yourself or, as long as you stay two metres apart, with one other person from outside your household. Groups of more than two people must all be from the same*

household. This means you cannot have two or three people from one household plus one person from outside the household playing together.

- *Do not shake hands before, during or after a game*
- *Do not 'high-five' OR 'hug' other players to celebrate shots or a win*
- *Only one player should handle the mat during the session*
- *Two jacks (one at each end) should be used and this should be set by one player only throughout the session*

Players should adhere to these recommendations. Bowls pushers, scoreboards and 2 metre poles are not to be used. The shed will be available, but it is advisable to avoid opening the shed and so touching padlock and door. Sufficient mats and jacks will be kept outside the equipment shed. They can be found in a large plastic tray by the tap, with scrubbing brush, sponge and soap for cleaning mats and jacks. Being left in the open will help with virus dispersal. Only the older mats and jacks are available.

- *If scoring:*
 - *Social distancing rules must be strictly adhered to at all times*
 - *Do not touch your opponents' bowls with your hands*
 - *Avoid measuring for shot/s*

Personal care

- *Avoid using toilets at the club wherever possible and clean anything you have touched after use .*

Toilets are not available. This decision will be reviewed if the guidelines change. As the maximum time slot bookable is 1 hour 30 mins, it is not envisaged that anyone will be away from their home toilet facilities for longer than this, plus their travel time.

- *Take any food or drink you might need with you*
- *Wash or sanitise your hands and sanitise any equipment (including bowls, jacks and mats) you use before and after you play – do not assume that the person before you has sanitised the equipment thoroughly*
- *Sanitise padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use*

It is the responsibility of every member using the club to take responsibility for their own personal hygiene and safety and to be mindful of others. If you particularly wish to use alcohol sanitiser, please bring your own supply.

When you leave

- *When you finish playing, change your shoes and leave the club immediately – ensuring that you have sanitised all equipment used and that the club is secure (as applicable).*

Players should leave promptly when their booked time slot is over and be off the premises within 10 minutes of their finish time. Do not linger to chat. Players arriving should enter no more than 10 minutes before their booked time. This ensures that the maximum 6 people on the premises advice is kept.

Our membership is demographically vulnerable and some have underlying health conditions. It is for each individual member to decide whether they wish to use the green in accordance with these guidelines.

Finally, the Board and both Committees wish to thank those members who have supported the club by paying their subscription in this difficult time. The financial viability of the club may rest with the support of the members.