

# Mt. Martha Bowls, Petanque & Social Club Inc



## *Bowls Section* **INDUCTION MANUAL**

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome as a member of the Mount Martha Bowls Club. 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.

## AROUND THE CLUB

### 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 foyer. Here you will find a range of information about current events, contact lists, bowls attire for sale, and tournament entry forms for all Club championships and events. Lists to record unavailability for Pennant are located in the locker rooms.

#### 2. External Notice Boards

The external notice boards are located in the windows outside the entry to the clubhouse. These notice boards are used to post all Pennant draws, teams, and ladders.

#### 3. Foyer Cupboards

The cupboards hold some sets of loan bowls,

#### 4. Bowls Accessories

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

## **BOWLS COMMITTEES**

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

- ❖ Board of Management
- ❖ Bowls Section Committee of Management
- ❖ Managers and Co-ordinators
- ❖ Midweek & Saturday Pennant Selectors
- ❖ Social Bowls Convenors
- ❖ Tournament 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:

- ❖ When Greens open for practice
- ❖ Summer Season Opening Day - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in September
- ❖ Social Bowls Wednesday & Saturday
- ❖ Nominated Triples Thursdays during Summer and Mondays in Winter
- ❖ Pennant practice matches, Tuesdays and Saturdays in September
- ❖ Pennant commences late October
- ❖ Pennant break over Christmas / New Year
- ❖ Pennant practice - early January each year
- ❖ Pennant recommences around mid-January
- ❖ Annual General Meeting - May
- ❖ 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 Mount Martha Bowls 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 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:

<https://mountmartha.bowls.com.au>

Other websites you will find useful include:

- ❖ Bowls Australia <http://www.bowlsaustralia.com.au>
- ❖ Bowls Victoria <http://www.bowlsvic.org.au>
- ❖ Mornington Peninsula Bowls <https://peninsulabowlsdivision.bowls.com.au/>

## 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 Co-ordinator of the Coaching Panel 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 Co-ordinator of the Coaching Panel 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 Co-ordinator of the Coaching Panel, or directly approach any of the Club Coaches to request specific skill development.

**YOUR COACH IS:**

----- PHONE -----

**COACHING CO-ORDINATOR IS:**

----- PHONE -----

## CLUB UNIFORM

For all Pennant Matches the wearing of a Club shirt is mandatory  
All pennant players are required to wear Royal Blue trousers / shorts/ skirts.

The club holds stock of the following items which can be ordered through the Club Uniform coordinator:

- ❖ Club Shirt
- ❖ Club Jacket
- ❖ Club Cap
- ❖ Club Winter Fleece



## PENNANT BOWLS

### PENNANT OVERVIEW

Mount Martha Bowls Club currently enters:

- ❖ 4 Sides in Saturday Pennant competition
- ❖ 4 Sides in Midweek Open competition
- ❖ Midweek Twilight Pennant competition

## **SATURDAY PENNANT**

Saturday Pennant is a 14-week season, beginning early October, and completing in mid - late March each year. Most sections run 12 person, 8 team competition, and we play each side twice, once at home, and once away. 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:

- ❖ Mornington Peninsula Bowls Division currently runs the competition.
- ❖ Pennant teams are usually made up of 12 players, played in rinks of four players each.
- ❖ 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.

## **MIDWEEK PENNANT**

Midweek Pennant offers an Open Competition, participants can be any combination of women and men.

Allocation of points, and the finals formats are as outlined for Saturday Pennant.

## SELECTORS

There is a Selection Committees. The Selection Committees are approved by the Committee of the Bowls Section prior to the commencement of each Pennant Season, with one member of each being appointed Co-ordinator.

The successful appointees are appointed for one (1) year only unless they resign or are removed from office under Rule 18.3 of MMBC Bowls Section Rules.

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, the Pennant Selectors meet weekly to select sides

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 Mount Martha Bowls Club is large. 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.

It is important that any player selected for a Saturday Pennant match and subsequently not available shall notify the Co-ordinator of Selectors (or failing the Coordinator 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 Locker Room Notice Boards, no later than 5.00pm on Mondays for Saturday Pennant, and 9.00am on Mondays 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 Mount Martha Bowls Club.

### PENNANT PRACTICE

Pennant practice for Pennant competitions is held on Wednesdays.

Coaches can make themselves available for tuition during these sessions.

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. The events are held on dates as advised, and in the recent past there have been the following sessions:

- ❖ First Pennant Team selection - Wednesday prior to the first Pennant match in October. Dates are shown in the club diary
- ❖ Mid-Season Selector 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 CHAMPIONSHIP AND TOURNAMENT EVENTS

### 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:

- ❖ Men's Singles Championship
- ❖ Ladies' Singles Championship
- ❖ Men's Pairs Championship
- ❖ Ladies' Pairs Championship
- ❖ Men's Minor Championship
- ❖ Ladies' Minor Championship
- ❖ Men's 100 Up Championship
- ❖ Ladies' 100 Up Championship
- ❖ Mixed Pairs Championship
- ❖ Men's Novice Championship
- ❖ Ladies' Novice Championship

### Mornington Peninsula Bowls Division

The MPB conducts annual Championship Events, which are open to all bowlers who are currently affiliated with Bowls Victoria, including:

- ❖ 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 the Regional titles are then eligible to participate in the corresponding events for the State Championships conducted by Bowls Victoria.

The Over 60's State Singles (Men's and Women's) are contested towards the end of November, while the Over 60's State Pairs (Men's and Women's) are contested in mid-December.

The State Men's and Women's Novice Singles are contested in early January, with the Men's and Women's Under 25 Singles contested in mid-January. State titles for the remaining Region events are conducted during State Championship Week in April.

Bowls Victoria also conducts annual State Championship Events for:

- ❖ Men's 60+ Singles
- ❖ Women's 60+ Singles
- ❖ Men's 60+ Pairs
- ❖ Women's 60+ Pairs
- ❖ Men's Novice Singles
- ❖ Women's Novice Singles

These events are spread out during the season.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

Mount Martha Bowls Club also runs a number of Invitational Events throughout the year. These events are often sponsored either by the main club, or outside organisations, and currently include:

- ❖ Classic Pairs
- ❖ Pot of Gold Mixed Medley
- ❖ Mixed 4's Presidents' Invitational
- ❖ Judy Alexander Ladies Invitational Triples

Please refer to the Calendar of Events in the Member's Handbook for further information.

## **SOCIAL BOWLS AND EVENTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Social bowls is a fantastic way to be involved with the Club, and Mount Martha Bowls Club has a well-respected reputation for running a marvellous program of events for bowlers both from Mount Martha, 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 TWILIGHT**

**Monday Night Owls Social Bowls**

### **WEDNESDAY SOCIAL BOWLS**

Wednesday Social Bowls runs throughout the bowls season, and is a club select event.

### **THURSDAY NOMINATED TRIPLES**

Thursday Nominated Triples run throughout the season and vary from Open/Mixed or Ladies nominated events

### **SATURDAY SOCIAL BOWLS**

Saturday Social Bowls runs throughout the bowls season, and is a club select event.

### **SOCIAL BOWLS**

Other Social Bowls events are held regularly throughout the year; Mixed Monday Night Owls Triples each week during summer; and special events throughout the year, including Melbourne Cup Day, Australia Day, Labour Day, Anzac Day, and Easter.

### **INDOOR CARPET BOWLS**

Currently in recess

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The alphabetical Mail Collection Boxes are situated in the foyer near the Bowls Office. Please check regularly for your mail.

The Club Secretary and Treasurer have a locked safe near the Bowls Office. Payments due to the club may be lodged therein. Alternatively payment can be made directly into the club's Bendigo Bank Account.

First Aid items are kept in the cupboard near the Bowls Office.

Lockers are available from the Membership Director.

Ladies/Men's Rest Rooms are located in the Locker Rooms, on the landing and between the Centre and West Greens,

Books may be borrowed or bought from the Library

There is a Trading Table in the Club House where donations of saleable items may be left. There is an honesty box for payment

The Club relies on donations for raffles for our special fundraising days during the year

**As we are a not-for-profit incorporated sporting body we rely on members to help out wherever possible with working bees, office, bar and kitchen rosters, opening up, setting up the greens and lock up.**

**ALL THAT IS LEFT FOR US TO SAY IS "WELCOME TO THE GREAT GAME OF BOWLS - ENJOY YOUR GAMES".**

