

BOWLS SURREY NEWSLETTER

Issue 6/2021

Well the season is well and truly underway. I hope that you are all still ensuring that you and your club are abiding by the Governments Covid Protocols. Just because the majority of 'us' are Double Jabbed does not mean we can relax. The virus is still spreading and people are still sadly being hospitalised. Enjoy your bowls, Enjoy the social chit chats during and after your game but please stay safe and take care. Charlotte

A Note from SCBA President Joe Cable

Hi everyone, just an update on the season so far, I have with other officers managed to attend a number of U25s games, there certainly is an abundance of talent from what I have seen but sadly one loose end in the White Rose caused a narrow defeat.

Results so far SCBA v SCWBA win, County Friendly's both away against Sussex and Berkshire were wins, and a win against Horley in the Terry Foot Memorial match, a nice afternoon tribute to Terry. I must mention how well the green played, managed by Horley's own member Award Winning Green Keeper Brian Wilson.

With the support of other senior officers, I have made two well deserved Leopard Awards, one to Peter Tapper Woking Park BC and the other to Brian Hart Chipstead BC.

Good luck to Team Manager Barrie Emanuel in the Balcombe, Middleton Cup and Home Counties.

Both the Men's and Ladies Execs are getting a lot of complaints at the moment from those of you that are playing in the Competitions that lead to Leamington. PLEASE stop moaning at us! It was a Bowls England decision to change the numbers of bowls and ends do you want to know why?? Well, due to covid bowls clubs 'lost' the first month of the season. Bowls England decided that they did want to run their competitions this year but in order to fit in all the rounds in big Counties such as Surrey it meant that they had to push back the National Finals. So Leamington this year is only 18 days long instead of 31 days. In order to fit every competition in they have reduced the length of the game to about 2 hours. By doing this they will then be able to play 3 sessions in a day per competition. It was either this or BE would have had to cancel all of the comps for this year! So if you make it to Leamington be prepared to play 3 times per day. REMEMBER - it is ONLY the comps that lead to Leamington that are being played to the shortened rules. All other comps, leagues, friendlies and most importantly Bowls Surrey Comps (mixed pairs & fours) remain unchanged.

Umpires Corner

Last Months Question - What happens if each player delivers the jack incorrectly on the same end?

Answer - Jack is placed at 2m (ie full length) and mat can be moved.

Please send in any questions you may have and I will answer them in the next months issue.

Update from SCWBA President Charlotte

Sadly I havent done anything as President this month.

Our first BS Celebration Game is actually this afternoon (30th June) at Horsell. However next month my diary is PACKED! Match Sec Dorothy has managed to reinstate 3 (so far) County matches (Hooray) - we need players so please apply if you can.

Good Luck to the Johns, Walker and Amy Rose Squads all playing in July. Details are on the Website and supporters are always welcome.

The ASBC - The Association of Surrey Bowls Coaches

We are hearing that the Covid Lockdown has had a good impact on recruitment. Being locked away has demonstrated to many the need to get out and do something practical and in the open. Bowls meets that need, and as we move into full scale bowling out of lockdown being able to help (coach) new bowlers and bowlers who have come back has never been more important. Coach Bowls have Level 1 and Level 2 courses available for anyone wanting to take up or develop Coaching please look at their website at <http://www.coachbowls.org>

We do need all the coaches we can get if we are to return bowling in Surrey to its former healthy state pre Covid. The Association of Surrey Bowls Coaches is an organisation closely tied to Bowls Surrey and is there to help all coaches and to provide coaching seminars to Clubs. David Lokkerbol (Surrey Coaching co-ordinator) email - surreyccd1@gmail.com

Extended Umpires Corner

Well we are back on the greens and I for one am having fun! As an Umpire though I have been called upon quite a few times recently for my opinion on things that have been seen or done on the greens or even sometimes for scenarios that have been imagined! It does seem as though a lot of people are quoting Rules & Regulations and the Laws of the Sport without actually having a full or sometimes even correct knowledge of them. I am sure that these errors are just because we have had a break and because people have forgotten, but it does show the need for everyone to carry a copy of the Law Book with them at all times. It is easy to pick it up and look up and read what should be happening. I have attached a copy of the current Laws of the Sport to the email for everyone to keep. The current Law Book is 3.2 - if you have an older edition please throw it away!

I'm playing against someone I know can fire hard. What should I do a) to protect myself b) to protect the neighbouring rinks.

The first thing I would say is that you should always protect yourself. Hopefully the player on the mat or their team mate(s) would let you know that they are about to fire and give you time to move out of the way. If you are at the head and think that you won't be able to get out of the way when the bowls collide then I would encourage you to step off the green onto the bank. If you are playing singles then the best place to stand is behind the mat. Stay Safe!

It is not your responsibility to protect the neighbouring rinks from bowls being fired out of your head. It is nice if the bowls can be stopped but there is no real need to do any running dives to stop bowls. If a warning has been given then just let the neighbouring rinks know to keep an eye out. It is their responsibility to protect their own rink.

Firing is part of the modern game ... I know this isn't popular with some players but it is a part of the sport. However as someone that has been known to put heavy bowls down the rink I would ask any of you doing the same just to let the others at the head know what is about to happen. Just remember that bowls and jacks can fly in any direction ... even upwards!

I was playing and one of my team mates was accused of foot faulting and her bowl was removed from the green by the opposition skip. Was this right?

I am assuming there was no appointed Umpire for this game. If you see someone foot faulting then as a player you have 3 options - tell them, tell their skip or do nothing. I personally would either say nothing or would wait until after the game and just let them know nicely that they may want to try to change their delivery or adjust their position on the mat, but I would only say something if I thought it would improve their competitive game. If the game was a friendly then I would say nothing. There is absolutely nothing to be gained by telling them during the game, all you will do is put them off their game and maybe upset them.

Laws 7 & 8 cover positioning on the mat and foot faulting. Only an appointed Umpire has the right to remove a player's bowl from the green and even then only after a warning has been issued. No player in any match, no marker and no qualified Umpire who just happens to be watching can remove player's bowls from the green due to foot faulting. The Umpire MUST have been appointed to the game. If there is no Appointed Umpire then nothing can be done.

We were playing the Mens Double Fours and we were made to put all 6 rinks into the draw even though rink 3 is (in our opinion) rubbish! We were only going to do the draw from 2 rinks but the opposition said all rinks had to be drawn from. Is that right?

This has to be one of the most misunderstood Laws that there is. Let me explain that this Law is in the book to stop people from dominating a home advantage by not only playing on their own green but by further playing on their 'favourite rink'. It is even more essential now with the shortened games that the visiting players are not further disadvantaged by playing on a rink already well known to the home players.

Anyway the Law in the book is Law 3 but it is further clarified in the Bowls England Rules and Regulations which state - *A draw for rink/s to be played on shall be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport. For a match requiring one rink, a minimum of two rinks shall be offered to the opponent. For a match requiring more than one rink, the amount of rinks offered must be at least equal to the number of rinks required for play.*

So when playing any Surrey competition or one leading to Leamington you must adhere to the above Regulation. If playing a Double Rink, you draw from 2 or more rinks. But you ONLY have to offer 2 if that's what you want. If playing a Ladies Top Club you draw from at least 4 rinks. If playing a Mens Top Club you draw from 4 or 5 or more rinks depending on how you are playing the singles. Please note that the BE Regulation for the Mens Top Club states this - *All disciplines shall start at the same time unless, when arranging the fixture, it is agreed that the singles matches shall be played on the same rink one after the other.* If you agree to play the singles one after the other you do NOT wait for the 1st singles, pairs, triples and fours all to finish before you start the 2nd singles game.

I was playing singles and the marker accidentally moved the jack with the measure when they were measuring. We argued a lot!! What should have happened?

This is easily answered by just reading the Law **Law 38.4.2** *If the jack is displaced by the equipment being used by the marker during measuring, the marker must put the jack back to a position agreed by the opponents. If the opponents cannot agree, the marker must put the jack back to its former position.* So if the players cannot agree where the jack was then it is up to the Marker to position the jack back to where they (the marker) thought it was.

Be warned though that this only applies to Markers moving that jack with equipment. There are different displacement rules for jacks and bowls - also the end decision for displacement does depend on what or who moves the jack or bowls.

Challenger Calls ...

This is always quoted to me where ever I go and yet my question is always WHY? Rule 5.2.1 *states ... skips in a team game or opponents in Singles must toss a coin.* This is to decide who gets the choice for the mat at the start of a game or for the extra end. Tossing a coin is 50/50 chance of winning and so it makes absolutely no difference who is the tosser and who is the caller.

When playing a game the skip kept going into the head to mark touchers before I bowled and it was putting me off! Surely they should wait!

I hear this one a lot! Sadly though players are mistaken when they think that the skip should wait for them to bowl before going in to chalk a bowl. **Law 15.1** *A toucher must be marked with chalk by a member of the team that delivered the*

bowl or the marker as soon as it comes to rest. Also **Law 13.2** *As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink will transfer to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest.*

However a skip can wait for the next bowl to be delivered but they must mark or nominate a toucher before that bowl comes to rest or within 30 secs of the last bowl coming to rest or else the bowl will no longer be considered a toucher (**Law 15.3**).

The opposition lead kept putting the mat down too short. What could I have done about this?

This is a common occurrence and one that can be easily sorted again by just reading and knowing the laws. What happens next depends on when the problem has been discovered. **Law 6** covers all of the situations. A warning to all leads and singles players. A legal jack cannot be cast from an illegal mat ... you can lose the advantage of casting the jack if your mat is not legally positioned.

6.1.1 *Before the start of play in each end, the player to play first must place the centre line of the mat lengthwise along the centre line of the rink, with the mat line at least 2 metres from the rear ditch and at least 25 metres from the front ditch.*

6.1.2 *If, before the jack has been delivered, a player or the marker finds that the mat has not been placed as described in law 6.1.1, the player to play first must correctly position the mat.*

6.1.3 *If, after the jack has been delivered but before the first bowl is delivered, a player or the marker finds that the mat line has not been positioned within the distances described in law 6.1.1, the opposing player must place the mat as described in law 6.1.1 and re-deliver the jack, making sure that it is centred, but the opposing player must not play first.*

6.1.4 *After the first player to play has delivered the first bowl, no-one has the right to challenge the legality of the original distance of the mat line from the rear and front ditches.*

What you should **ALWAYS remember** is the Foreword written in the Law Book ... (The top of Page 5)

No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation, and the laws governing the sport of bowls are no exception. Unusual situations not covered within the laws can often arise. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls ('the laws') have been drawn up in the **spirit of true sportsmanship**. So, if a situation arises that is not covered by these laws, players, markers and umpires must use their **common sense and a spirit of fair play** to decide on the appropriate course of action.