



Malvern Priory Bowling Club Newsletter

July 2020

Socially Distanced Bowling update

Following advice from Bowls England and following the Government guidelines we are now opening up the green to playing in pairs.

The cap of two sessions per week per member has also been removed, but, please do not book more than one session per day if you do book more your booking will be cancelled. These new booking restrictions will be reviewed if it starts to become difficult for members to book a rink.

Members that have paid their annual subscription (£60) can book a session on the green via the website at <https://malvernpriorybowlingclub.org.uk/rink-bookings/> or by calling me (please leave a message if I am out). The "Green" fee of £2.50 per member will be collected monthly in arrears.

However, the following rules apply:

- All players must have pre-booked a session on the green before going to the club (see below for details of the booking system)
- Only the following playing formats are permitted:
 - Singles
 - Pairs
 - Solo practice
- Social distancing rules must be strictly adhered to; you must remain at least two metres apart from other bowlers whenever possible with the minimum distancing of 1m+.as advised by the latest Government advice.
- Three rinks are going to be made available for play on the green. Play will be on alternate rinks, for example play on rinks 1, 3 & 5, to ensure that players can maintain social distancing when playing. A schedule of the rinks to play each day has been provided (see below).
- A maximum of 12 players are allowed on club premises at any one time.
- No visitors/spectators/markers are to be admitted to the club.
- Please bring any drinks or food that you may need with you as the kitchen will be out of bounds.
- Please bring your own hand sanitiser (although some has been provided in the clubhouse) and gloves if you can.
- No short mat until further notice.

Graham Anderson
Secretary

Editor's notes

It is good to see members using the green once again with the new booking system proving to be very successful. A big thank you to our secretary Graham Anderson who has been working extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure we abide by the lockdown rules to enable members to bowl in a safe environment.

Rink Booking System -

To ensure that a maximum of 12 players on the green at any one time is maintained the booking system has been updated to allow 4 players to be listed on each booking.

The green will be closed every Monday for maintenance.

Otherwise there are two sessions a day 11am to 2pm (except Thursday for green maintenance) and 2.30pm to 5.30pm. The sessions are 3 hours long to allow time for people to arrive, get shoes & bowls and to get & sanitise equipment from the clubhouse. Only one person should be in the clubhouse at a time and care should be taken not to touch any surfaces unnecessarily. The length of the sessions will be reviewed if demand is too high to be met by the current schedule.

To book a session you will need to provide an email address, your name, the name of your opponents (if you have any) and a contact telephone number. It is important that you include your opponents name so that we can cover Health and Safety requirements and eventually collect all outstanding "Green" fees.

If you want to play during this socially distanced time please reply to this email so that we can gauge the demand. This will help Brian to manage the green and avoid uneven wear on the green. If you would like to be put in contact with other members to play against please provide your contact details and I will then circulate a list of contacts to those who have agreed to this.

Graham Anderson
Malvern Priory Bowling Club - Secretary

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Government COVID-19 support grant

The club has been fortunate enough to secure a Government COVID-19 support grant of £10,000 that will help to secure the future of the club during lockdown and beyond.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who by paying their annual subscriptions have supported the club even though they have been unable to play.

The committee will continue to manage the resources available to us to ensure that the club survives the current situation.

The Committee
Malvern Priory Bowling Club

Roys refurbishment

Roy has been very productive during lockdown here is a list of projects he has completed during Lockdown.

1. Building sleeper retaining wall.
2. Laying slab, block paving and gravel.
3. Replace shed window-cill.
4. Repair and re-hang shed door.
5. Re-paint shed.
6. Remount shed guttering.
7. Re-lay a section of crazy paving.
8. Re-furbish 10 old tools. (hammers, etc.)
9. Replace sink area sealant.
10. Re-mount coping stone on front wall.
11. Paint garage door.
12. Paint front door threshold.
13. Sand down 2 dining room chairs.
14. Repair cat flap.
15. Paint handrail in rear garden. (16 feet long + 4 support rods)
16. Tidy and list some of the wood in garage.
17. Adapt a square bucket with lid, and mounted to kitchen cupboard door.

All the best.

Roy.

Before and after photos of the sleeper wall are on later pages. It looks good Roy, I could do with you working on my garden!

Green News

A big thank you to all those who sent me designs and suggestions for supporting the scoreboards, some I cannot repeat. The final decision which was a combination of many ideas and the simplest and that is place them between the paving stones and the artificial grass. See the photo - the position will be marked by a white and yellow dot, depending which colour rinks are in use.

You will have noticed that we have been attacked by brown patches and fairy circles. Without going into a long description it is basically caused by water (irrigation or rain) not penetrating through to the roots. Under a high powered microscope it would be possible to see a coating over the roots preventing them from getting moisture. This is being treated with a wetting agent but will take some time to bring it back to health.

Like everybody else I can blame the lockdown when we did not scarify in the spring. That would have irrigated the green and we would not have had the problem. Overall the green is looking its best for many years, but I reiterate I can flatten the green but I cannot level it. In other words you will have a good green to play on but the dip on the north east corner of the green is approximately 50 mm. To rectify this we would have to dig up the green!

I would like to thank Bill Moran for sitting all Monday morning tying the ring protector pegs to the mats to prevent pegs being missed and left on the green.

The gardens, baskets and tubs are looking absolutely gorgeous thanks to the hard work and generosity of plants from Phil's garden supplies! Thank you Phil.

A big thank you to all those who turned up to help when we scarified the green. Mondays are always maintenance days and the mornings have become quite a little social club when we get together, maintaining social distancing, and having to shout to one another. We do have fun and laughter.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again. Keep safe, stay alert.
Brian Palmer,

Raising your game

Since being discharged from Hospital on VE day, after an extended period of 6 weeks during the lockdown, and with the recovery time facing me, I thought that it would be useful to jot down some guidance notes for Club members who may wish to raise their game refining essential skills when faced with competitive matches.

The paper will be largely based on self-learning from when I started to play bowls in 2012 and to an appreciation of the 'science' behind the way bowls behave on the Green. An introduction to its contents is given below.

During the last winter, I was invited to play in several indoor bowls matches for Worcestershire County – and from this experience I found it to be an eye-opener on the amount of expertise that was brought to the game – with many players having 30- 40 years experience, and many who have held/ hold high office in Clubs throughout the country. One member, whom I played against, was head of organizing the UK's international Olympic team for Beijing. Badges of honour were displayed galore with players during the 'après bowls'.

The majority of bowlers were very consistent in their play to the point that it could be off-putting. However, this consistency was evident largely for fixed Jack positions at full length. As soon as short lengths were present or when Jacks were knocked out of position – several of the bowlers were found wanting adapting to the changes. Some of the more elderly players also had a preferred side to bowl and again I noticed that adapting to changed circumstances was difficult. I therefore suggest from this experience that both 'Consistency' and 'Adaptability' of play are added to the principal basics of play – self evident you may well ask but aspects which would benefit from continuous attention! By focusing on 'raising your game' would most certainly help the Club make significant headway in competitive bowling matches.

Wayne Braddock
Coach



Above and left: Before and after pictures of Roys new sleeper retaining wall



Above: an aerial picture of the green showing coverage of the irrigation system

Below: the rear garden, now renamed Ben's Patch showing the growth of the lavender and



Glynis's Repair shop

THE REPAIR SHOP programme on BBC TV has inspired me to repair a damaged ornament of an ancient Egyptian Temple cat. I bought it from a Charity shop. I used an Epoxy resin to repair the ears and the base corners when the previous owner must have dropped the cat – it's VERY heavy.



I'm quite pleased with the result and no-one would know that it had been damaged. It will be a present for a friend, who like me, is very fond of cats.

It's made a change from doing gardening during the Lockdown. I'll now get back to my usual Acrylic painting.

Ron has done LOTS of carpentry during the Lockdown. One 'work of art' was a little greenhouse for my cuttings and for a neighbour he designed and made a posh step-ladder for a small pond so that the new ducklings could get in and out easier. How clever.

Yesterday his carpentry involved cutting down to half size a garden trellis on our Patio – looks very smart.

Is there no end to his talents?

Peter's pandemic parties but - 'Don't tell Brian.'

It was about the third week into this isolation thing, when the withdrawal symptoms really got a hold! This happened owing to not being able to play the game of bowls, whether Crown Green or Flat Green, either way. Its flat down this neck of the woods, as there is no 'hump,' in the middle of the green, apart from a large 'brownish' patch!

The mundane things that one does in a lockdown, had been done? (there is one person who would say not!!) The hall painted, then going bananas with the acrylic sealant gun, bathrooms, and even the outside 'winder' frames. Right thats it, we went away for the weekend, ending up at Hearth Stone Edge? Leaving me full of lethargic Energy; It would appear that, these withdrawal symptoms were endemic all over, some friends decided that, we should have a game, so off we went to the green, (don't tell Brian) but, they wished to learn the 'art' of the Crown Green, as it so happens we had our things with us for such a game, we started, end to end corner to corner (again don't tell Brian) The games tended to make us forget the withdrawal thing, after due length of time, we packed up, and went our way home.

Shortly, we had a BBQ (don't tell Brian) the only thing was, was that there was a lot of soil left lying about the place but we managed, everyone bought their respective sausages, ,steaks etc., even spuds, we had a great time - it made a change from being cooped up; the days were starting to fly by. Then another game (don't tell Brian) this time flat green. This time we made it interesting, six of us played west to east, the other six, played north to south, well what a game - woods flying all over the place, every now and again,, an all mighty clunk, as, woods met half way across, 'wot' a 'laff' (don't tell Brian).

Our side won as we do!! It was suggested that we play another time, with a BBQ, somebody stated what about the heaps of soil, no problem (don't tell Brian) I said that someone should dig a hole and bury it! (don't tell Brian). The day came for this BBQ and game, at half time (don't tell Brian) we had lemonade drinks, the game ended up a draw. Just before the BBQ, we all had a refreshing cup of tea, we did leave the kitchen tidy tho'. We got the BBQ out (don't tell Brian) when someone said, 'Hey the soils gone,' well what 'der' think of that then, not a lot I said, Brian must have dug a hole and buried the stuff!!happy days, one lives in hope,just a thought (don't tell Brian).

Peter Storry

News from Tom and Caroline locked down in Panama

Dear Jackie ,

I , Tom , Dutch , had a business called Treelinks in Ledbury , exporting blackcurrants, planting Golden Delicious Apple trees all over England and later, supplying the food industry with fruit products .

My main customer, Sara Lee, who had a huge factory in Bridlington, Yorkshire, needed Mango diced for their new fruit salad. I went to Costa Rica and bought 2 x 20 ton loads for Sara Lee. I so liked the country and decided, with Caroline, once I sold my company, to retire there.

So we flew to Toronto, where my brother John lives, bought an R V (recreational vehicle)and drove, first to the Arctic Circle and Dawson City and then on to Costa Rica. It was an amazing, adventurous and sometimes scary 6 month journey. The was lots of warfare going on in Central America .

We had a deal to buy a piece of land to build a house, when the seller suddenly raised the price. I have never in my entire business life, renegeed on a handshake and by pure chance, an American, staying on our campsite had visited Panama to buy new car tyres and told us about a village called Boquete, where you could buy a piece of land and build a 2 bedroom bungalow for \$35.000.- . So off we went to Panama and have lived in Boquete for 25 years.

Me at 85 and Caroline at 60, with her mother living in Ledbury, we decided to return to England. We joined the Bowling Club and much enjoyed the friendly reception.

After 3 aborted flights, we hope to get one at the end of July and look forward to being with you, hoping we remember the weighty side of the ball !!

Warmest wishes,
Tom and Caroline

P S

If anyone is interested to have an amazing holiday on Panama , stay at the home we built and lived in for10 years . "Bambuda Castle". , Boquete **We look forward to seeing you both back at the club very soon. JO**

Raising your Game! Introduction

The following aspects are key to underpinning the skills for competitive lawn bowling:

- **Line** – finding the delivery angle that suits the bias of your bowl and running characteristics of the Green,
- **Length** – determining the weight to deliver your bowl to the Jack,
- **Consistency** –reproducing bowling performance end after end,
- **Adaptability** – adjusting your play for:
 - weather conditions and run of the green
 - tactics by your team, or by the opposition
 - the dynamics of play throughout a game.

With the current social distancing restrictions applied to bowls, now is the time to address the above and raise your game. In the article, shortly to be distributed, suggestions are given on how this can be done - involving **meaningful practice in your own time**, and in association with Club members. Enhancing these aspects will lead to a greater confidence and ability in your play.

Wayne Braddock
Coach