

Victoria Bowling Club – Info for Members

ESTABLISHED: 1896

ADDRESS: Pirie St Reserve, Mt Victoria

CLUB PRESIDENT: Richard Corry

CURRENT WELLINGTON REPS: Raymond Martin, Leigh Griffin, Nicole Toomey, Richard Corry, Laurie Guy, Bradley Down, Sarah Taukamo, Robyn Rintoul

CURRENT NATIONAL REPS: Nicole Toomey (Development), Bradley Down (Development)

NO. GREENS: 2

CALENDAR YEAR: September – April

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Key Information / Who can I talk to?

The Victoria Bowling Club Handbook is the main source of information. It is available from the bar from Opening Night (mid-September) each season.



The other useful sources of information about Bowls events are the Bowls Wellington handbook, www.bowlswellington.com and www.bowlsnewzealand.co.nz

For any questions, the best people to talk to are:

Club Captain – Graham Goudge – p.g.goudge@gmail.com
Men's Match Convenor – Richard Corry / Bradley Down
Women's Match Convenor – Yvonne Gibb

Victoria is one of New Zealand's most competitive bowling clubs. Even with a relatively small membership base, we have an exceptional record in recent years at Wellington and New Zealand events.

The social aspect of bowls is also prevalent at Victoria. It is easy to find someone to share in a "roll-up", or a beer and a chat.

The club is family-friendly, so bring along guests to watch the games and to socialise.

The Jacks and Mats can be found (unlocked) in the large 'lift-up-lid' storage boxes near the outside toilets. There are also plenty of black and brown Bowls to use.

Social bowlers will find the bowls that are available at the club sufficient. But to be competitive it would be best to buy or borrow more modern Bowls. TradeMe always has many sets of modern bowls for sale at any given time. Best to buy something with a Date Stamp of "08" or higher. The date stamp is 10 years later than the date of manufacture. You can normally find a good second-hand set of four bowls for \$100 - \$280.

When you have the knowledge, experience, and skill to want a specific model of bowl (all models perform slightly differently) they will cost more like \$300 - \$600. These can be purchased from Trade Me, Bowls Specialists Lower Hutt, online from the manufacturers' website, or through the agent's manufacturers who are usually competitive bowlers themselves. But the type of bowls will only have a tiny effect on your game. A top player with \$100 bowls will always beat an average player that has 'top of the line' bowls. In fact, some top bowlers elect to use bowls that can be obtained for less than \$150.

Facilities

Two natural Greens in a world-class setting. At least one green is always open from mid-September until mid-April (except during and after heavy rainfall).

Bar for members and their guests. The bar is open almost every night during the bowling season.

TV with Sky Sport

Dart Boards

Indoor Bowls – Victoria is also competitive in Indoor Bowls. These competitions generally run throughout winter. And they are always keen for new players. Contact Richard Corry for more information).

Keep an eye out for functions that we occasionally hold such as quiz nights and stand-up comedy

A trained coach, and also informal coaching available from experienced members

Membership Categories and the Benefits

Full Member: As a Full Member you have the opportunity to play in our club championships, take part in our Interclub teams, play in Wellington Centre events, as well as National events. Along with this you get one of famous black and yellow club shirts!

Social Member: Open to come up and bowl any time as long as there is a green available and it does not disrupt Club or Interclub competitions. Also you have access to the club and to our bar and discounted drinks as a member.

Limited Social: Same as Social membership, but also has organised coaching and social competition midweek.

Coaching: A weekly coaching/practise session is run. Early in the season it is on Thursdays from 5pm – 6:30pm. After mid-November it will probably be on a different day each week – keep an eye out for details via email. There is also likely to be coaching sessions during winter.

Women run social games throughout the season at 10am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Men from 1pm on Tuesdays.

The Different Competitions and how to enter

There is a huge variety of different bowls competitions and tournaments available. There is something for a social player out for some fresh air, right through to a serious player trying to become the world champion. And even if you are a beginner you can still enter open events that will pit you against some of NZ and the world's best players. There is no shame in getting beaten convincingly – and nobody will complain if they get an easy draw, and a faster route to the bar at the end of the day's play!

The main five disciplines in bowls are Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, and 242 Pairs. Occasionally there are also 'Mixed' events where men and women team up.

Players of 1-5 years of experience are classified as Juniors and there are many Junior Events to look out for. There are also 1-7 year events, and even 1-10 year tournaments as well.

We can easily find teammates for new members, especially at the start of the season.

At the start of the season teams are entered into a book that is kept near the bar; you can also note that you are available and people can contact you about forming a team. The Club Captain and Match Convenors will also help facilitate the formation of teams.

Here are the different competitions from social through to the most coveted events:

Different players have vastly different goals, and the table below can give you an idea of what to aim for.

Consult the guidebook to find closing dates for each event.

The **Green cells** are recommended for new players

Event	Discipline	Number of Rounds	Entry Fee	Pre-requisites	Winner's Prize
Casual Roll-up	Any		-	-	-
Regular Roll-up	Any		-	-	-
Twilight Social	Fours	4 + Final	\$20	-	Bar tab
Club Galas	Various	3	~\$10-\$15	-	Money
Vic 1-7 year	Pairs	4 + playoffs	-	1-7 year bowlers only	Trophy + Bar tab
Pennants League	Fours	~ 12	-	Played on Wednesdays	Trophy
Invitational Tournaments	Various	3-6 + playoffs	~\$30-\$60	Top bowlers and friends of organisers get invited to enter a team.	Money
Vic 1-5 Year	Singles	4 + playoffs	-	1-5 year bowlers only	Trophy, Bar tab and entry into Wellington Champion of Champion's

					(CoC)
Vic Club Champs	Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours	4 + playoffs	-		Trophy, Bar tab and entry into Wellington CoC
Wellington Development Tournament (1-10)	242 Pairs	3 + playoffs	\$20	1-10 year bowlers only	Trophy + Money
Wellington Easter Tournament	242 Pairs	5-6 + playoffs	\$20		Trophy + Money
Wellington Centre	Singles, Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Triples, Fours	3-4 + playoffs	\$20-\$25		Trophy + Money
Champion of Champion (CoC)	Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours	Straight knockout	-	Winners of Club Champs	Trophy
"Bowls 3 5" Interclub	Triples	10 rounds Monday nights	-		Trophy + play in National Finals
Interclub	Various	See details below	-	See details below	Trophy
NZ National Championships	Singles, Pairs, Fours	4-6 + playoffs	\$40-\$50	-	Trophy + money + entry to World CoC
World CoC	Singles	4-8 + playoffs	-	Winner of NZ National Champs	Trophy + money
<u>Representative</u>					
Wlgn Junior Rep. fixtures	Various	Various	-	Selectors decide the 10 best 1-5 year players.	
Wlgn Development (1-8) fixtures	Various	Various	-	Selectors decide the seven best. 1-8 year players	
Wlgn Rep fixtures	Various	Various	-	Selectors decide the best 14 players.	
NZ Blackjacks	Various	Various	-	Selectors decide the best players	Trophies + Money + Medals

Interclub

Interclub performance is a high priority for Victoria.

Premier Grade: Victoria's team of the best 7 (a single, a pair, a four) players play in a league against other clubs. Only 10 clubs are in this grade, and each season a promotion/relegation situation occurs. The winning Wellington club progresses into a National Interclub finals weekend with the opportunity to win a National Title.

Premier Reserve Grade: The same format as Premier grade. The next best players are selected. Victoria currently has enough regular players to field two Men's teams but no Women's team unfortunately for 2017/18. The winning Wellington club progresses into a National Interclub finals weekend with the opportunity to win a National Title.

Division 2 and 3; and Quads: More grades for teams that want to play opposition that are less competitive than Premier Reserve; or for teams that can field 4 rather than 7 players regularly.

Pennants: Two teams of four. Played on Wednesday (starting midday) from late October until February.

Professional Bowls Association (PBA)

<http://www.professionalbowlsassociation.com/branch-news/new-zealand-news/>

There is a separate league that is not affiliated with Bowls NZ called the PBA. Bowls NZ does encourage it though, especially as it is played over Winter. It is played on Indoor stadium greens in Wellington, Auckland, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Hastings, Dunedin, Invercargill. Many of the Victoria players enter the PBA over Winter.

PBA New Zealand is an organisation that holds tournaments each winter in indoor stadiums to find NZ representatives to play against the elite on the World Bowls Tour in the UK. You compete in four key events which are:

- Scottish Open Singles
- World Indoor Singles
- International Open Singles
- World Indoor Pairs

Regional winners of these events travel to a National PBA final. Regional winners travel costs are paid for by the PBA. National winners receive a travel subsidy to the U.K.

We implement a ranking system that provides benefits to the top ranked players. To help the ranking points, we run 'ranking tournaments'. PBA members also have preferential entry to a Shanghai Singles playing for a holiday in Australia. All events are straight knockout, television based formats (sets) which promotes strong competition to develop/improve your game. Anyone can join. \$175.00 sub covers all PBA events.

Richard Corry Chairman
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