



VICTORIA BOWLING CLUB

EST. 1896

Victoria Bowling Club – Info for Members

CALENDAR YEAR: September – April

Key Information / Who can I talk to?

Upon becoming a member our new member coordinators (Colvin Inglis and Nina De Munnik) will introduce you to a senior Victoria Bowling club member who will become your advisor and assistant for all things bowls. They will assist with your integration into the club and help you with meeting other members and forming teams for competitions. They will also point you in the right direction for coaching if you wish.

The Victoria Bowling Club Handbook is the main source of information. It is available from the bar from Opening Night (mid-September) each season. Please take one and keep it handy throughout the season.



This book is your bible – **It contains all the dates for club and Wellington Centre events**, officers of the club and contact numbers for every full playing member. Keep it handy, you will refer to it many times in a season.

The other useful sources of information about Bowls events are the Bowls Wellington handbook and website. <https://www.bowlswellington.com>

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

- **Your New Member Advisor** – for any questions including signing up for matches, selecting a set of bowls, or arranging coaching
- **New Member Coordinators** – Colvin Inglis 022 0958 758 / Nina De Munnik 0272 427 485
- **Men’s Match Convenors** – Barry O’Brien 021 969 808 / Colvin Inglis 022 0958 758
- **Women’s Match Convenors** – Nina De Munnik 0272 427485 / Sarah Taukamo 021 027 53395

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 “rollup”, or a beer and a chat.

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

Bowls, Jacks & Mats

The Jacks and Mats can be found (unlocked) in the large ‘lift-up-lid’ storage boxes near the outside toilets. The Blue and Pink bowls inside the hall are there for all to use, however you cannot use these for Wellington Centre events as they are not officially stamped for competition use. 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 or Facebook often have 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 \$600 - \$800. These can be purchased from Trade Me, Bowls Specialists Lower Hutt, online from the manufacturers’ website, or through the manufacturers’ agents 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.

Your new member advisor can help you through the process of finding a set of bowls that are right for you.

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). Check on the wall outside the clubrooms to see if the greens are open or closed prior to play.

Clubrooms for members and their guests. The bar is open a few nights each week during the bowling season.

Indoor Bowls – Victoria is also competitive in Indoor Bowls. These competitions generally run throughout winter.

Keep an eye out for other events and functions. They will be published, or you will receive an e-mail advice.

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. Access to the club and to our bar and discounted refreshments are also included.

Weekday social games are organised throughout the season.

The Different Competitions and How to Enter

There is a huge variety of different bowls competitions and tournaments available for entry. There is something for a social player out for some fresh air, right through to a serious player trying to become the world champion. 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 which are separate competitions for men and women. Mixed pairs also feature and a new initiative – Bowls 3Five is also played under a mixed format.

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 help find team-mates for new members, especially at the start of the season.

Dates for each club or Bowls Wellington centre event are detailed in the **Club Handbook**.

At the beginning of each season entries for each club and centre event are to be recorded in a book that is kept on the shelf, under the TAB screens, in the Clubrooms. If you intend to enter into any Club or Centre event, you should write your name and those of your team-mates in this book, under the appropriate event. Please ask your new member advisor or any other member if you need a hand here.

This book also allows you to enter your name under a team's event, if you do not have a partner for that event. Place your phone number there also and then other members without teams can contact you. The Match Convenors will also help facilitate the formation of teams if you advise them. Your new member advisor will work with you to help select the events that you want to participate in and assist with getting signed up.

As a new bowler, you are welcome to enter into all of the Club Championship events and all of the Centre Open events. The centre Champion of Champion events are reserved for the winners of each club's championship events and the entrants are determined by each club.

Consult the Club Handbook to find closing dates **for entries** into each event. You will need to enter Centre Events via the Bowls Wellington web page. Look under the "Already Play" Tab.

Please make sure that you note the dates for any competition you enter right up until the completion of the competition.

All Club Championship competitions will be played over a number of weekends and you (and your team- for team events) will be expected to be available for each date. This applies especially to singles events. In team events it is possible for you to arrange a substitute if you or your partner are unavailable. The substitute needs to be a full-playing member of the club and should be of the same or lesser capability to the player being replaced.

If you wish to take advantage of using a substitute, it is good etiquette to advise your opposition and the Match Convenors prior.

The above guidelines are also applicable to Centre Events.

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. The long list of different events can be challenging to navigate when you first start bowling. Your new member advisor will be a great help here.

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>					
Wgtn Junior Rep. fixtures	Various	Various	-	Selectors decide the 10 best 1-5 year players.	
Wgtn Development (1-8) fixtures	Various	Various	-	Selectors decide the seven best. 1-8 year players	
Wgtn 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 one Men's team but no Women's team unfortunately for 2020/21. 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.

The PBA 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.

**Contact Jayden Ravji for
details – 0277 427 961**