



# DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

## New Members Information Pack for both Outdoor and Indoor Bowls

September 2023

(A Member of Bowls England and English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd)  
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## Welcome from The President

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Welcome to Desborough Bowling Club. We hope you spend many enjoyable years with us and make friends with the bowling community. You have taken the first big step towards a new and fun pastime. Whether you are looking for a new social, no pressure hobby, or want to become an accomplished league or County player, we will help you enjoy your time at the Club. As you will see, we have both an Indoor and Outdoor Club. There is always a lot going on at the Club (summer and winter).

Winter on our indoor green and summer on our outdoor green – it's perfect!

We appreciate that joining a new club and developing new skills can sometimes be a little daunting. To help you with the transition we hope you will join other new members for our six coaching (introduction to bowling) sessions. These should give you a good start at the game. You will also be assigned a 'Buddy'. This is so you have a point of contact in your new club, and it is our aim that your Buddy will provide support and continuity for you during your first few months.

New bowlers particularly enjoy our 'Roll-up' (no pressure) sessions on Monday and Wednesday mornings, as well as our social bowling on Friday evenings. These are great opportunities to meet and play bowls with other club members.

As you improve your bowling skills, you can choose to continue as a 'social' player. You may however decide (or be encouraged) to join our League teams and to play in Club competitions. It is completely up to you.

We think our Club and facilities are special. Although the focus of the club is bowls, we have a very successful social programme. For example, Cabaret evenings, Quiz nights, Bingo, and Specialist Dining Evenings.

We hope you will take a few minutes to look through this booklet which outlines the main facts about the Club and the game of bowls. We also have an excellent Website [www.desboroughbc.com](http://www.desboroughbc.com). Please do make use of this. It contains lots of up-to-date information about our leagues, booking of rinks, social activities etc.

John Bucknell

**President - Desborough Bowling Club**

## Introduction

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The purpose of this document is to provide you with some useful information about the club and bowls in general.

## The Club

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Desborough Bowling Club, both Indoor and Outdoor, serves Berkshire / Buckinghamshire area – Maidenhead, Windsor, Slough, Bracknell, Marlow, High Wycombe and surrounding towns and villages. Desborough is highly regarded within the area and nationally. It regularly produces players and teams of the highest standard. Visiting clubs enjoy the club for the warm hospitality they receive.

## The Club's Location

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Desborough Bowling Club is based in Green Lane, Maidenhead. The Indoor Club is co-located with the Outdoor Bowling Club and together they are Desborough Bowling Club.

**Address:** Desborough Bowling Club  
10 Green Lane  
Maidenhead  
Berks SL6 1XZ

**Telephone:** 01628 629403

**Email:** [info@desboroughbc.com](mailto:info@desboroughbc.com)

**Website:** [www.desboroughbc.com](http://www.desboroughbc.com)

## The Facilities

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The fantastic new clubhouse opened in May 2019 and includes a large lounge, function suite, conference facilities, bar, and catering by ANNA's Kitchen. The catering provides meals, snacks tea, coffee, and cake to all members from 09.00 until 15.00 daily and 17.30 until 19.00 Monday to Thursday (Indoor Season only).

Friendly matches are also catered for when required. ANNA's Kitchen are happy to cater for any function held in the clubhouse. We have a full bar licence, open from 11.00 – 22.30 daily.

## Opening and Closing times

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The Clubhouse is open daily all year round from 08.30 - 22.30 and Sundays from 09.30 – 22.00, except selected Bank Holidays.

Indoor Bowls: First rink booking 09.00, Last booking 19.30

Outdoor Bowls: First rink booking 10.30 until dusk

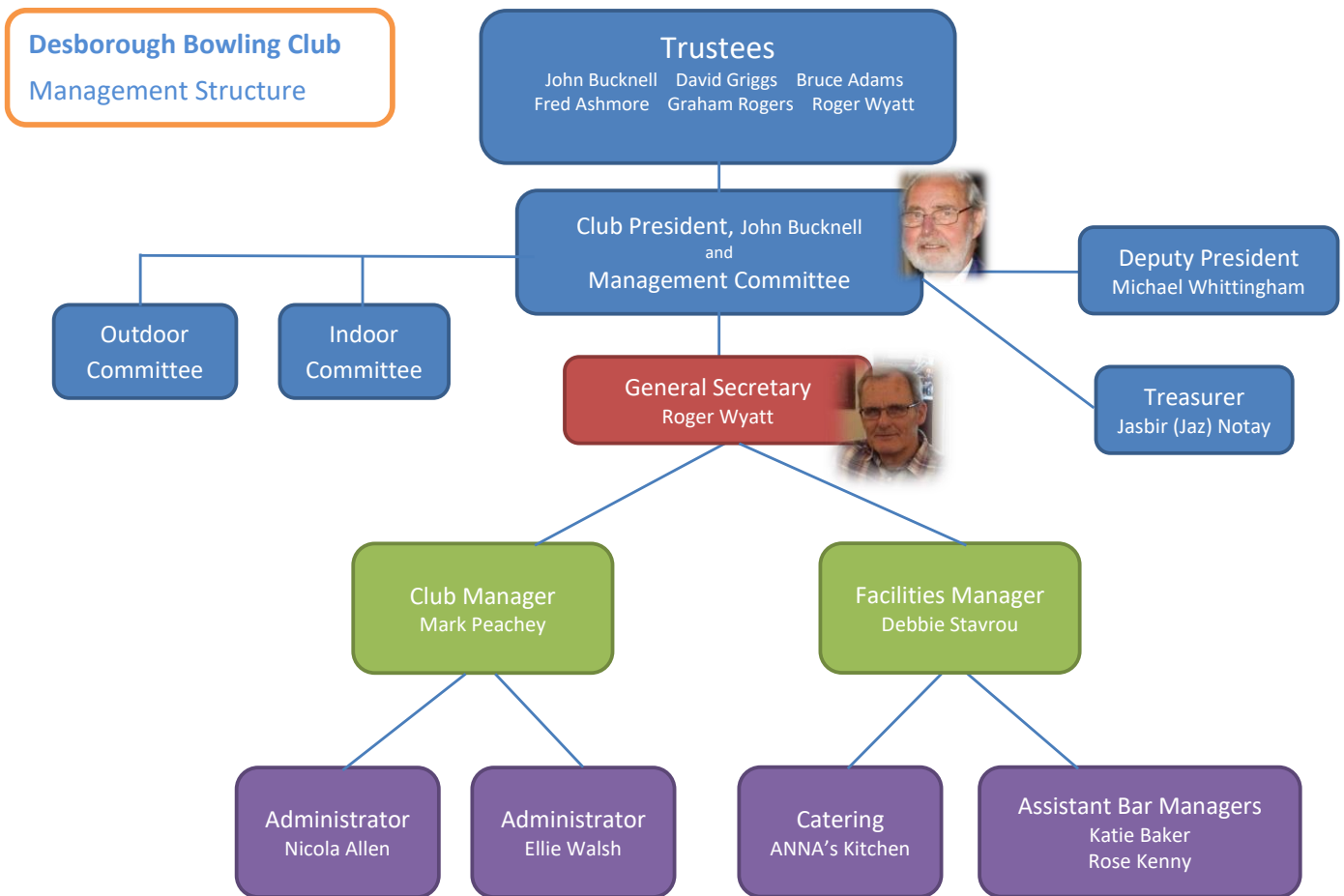
ANNAS's Kitchen: Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00

Monday – Thursday 17.30 – 19.00 (Indoor Season only)

Saturday/Sunday as required

*Catering timings may be subject to change.*

# Club Organisation Structure



## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- John Bucknell (President and Chair)
- Michael Whittingham (Deputy President)
- Roger Wyatt (General Secretary)
- Jasbir (Jaz) Notay (Treasurer)
- Mark Peachey (Club Manager)
- Bruce Adams
- Mark Essex
- Jim Macpherson
- Marina Bignell
- John Davis
- Angie Isaac
- Brian Harris
- Fred Ashmore
- Bob Forster

## **OUTDOOR COMMITTEE**

- John Bucknell (Chair)
- Michael Whittingham (Deputy President)
- Geoff Lofthouse (Outdoor Secretary)
- Roger Wyatt (General Secretary)
- Bruce Adams (Competition Secretary)
- Mark Peachey (Club Manager)
- Steve Isaac (Club Captain)
- Jim Macpherson
- Angie Isaac
- Tonie Philpott
- Bob Forster
- Wayne Renouf
- Russell Dale

## **INDOOR COMMITTEE**

- John Bucknell (Chair)
- Michael Whittingham (Deputy President)
- Roger Wyatt (General Secretary)
- Jennie MacLeod (Indoor Secretary)
- Mark Peachey (Club Manager)
- David Cormican
- Jenny Bosley
- Jim Macpherson
- Nicola Jones
- Carol Bartlett
- John Place
- David Webster
- Tony Buckley
- Gillian Konrad

For a list of officers and key contacts, please check our club's website [www.desboroughbc.com](http://www.desboroughbc.com) or refer to the Fixture Book.

## The Membership

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Desborough is a very active club with currently approximately 660 members. The membership consists of a broad age range and wide range of abilities. It is a very friendly club and an extensive number of social activities from monthly Bingo, regular Cabaret evenings, details of which can found on our website or noticeboards in the clubhouse. The success of the club depends on the support of the members, and you are encouraged to take part in as many activities as possible.

We would encourage members of the Indoor Club to join the Outdoor Club in the summer months.

Indoor members who are members of other local outdoor clubs are Full 12 Month Social Members of Desborough Bowling Club and are welcome to use the facilities and social activities all year.

Members are allowed guests to visit the clubhouse SOCIALLY at any time. If it becomes a regular occurrence, we would encourage Social Membership. There is a guest limit of 3 playing visits per year, after which would result in an invitation to join.

## Costs

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Bowls is relatively inexpensive sport and in summary the current costs are:

- Equipment – bowls, clothing etc.
- Full Membership Annual Subscription currently £330 (if paid by 1<sup>st</sup> October)
- Indoor Only Membership- £170 (October to May)
- 12-month Indoor Membership - £220
- Outdoor Membership - £170 (May to September)
- Social Membership - £50
- Indoor Green Fees – currently £4 for up to 2 hours
- Indoor Match Fees – these cover the cost of the food and the green fee. Currently Match Fees are £13 including a 2-course meal
- Outdoor Match Fees - £8 including one course meal
- Travel Costs (Available information on the website)
- Lockers are available for annual rent at £10 per year, payable with subscription, subject to availability.
- Entry fobs are available to members on joining the Club for both Barrier and Clubhouse Doors. Any loss of fob will result in a charge of £25 for a replacement.

## Bowls Equipment

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Bowls is a relatively inexpensive game to play and the basic equipment you will need is:

- Bowls/Woods. These can be purchased either new (approx. £300) or second hand (£50 - £100).
- New Bowlers can borrow bowls from the club initially when trying out the game for the first few times.
- There are 4 bowls/woods to a set and all 4 must be from the same set i.e., the same make/type, size, weight, and serial number.
- For County and National competitions, they must have a valid world bowls stamp i.e., they should have been tested and stamped within the last 10 years.
- The choice of wood is down to individual preference and the beginner should take advice before purchasing a set. Some woods are suited to indoor play, others to outdoor and usefully some are suitable for either. The most important point is to ensure that you buy the right size (which range from Size 6 (largest) to Size 00 (smallest)). Each size is usually made as either medium or heavy weight. The standard test to see whether you can hold wood in your normal grip and then turn your hand over and not drop the wood.
- Shoes. Bowls shoes are specific for bowling as they have a flat sole to protect the green. They can be purchased from specialist shops or via the internet. Typical costs are £40 - £50.
- Accessories. Other items include a towel (to dry hands and clean the woods), chalk for marking touchers, a measure for measuring any bowls where it is not obvious which woods are scoring.
- Bowls Bag. Needed for away games and home games if you keep your bowls etc. at home. These take various forms although the trolley type is now very popular.
- Bowls Carrier. Bowls carriers are available from Bowls Sports shops or on-line from Amazon at approximately £12 - £15.



## Club Shirts

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The club has its own design club shirt. These are available from Reception at a cost of £20. Club shirts are worn when representing the club either in a competitive match or in an inter-club friendly.



## Dress Code

<b>FRIENDLY FIXTURES</b>	<b>Lady Captains and Vice-Captain –</b> Club Uniform	<b>Men Captains and Vice-Captain –</b> white shirt, tie and blazer OR Club shirt and blazer
	<b>LADIES</b> 	<b>MEN</b> 
Above the Waist	Club Shirt, Cardigan/Waistcoat – blue (White optional)	Club shirt
Below the Waist	White Trousers, Skirt, Culottes, Cropped Trousers, Tailored Shorts	White Trousers, tailored shorts (Mid-Week matches may be grey trousers – see match selection sheets)
<b>REPRESENTATIVE FIXTURES</b>		
Above the Waist	Club Shirt, Cardigan/Waistcoat – blue (White optional)	Club shirt
Below the Waist	White or Grey as the competition requires, Trousers, Skirt, Culottes, Cropped Trousers, Tailored shorts	White or Grey as the competition requires, Trousers, Tailored Shorts
<b>ALL CLUB COMPETITIONS AND LEAGUE MATCHES</b>		
Above the Waist	White (with collar) or Club Shirt	White (with collar) or Club Shirt
Below the Waist	Grey (competition Finals White) Trousers, Skirt, Culottes, Cropped Trousers Tailored Shorts	Grey (competition Finals White) Trousers, Tailored Shorts
<b>ROLL UPS</b>		
Above the Waist	Smart casual may be worn above and below the waist including Jeans/Denims	Smart casual may be worn above and below the waist including Jeans/Denims
Below the Waist		
<b>FOOTWEAR AND ITEMS <u>NOT</u> ALLOWED ON THE BOWLING GREEN (LADIES AND MEN)</b>		Regulation Bowling Shoes must be worn, Grey or White. Trainers with Treaded Sole, Jeans with holes and Non-tailored Shorts are NOT permitted on the Bowling Green.

## Coaching and Your 'Buddy'

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A six-week coaching course is held after the Open Day – either on Sunday mornings or a suitable evening. New bowlers are encouraged to attend these as they provide a good introduction to the game. One-to-one coaching is always available from the qualified coaches/experienced bowlers – just ask at Reception and someone will contact you.

As a new member you will be assigned a 'Buddy' who will be your first point of contact. Your Buddy's role is to help you settle and integrate into the Club, to learn about Desborough and provide an informal and social approach in your early weeks.

## Social Events

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Desborough hold several social events during the season. These include Bingo, Quiz Nights, Cabaret evenings etc. These are very popular and help to raise money for the club. **Full details on our Website and Club Noticeboards**

## Bowling Opportunities

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There is a very wide range of bowling available to members:

- Organised roll-ups Indoors on Monday and Wednesday mornings
- Casual roll-ups
- Friday "Club Evening" social bowls Indoors – ideal for new bowlers
- Friday "Club Morning" social bowls Outdoors – ideal for new bowlers
- Men's Leagues
- Women's Leagues
- Mixed Leagues
- Friendlies
- Club Competitions
- County Competitions
- National Competitions
- Annual Tour

### 1 Roll-Ups

Great for new members, Roll-Ups are fun, with no pressure, and take place in the morning sessions, Indoors, Monday and Wednesday at 09.30 (with registration by 09.15). They take the form of a 'spoon drive' where members draw lots to determine which rink/team (red or black) they will play in. These sessions run for two hours until 11.30 with a short 'tea break' halfway through.

Outdoor Roll-Ups will be Monday and Wednesday at 10.30 with Friday Club Morning at 10.30.

## 2 Casual Roll Ups

Unless there are organised matches taking place members can use any available rinks for practice. These provide an opportunity to increase your bowling skills. Pre-book your rink on BowlR or at Reception.

## 3 Friday “Club Evening” social bowls

A fun social Indoor bowling evening in the form of a ‘spoon drive’ Music and food included.

## 4 Leagues

Men’s, Women’s, and Mixed Leagues operate throughout the year. For details and availability, please contact our Club Manager, Mark Peachey or Reception.

## 5 Friendlies

Friendlies, as the name suggests, are not part of any competition but are matches organised against other clubs. These may be other indoor clubs; bowling associations who play all their games as away games, for example, London Irish and other Outdoor clubs e.g. Maidenhead Town; Touring teams who play a number of clubs in an area as part of their annual tour. The same applies for Outdoors with Friendlies all summer.

Friendlies are played either at home or away and may be mixed, men only or ladies only. They are usually played in teams of 4, known as rinks, and the number of teams depends on how many players each side can put out. The usual number of teams is 6 (24 players) but is often 5 (20 players) or 4 (16 players). Sometimes the matches are played as triples if enough players are not available. Matches are either 21 ends for rinks or 18 ends for triples.

Weekend Indoor matches usually start between 2.00 and 2.30, Desborough friendlies usually start at 2.15. Outdoor matches start at 2pm. Players should arrive at the club at least 20 minutes before the start time. Each rink will have a skip and it is their job to collect the match fees. Desborough appoint a ‘Captain for the day’ who liaises with the opposition captain and makes the speech at the end of the match.

This is followed by a two-course meal after the match for Indoors, and one course for Outdoors. Players for the home team usually buy their opposite number a drink after the match. After the meal there are short speeches and a raffle.

### How to play

Firstly, anyone can play in a friendly. A fixture/selection sheet will be placed on the notice boards which shows the date and start time, the opponent, and location of the match – home or away, and the dress code – whites or greys.

There is a section for members to put their names and **any member** can put their name down. During the week before the match the selectors will select the team and the names will be entered onto the team sheet showing position of each player – lead, number two, number three and skip. New members will normally be put at either lead or number two until they gain more experience.

If you are selected, then you must tick off your name to show that you are aware and still committed to play. Players are usually selected in the order that they put their names up and several players are usually nominated as reserves in case any of the picked players drop out. Any players not selected for one match should be selected in the next match if they put their names down.

Car sharing is used to get people to local away games and the team sheet will show the time at which players meet in the car park and sort out who is to go in which car. Anyone travelling direct to the game should let the captain know usually by indicating this on the team sheet. Players should car share where possible. The club will only pay mileage to the driver to cover petrol costs if the journey is over 40 miles each way. Coaches are also used for matches against more distant clubs e.g., Victory in Portsmouth – the cost of the coach is currently met by the club.

## **6 Club Competitions**

There are many club competitions, and these are usually held on a knock-out basis culminating in the Finals Weekend which is held at the end of the season in April. Outdoor Finals are held in September. Examples of the various competitions include Singles, Pairs, and Novices Singles.

Members enter the competitions at the start of the season, the Competition Secretaries complete the draws, and the draws are posted on the notice boards. Members are expected to complete their matches on or before the due dates on the sheets. The first bowler/team on the sheet is known as the challenger and is responsible for organising the match – agreeing the date/time, booking the rink, and arranging for a marker for a singles match.

The winner(s) of each competition receive a trophy – usually a cup. The cups are engraved with the names of the winners and, for the main competitions their names are entered onto the Honours Boards located on the walls throughout the club.

## **7 County Competitions**

There are many competitions run by Berkshire County Bowling Association. Desborough is affiliated to BCBA, and members can enter most of the competitions – these include singles, pairs, triples, and fours/rinks. Outdoor is affiliated with RCBBA.

There are also several county competitions that are club based and teams for these competitions are selected by the Selection Committee and obviously Desborough will try to enter our strongest teams for these both Indoor and Outdoor.

## **8 National Competitions**

Again, there several competitions held at the national level.

## **9 Annual Tour**

Frequently the club visits Potters resort where the World Bowls Championship is held and seen on television. Desborough were well subscribed last year and won the Top Club Cup held during the week. Desborough returned to Potters for the finals in December but sadly lost.

Full details of the next tour(s) will be notified separately.


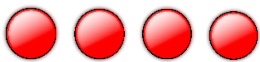

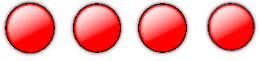



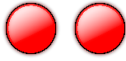
## Outdoor Bowls

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As the indoor season runs from the end of September to the end of April, bowlers need something to do in the summer. Many indoor bowlers also bowl outdoors and there are many clubs in the local area. Desborough have a 6-rink outdoor green with excellent facilities and new members are encouraged to play in both the Indoor and Outdoor bowling activities.

## Match Format

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Type of Game	Number of Woods	Number of Shots/Ends	Roles
Singles 	Normally 4 woods Except for 2 Wood Singles  	21 shots 2 wood singles is 21 ends	Marker needed challenger to arrange. Marker keeps score.
Pairs 	Normally 4 woods each, except for 2 Wood pairs  	21 ends	Lead agrees the score and the skip keeps the scorecard
Triples 	Normally 3 woods each, except for 2 Wood Triples  	21 ends  (but in some cases may also be 18 ends)	Two agrees the score and the skip keeps the scorecard
Fours or Rinks 	Two woods each.  	21 ends	Three agrees the score and the skip keeps the scorecard. Twos sometimes keep the scorecard although strictly is should be the skip.

## Basic Etiquette

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- Dress appropriately and ensure that you know the dress code for each game or match in which you are participating.
- Show respect to your opponent(s) by arriving on time, ensure that you leave sufficient time to change before the game.
- Don't walk across rinks that other people are using and don't stand or sit on the banks while waiting to play.
- Introduce yourself and shake hands with your opponent(s) both before play commences and after the game is complete.
- During the game don't move around the head when your opponent is about to deliver their bowl. Stand well back from the head, keep quiet and do not do anything that would distract your opponent. Wait until the bowl has been delivered before moving.
- If you are at the same end as the player delivering a bowl you must stand behind the mat and stay out of the player's line of vision.
- Only the players responsible for agreeing the score should be in the head when the score is agreed. (The two or three as appropriate)
- Some players like to see the rink boundary markers and the centre pin while playing, so make sure that you are not obscuring them.
- Spectators who are in the player's line of vision should also keep still while bowls are being delivered and they should not distract players on the green.
- Spectators should never comment on the state of the game and should never give an opinion on who has shot etc.
- Place litter in the bins provided and return cups and glasses to the bar.
- After the Game you should once again shake hands with your opponent(s) and congratulate or commiserate with them appropriately.
- It is also customary to offer to buy them a drink if you are either the home team or you have won the game. Where a marker has been involved in a singles game you should also offer them a drink.

## BowlR – Our rink booking system

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Players can book rinks using our online booking system, BowlR, as below:

1. Visit [www.desboroughbc.com](http://www.desboroughbc.com)
2. Click on BowlR in the menu
3. Enter your 'Member Number' e.g. 0123
4. Enter your Password – the first letter of your Christian name, your surname plus your member number, all in lower case with no spaces e.g. jsmith0123
5. Click on Log in

Details of all Leagues and Competitions can also be found on BowlR.

## **Non-Bowls Related Activities**

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Several activities are available although not necessarily run by the Club. Please check with Reception or Club Noticeboards for information.

Some examples include:

- a) Volunteering: Reception, Vending Machine, Bar and other activities available for you to offer your assistance
- b) Art Classes are organised by external groups – please speak directly to the organisers for timings and cost
- c) A Walking Group organised locally meets on a weekly basis throughout the year

### **Hire of Club Facilities for Private Functions**

Members can hire facilities, subject to availability. Please discuss with the General Secretary for prices.