

Bowls Etiquette Standards.

Some straightforward reminders on how all bowlers should behave on the Green.

Ever had reason to complain about the behaviour of others? If so, it becomes even more important to ensure that you maintain the highest standards yourself. Here are some of things that sometimes go wrong and consequently become points to bear in mind.

1. Be aware of the rules of our sport as governed by Bowls England.
2. Know your duties within the team. The lead and number two should leave all decisions (especially shots to be awarded at the conclusion of a head) to the number two in Triples or three in Fours, who in turn must refer any dispute to the Skips for resolution.
3. A bowler who is 'on the mat' or whose bowl is on its course of travel is deemed to have possession of the rink and is entitled not to be distracted.
 - Everybody should stand well behind the mat.
 - Players at the other end must stand away from and at the back of the head, without obscuring the rink markers and should remain as still as possible. However, a skip or anyone directing the head can be "in the head", either in front of the jack or behind but must move away from the head to join the others as soon as the bowl is on its way.
 - Avoid chattering and watch your language - remember that other players may need quiet in order to concentrate.
 - Until your bowl comes to rest, the opposing team should remember not to engage in any form of verbal interchange.
4. If you do decide to follow your shot up the green, you must arrive at the head before or as the bowl stops - for at this moment the possession of the rink reverts to your opponent.
5. Spectators or players walking around the green and wishing to pass the end or side of a rink in play, should always wait until the player on the mat has delivered their bowl.

6. Never smoke, take drink onto, or use a mobile phone on the green. Be considerate of others should you have to use your 'phone whilst on the green surrounds or in the clubhouse.
7. Remember that our club rules forbid smoking on our green but also when bowling in away matches. Be prepared for a fellow bowler or indeed an Umpire to object should you be tempted to light up.
8. Do your bit towards enhancing your club's reputation. Never let your club down - do nothing in deed, word or appearance which might reflect badly on your club.