



GORING MANOR BOWLS CLUB

www.goringmanorbc.co.uk



GMBC SPRING LETTER - 2024

Dear Members,

On behalf of our chairman, Chris, and members of the management committee, it is my pleasure to invite you to our Spring Meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm at Worthing Indoor Bowls Club.

First, at 9.30am on Tuesday 16th April, we shall be cleaning out and setting up our club room in readiness for the season. Your help that morning would be greatly appreciated. The season itself commences on Saturday 20th April with a Club Drive (greys).

Club membership fees can be paid at the meeting on 20th March, however, it would be enormously helpful and cost effective to the Club if you could pay beforehand using BANK TRANSFER. (This because the Club is charged 40p for each cheque it presents and is also charged a percentage for all the cash paid in). The membership fee remains at £25 for 2024. Details for paying by bank transfer are attached and given on the membership application form attached. (Please bring completed application forms to the meeting.)

In recognition of the increase in the cost of living, the Committee has decided to reduce the Match Fee to £1. Books of tickets will still be available but not at discounted prices. Unfortunately Match Fee tickets carried over from last year will not be worth one and half matches this year!

We are not able to give you the cost of Season Tickets and day tickets yet for this year as Worthing Council has yet to determine what they will be charging for Green Fees for 2024. South Downs Leisure copy Council costs set by the Council. As soon as we know the charges, you will be notified and a Season Ticket application form detailing all costs will be sent to you. (We anticipate an increase of about 5% on last year's prices.) Again, Bank Transfer for paying for Season Tickets is preferred but those wishing to pay by cheque can come along to the club room on 16th April, hand in your application form and help with setting up the room.

All Season Tickets and "pay as you play green fees" will be collected by the Club. Please do not pay green fees at South Downs Leisure reception. As you know, Season Tickets permit the holder to play on any green controlled by Worthing or Adur Councils. Those without a Season Ticket will be required to pay a 'pay-on-day' fee for all club matches, Club events or casual roll up on any Worthing or Adur green. In order to reduce messing about on match/roll up days, those who have opted to 'pay as they play' will not actually be asked to pay on the day, but will be sent an invoice every month or so asking them to pay their ongoing green fees - preferably by Bank Transfer. Please let me or Elly know, before the season starts, if you intend to pay as you go. Actual Season Tickets will be issued by the Club.

Once again, we will not be producing a Fixtures Booklet. All fixtures are set out online in the Goring Manor Bowls Club website and will be displayed in the Clubroom.

"Request to play" sheets for the early games will go up in the Mens's changing room in the Indoor Club. Ladies, wishing to add their name to those lists, should ask one of the men to do the honours. Members not using the Indoor Club can ring me to request their name to be added.

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Our Fixtures Secretary, Ray, has arranged a balanced set of fixtures. You will see that we are dropping the Rock Up and Roll Up approach to club days. We shall revert to a "Request to play" sheet for Club Roll ups. On each of those days, I shall be looking for someone from those wanting to play to take charge on the day - to organise equipment and people. It will not be the same person every time - unless we have a volunteer!

I would like to see more play in the evenings and hope to create some sort of event on Tuesday evenings. Ray had saved a number of Tuesdays for this. More about this nearer the time.

Entry to the club competitions will be free again this year. David will say more about the competitions at the meeting. Competition sheets will be placed in our clubroom when opened.

Also, it has been rightly pointed out to me that during the Club Competitions Tournament, there is restricted opportunity for members to have green time. I think that it is fair to say that during the first week of the tournament, a lot of members will be either playing matches or acting as markers. But in the second and third weeks, there would seem to be scope for more green time generally, especially in the mornings and in the evenings for those no longer involved in the tournament. When we have a better idea of how many are taking part in competitions, we shall have a better idea about organised roll-ups at that time.

Finally, can I add a word of warning. We cannot afford to see our membership numbers continuing to dwindle. It is incumbent upon us all to try to persuade others to join the club, be they family members, friends or just casual acquaintances. There is a critical mass to sustain a club, go below that critical mass and there will be no club!

On that cheerful note, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful bowls season.
Here's to an enjoyable and successful bowling season.

March 2024

Derek King