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**Etiquette at Muswell Hill Bowling Club**

Common sense and Common Courtesy is the guiding spirit behind this guidance:

**For bowlers and spectators**

* Think about when to move and when to stay still to allow bowlers who are bowling to focus on their shot
* Try to keep non-match related conversations with the players to a minimum (or ideally before or after the game)
* Look after the green – the most important asset in the club
* Remember in competitive matches you are representing Muswell Hill BC

**Before the game**

* Check out the rules of the game (see this website for a copy of the up to date rules) and the rules for the match you are playing
* White or greys or casual – what is the difference?
* Better not to be wearing bowling shoes when you arrive – change into them before the game
* When at home, welcome visitors and help set up the rinks

**During the game**

* Try to avoid walking across the green
* Do not drop your bowls on the green
* Do not sit on the bank – it causes unwanted wear on the edge of the green
* Never complain about any green, including our own

**‘Possession of the rink’ must always be respected.**

* “Possession of the rink shall belong to the team whose bowl is being played. The players in possession of the rink … shall not be interfered with, annoyed, or have their attention distracted in any way by their opponents.”
* Stand well behind the mat or the head, keeping still and quiet while others are delivering their bowls.
* Questions, information or instructions should only be exchanged while you have ‘possession of the rink’ – as soon as your bowl comes to rest, ‘possession of the rink’ is transferred to the opposing player or team.

**Positions**

* When at the head, bear in mind that some bowlers like a clear view of the rink markers. Stand behind the head, inside the rink markers, but not obscuring the central rink number.
* When at the head in sunny conditions, or as the sun sets, avoid standing where your shadow is cast over the jack, making it difficult to see from the mat.
* Similarly, standing directly behind a white jack in white shoes can make the jack difficult to see.
* Players at the mat-end of the rink who are not delivering a bowl should stand at least one metre behind the mat.

**Responsibilities**

* Follow your skipper’s directions (even when you do not agree!)
* Number threes (or twos in a triple) give directions for the skipper

**Results of an end**

* The result of each end (including measuring where required) is determined between the threes (or twos in triples). Other players should not be involved.
* Do not disturb the head until the result of the end has been agreed.

**General**

* Keep all comments positive and constructive
* Provide help by indicating how far a bowl is from the jack.
* ‘Call’ or shout at your own bowls by all means – but not your opponents’!
* Commend good shots.

**After the game**

* Congratulations all round and offering to buy your opposite number a drink is the usual form followed by the members of Muswell Hill



With thanks to the website of North London Bowling Club for ideas as to content
June 2021