



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

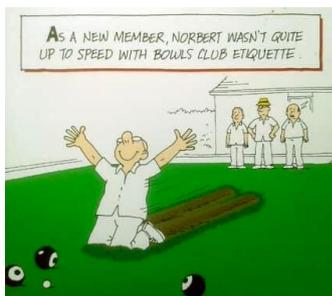
- The result of each end (including measuring where required) is determined between the threes (or twos in triples). Other players should not be involved.
- Do not disturb the head until the result of the end has been agreed.

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
- And if you are home, please assist in putting back all equipment and closing the green



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