

Inter Club Competitions and Matches explained.

For new players who want to play competitive inter-club matches, the starting point is to sign up for **FRIENDLY MATCHES**. These are open to all members, of all abilities. Friendlies are the best way to improve your skill and your knowledge of bowls etiquette and rules, as well as meet other members. See the club noticeboards to sign up as often as you like. There are home or away matches, some for men only, some for ladies only and some for mixed teams. Played at all times and days of the week. Teams are selected on a weekly basis, so you can choose to play at short notice.

Again for new players, a good starting point is the **NICHOLAS SOAMES TROPHY**, which is meant specifically to be a good introduction to playing in team league competitions, whilst representing your Club. Played on Monday evenings from June onwards, the 'Australian Pairs' format is a good way to learn about playing in different positions within a team.

Our club selectors choose who plays for our club's **LEAGUE TEAMS** as well as for certain competitions, based on a number of factors, but generally the best players are selected. Selectors consist of our 2 Captains, 2 Vice-Captains, a ladies' selector and a gentlemen's selector - a total of 6 elected people. Currently they are Keith Jackson, Jo Kaddish, Roy Walter, Linda Witcher, Paul Burnett and Kathy Smith.

Any individual can enter **COUNTY COMPETITIONS**, which are knockout competitions (singles, pairs, triples or fours) and details are available on the Sussex Bowls website. All abilities can enter. It costs about £3 or £4 per player to enter, but entries close as early as January. Winners can go on to represent Sussex and beyond if successful. Bowls England, on their website, also have national knockout competitions along similar lines.

There are a number of other competitions, some are National (organised by Bowls England) and some organised by Sussex County Bowls, some organised by Clubs who invite other Clubs to enter. Volunteers manage some of them. You are all welcome and encouraged to volunteer to manage and/or enter these events. **Please speak to the current managers or any of the selectors for further details.**

Here is a list of the main Inter Club Competitions, showing who to contact if they interest you, and a guide to their format.

EVENT NAME	Organisation responsible	Men/ Ladies/ Mixed	Format	MANAGERS in 2024
Friendlies	Our Club	All	Various - but usually 4 or 5 teams of triples or fours (rinks)	Selectors
Nicholas Soames Trophy	Basil Larkins (of Haywards Heath BC)	Mixed	Australian Pairs, 6 players per team in pairs. League format for 6 Monday evenings from June, followed by semifinals and final knockouts. We enter 2 teams.	Kristian Berggreen and Cliff Clifford
Edward Rowland Memorial Trophy	Burgess Hill BC	Men	Straight knockout- teams of 4. We enter 2 teams.	Selectors
Gladys Rowland Competition	Burgess Hill BC	Ladies	Straight knockout- teams of 4. We enter 2 teams.	Selectors

Nellie Mercer League	Popes Mead BC	Ladies	Team of 6, league format, 2 x triples. 2 Divisions. Played on Thursday evenings. Local to Crawley area to reduce travelling.	G Welsh and B Awcock
John Spriggs League	Mid Sussex Bowls	Mixed	Teams of 12 (3 rinks) league format in 3 divisions of 6 teams usually. Played on Tuesday evenings (5 home and 5 away matches).	Selectors
Mid Sussex Bowls League	Mid Sussex Bowls	Mixed	Teams of 12 (3 rinks) league format in 3 divisions of 6 teams usually. Played on Tuesday evenings (5 home and 5 away matches).	Selectors
Tom Francis Trophy	Mid Sussex Bowls	Mixed	Knockout. For Mid Sussex clubs. 8 players form 2 rinks, one home rink and one away played simultaneously on Sunday mornings.	Selectors
Sussex Double Rink	Sussex County Bowls	Ladies	Knockout competition for 8. 4 play at home whilst 4 play away simultaneously. 2 bowls per player.	Selectors (ladies)
Ladies Sussex Top Club	Sussex County Bowls	Ladies	Knockout competition for a team of 10 players, a singles, a pairs, a triples, a fours.	Selectors (ladies)
Double Fours - Abergavenny Cup	Sussex County Bowls	Men	Knockout competition for 8. 4 play at home whilst 4 play away simultaneously. 2 bowls per player.	Selectors (men)
Billingham league/Pullen Cup	Sussex County Bowls	Men	This is for SCBA 'Vice Patrons' (East and West Sussex-wide) playing league format as well as friendlies throughout the season. Entry form on SCBA site. £2 fee to become a vice patron for the year.	Speak to any existing VP, e.g. Colin Morphew or Brian Goatman.
Men's Top Club	Bowls England	Men	Knockout competition for a team of 11 players; a pairs, a triples, a fours, and 2 singles, one with 2 woods. A National Competition.	Selectors (men)
Men's Club Two Fours	Bowls England	Men	Knockout competition for team of 8 (2x4). 2 bowls per player - 18 ends. A National Competition.	Selectors (men)
Tony Allcock Trophy	Bowls England	Mixed	Knockout competition for Over 60s, 8 players - 2 fours each having 2 men and 2 ladies. Each player has 2 bowls. 18 ends. A National Competition.	Selectors

February 2024