

New Bowler Newsletter October 2022

We hope you are enjoying your bowling at the Angel.

For those joining the Club on or since the Open Weekend it's been a real pleasure for the coaches to see everyone's game develop over recent weeks. And with the Open Weekend Taster Sessions coming to an end, we thought this might be a good time to put together some information that may be useful to all our new members.

Booking a Rink

You can book your own rink from any computer, tablet or smart phone. Just head over to the Club's website and tap on 'Rink Diary' to see when rinks are free.
<https://angel-micro.bowlr.co.uk>

Any session coloured white is free to book. You can then follow these guidance notes to book the rink. You can book rinks up to 2 weeks in advance...
<https://www.angelibc.co.uk/online-rink-booking>

You can pay for the rink immediately before, during or after your session; either over the bar with cash or credit card or, if the bar is closed, through the office door (just put your cash and a slip of paper noting the session time and rink number in the envelopes provided at the end of the rink).

You can find the schedule of rink fees here ...
<https://www.angelibc.co.uk/about/membership-fees>

Please leave all bags and coats etc in the changing rooms and help yourself from the cupboard to any of the coaching bowls.

There is a reminder of bowling etiquette at the end of this Newsletter.

If you don't want to book rinks online, you can also book rinks by phoning the club when the bar is open (staff present).

Bowling Gear

If you missed the mobile shop (John Forsay bowls) in our club on Tuesday, don't despair! We have booked them to visit again on **Thursday November 17th**. They carry a range of bowls, shoes, shirts, bags and accessories.

You can let them know in advance any specific sizes you are looking for and they will bring the right gear with them. You can get their contact details here
<https://www.angelibc.co.uk/article/need-some-gear>

In the meantime, the Club has a selection of second hand bowls that may be of interest - just ask on of your Club Stewards to have a browse.

You are of course also welcome to use the Club coaching bowls for as long as you like (but do bear in mind if you are looking to use specific bowls on busy sessions then others may have the same idea!).

Club Shirts are also available from the Club Stewards.

Weekly “Turn Up & Play” Sessions

To provide a safe environment to practice and meet other new members we have organised three “Turn Up & Play” sessions for new bowlers. These will run at ..

- 9.30am on Monday mornings starting Monday October 24th
- 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings starting Wednesday October 26th
- 2.30pm on Thursday afternoons starting Thursday October 27th.

The regular Friday evening 7.30pm roll up is also great for new bowlers.

You do not need to pre-book any of these “Turn Up & Play” sessions; just turn up 15 minutes or so before start time and you will be organised into a team for the day.

Please help yourself from the cupboard to any of the coaching bowls. Again, there is a reminder of bowling etiquette at the end of this Newsletter.

Of course, if you feel ready to join in with the Club’s other regular day-time roll ups you are also more than welcome to join in with those. You can see when these are running here...

<https://www.angelibc.co.uk/bowling/club-roll-ups>

New Bowler League & Ladder

A Wednesday evening New Bowler league and Thursday afternoon New Bowler ladder will then be organised to start towards the end of November.

These will be restricted to new bowlers only (members who have been bowling for less than one year).

Wednesday Evening New Bowler League

This will run weekly at 7.30pm. It will run as a triples league, starting end November and running through to March. The league will run on the same basis as the regular internal club leagues but restricted to New Bowlers only.

You will be allocated to a team with 4 or 5 other new bowlers. You will not need to commit to play every week as your team will only need to field 3 players each week.

Before the league starts, you will inform your nominated “team captain” as to your expected availability for the whole season and your captain will then schedule who plays when. If you subsequently can’t make a scheduled game you just ask a team mate to substitute for you.

All rinks will be pre-booked for you and your team's scores and latest league table will be available in real time via the Club's website, eg

<https://angel-micro.bowler.co.uk/competitions/seasons/12/leagues>

Coaches will be on hand to support the nominated team captains organising their teams and to support all teams for their first couple of games.

You can sign up to this league now! Just add your name to the list on the Noticeboard to the left of the ladies changing room.

Thursday Afternoon New Bowler Ladder

This operates a little less formally than the league. It operates more as a "turn up & play" session, but with a point awarded each week to every player attending, and an additional point awarded if you are part of any winning team.

Points are accumulated through the season (end November to March) and at the end of the season (March) there will be a play off between the players with the highest accumulated points. With a trophy awarded to the play-off winner!

Club Regular Internal Leagues

The Club's regular internal Winter leagues have started and will now run through to April. The Club's 2023 Summer leagues will then start early May.

If you already feel ready to join in with a regular Winter league just speak with your coach, or contact the relevant league steward directly...

<https://www.angelibc.co.uk/bowling/club-competitions/leagues-winter-22-23>

Sign up sheets for next summer's internal leagues will be in the club nearer the time.

Further Coaching

Whilst the Club currently has no volunteer coaches above Level 1 (Level 1 coaches are qualified to run Taster Sessions only), if you feel you need some further advice on improving your game do please speak with any of the coaches and they can point you towards a fellow member that maybe able to help you informally.

New Member Coffee and Chat

Shortly before the above New Bowler League and Ladder is organised we will arrange a 'coffee and chat' session for all our recent new members.

This will give the Club a chance to get your feedback on your experience in the Club so far, and a chance for you to ask any questions you may have on any aspect of the Club.

You will receive an invite to this nearer the time.

Volunteering

Your Club is largely run by volunteers. Including all directors, coaches and people organising all bowling. This is necessary to keep the sport 'affordable' for all.

If you feel that you would like to support your new Club by volunteering please speak with any of the directors, coaches or club stewards. The Club is always in need of more volunteers with the old adage 'many hands make light work' being very true in a Club such as ours. And new members bring new ideas, energy and a fresh outlook!

It's **your** Club now ...

Etiquette

You've probably noticed that bowls is a sport rich in etiquette. This is an aspect of the sport that everyone involved in the game is intent on maintaining. It is one reason why the bowling hall can feel like a bit of a 'haven' from all our busy lives.

In truth we all fall foul of what's expected of us now and then. We can all get so involved in what we're doing that we forget to double check what's going on around us. So a gentle reminder now and then often helps.

So... we've set out below some of the more important aspects of etiquette relevant to your bowling at the Angel. **Do please read it through** and check you are aware of what's expected. It really will help you get maximum enjoyment from your time bowling in the Club.

Some reminders of Club Etiquette

Moving Around the Bowling Hall

- Please leave all bowls bags, shoes, coats etc in the changing rooms. Switch mobile phones off or to silent before entering the bowling hall.
- **Please do not enter the bowls hall more than seven minutes before your session start unless it is urgent.** And before entering the bowls hall please carefully check in case a bowler is on the mat and about to bowl in either direction on the rinks in front of the door (rinks 2 and 5). Only enter 'between deliveries'.
- Once in the bowling hall please be careful when moving around between rinks. For instance when getting or returning your bowls from the cupboard. Be careful not to walk along the end of any rinks where play is still going on and a bowler is standing on the far end's mat preparing to bowl towards you. Wait until they have bowled before walking past their rink.
- If there are bowlers on rink 6 please collect or return your bowls from the cupboard once they have completed their match, and please access your lockers alongside rink 6 with due respect to people still bowling (only walk alongside the rink towards the lockers between deliveries!).

Respecting bowlers on your and adjacent rinks when bowling

- Stay well inside your rink when at the head or waiting to bowl. Walk down the centre of the rink when changing ends.
- If bowling down the same 'hand' as a bowler on an adjacent rink (whether they are bowling in the same direction as you or towards you) take turns. If they are first on their mat and preparing to bowl then give way by standing off your mat. Once their bowl has cleared your 'line' then it's your turn to bowl.
- Be alert at all times to your rink's 'stray' bowls potentially interfering with the heads on adjacent rinks; if playing 'skip' or '2' in a triple you are responsible for all your team's woods when you are at the head. Stay alert!
- Encourage your team mates and be respectful of your opponents. Acknowledge good woods and accept (but do not celebrate) any good or bad luck you may have during the game!