



**Mulgrave
Country
Club**

Your Club

Mulgrave Country Club *Bowls Section*

INDUCTION MANUAL

Last Updated: 1 August 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
Where To Find Bowls Information	3
Bowls Committees.....	4
Key Events	4
More Information	5
Bowls Section Website	5
Team App	5
COACHING	6
The Role of the Coach.....	6
How to Contact a Coach	6
Coaching Guides & Aids	6
Improvement to a Higher Level of Skill	7
PENNANT BOWLS	8
Pennant Overview.....	8
Weekend Pennant.....	8
Midweek Pennant.....	10
Thursday 7-A-Side Pennant	11
Selectors.....	11
Pennant Practice	12
Selectors' Nights.....	12
CLUB, REGION, AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	13
Club Championships.....	13
Eastern Ranges Bowls Region Titles	13
Bowls Victoria State Titles	13
TOURNAMENTS	14
SOCIAL BOWLS	15
Introduction	15
Wednesday Triples	15
Winter Bowls	15
Sunday Happy Days	15
Other Social Bowls Events	15
INDOOR CARPET BOWLS	16
APPENDIX 1 - TEAMAPP BROCHURE	17

INTRODUCTION

Welcome as a member of the Mulgrave Country Club Bowls Section. We hope you enjoy your membership of the Club, and enjoy the friendship, fantastic facilities, and wide choice of social and competitive bowls offered. This Manual is designed for the information and guidance of new bowlers, but hopefully contains something for all members, new and old.

Note: *In this manual, as with all other bowls documentation, any reference to the male gender also includes the female gender and vice versa.*

WHERE TO FIND BOWLS INFORMATION

Within the Club and its surrounds, you will find a number of areas that are of interest to bowls members, and information relating to bowls activities in the Club. The main areas include:

1. Notice Boards in the Members Area

These notice boards are in the corridor leading to the squash courts. Here you will find a range of information about current events, contact lists, requests for bowls attire (jackets, name badges etc.), and entry forms for all Club championships and events. Lists to record unavailability for Pennant will also be found here.

2. External Notice Boards

The external notice boards are located outside the entry to the corridor to the squash courts, adjacent to green 1. These notice boards are used to post draws and results for Club Championships, and general notices such as greens opening times.

3. Storeroom

The storeroom holds all our bowls equipment and is also where you can collect items of bowls attire, including shirts, caps, and jackets. The storeroom is opposite the notice boards in the corridor leading to the squash courts.

4. Bowls Accessories

Bowlers can purchase items such as bowls grip, bowls polish, spray chalk, and hat bands, available from committee members during Club events and prior to Pennant games.

5. Bowls Section Website

The website for the Bowls Section can be accessed via the website for the Club, and also via a direct website address. More information is given later in this chapter.



BOWLS COMMITTEES

Included in your members handbook is a list of all the committees and committee members:

- Bowls Section Committee of Management
- Managers and Co-ordinators
- Region Representatives
- Midweek, Thursday, & Weekend Pennant Selectors
- Wednesday Triples Convenors
- Bowls Attire
- Coaching Panel
- Umpires

KEY EVENTS

The member's handbook contains a complete calendar of all events run by the Club throughout the year. Some of the key events that you should be aware of include:

- Greens open for practice - August / September
- Pennant practice matches, Tuesdays and Saturdays in September
- Pennant commences mid October
- Pennant break over Christmas / New Year
- Pennant practice - early January each year
- Pennant recommences around mid-January
- Annual General Meeting - April or May
- Winter bowls - April to July

MORE INFORMATION

Once you are familiar with the content of this Manual, you may like to explore additional information about bowls in general, and Mulgrave Country Club in particular. The following is a list of additional information.

Documentation

- The Rules of the Bowls Section, which govern the activities, membership and operation of the section.
- The Rules of the Club Tournaments, which are arranged by the Match Committee appointed by the Bowls Committee.
- Elementary Coaching Guides are available from the Club coach.

Note: The By-Laws of the Club which are used in conjunction with the Constitution of the Club are set out in the Club Members Handbook which is forwarded each year to all members.

The Handbook is an important source of information as it includes the names of the Board of Directors and the members of the various sporting Committees as well as an alphabetical listing of the names and phone numbers of all members of the Bowling Club. It also includes a program of various bowling events throughout the season.

BOWLS SECTION WEBSITE

If you have access to the Internet, the Bowls Section website is a complete source of information for bowlers. During the season, it is promptly updated with news, teams, results, and changes to the events calendar. It also has links to other websites of interest. The Bowls website is at the following address:

<http://www.mulgravecc.com.au/lawnbowls/>

Other websites you will find useful include:

- Mulgrave Country Club <http://www.mulgravecc.com.au>
- Bowls Australia <https://www.bowls.com.au>
- Bowls Victoria <https://www.bowlsvic.org.au>
- Eastern Ranges Bowls Region <https://easternranges.bowls.com.au/>

TEAM APP

If you have a smartphone or a tablet computer, Team App is a great way to stay up to date with all the latest news. Appendix 1 gives the details of how to download and install this App. Team App can also be downloaded to your desktop or laptop PC.

COACHING

THE ROLE OF THE COACH

Like any activity involving skill, it is necessary to have someone show you the basics so that you can begin to participate. Lawn bowls is no different, and it is the job of the Coach to introduce you to this great game. It is mandatory for new bowlers to be passed by the Club Coach as having reached a minimum level of skill before a bowler can begin to participate in organised games. As well as teaching the basic physical aspects of the game, the Coach will also give you guidance on points of etiquette, and outline the basic necessary laws of the game which must be followed. As you develop your level of skill, the Coach can assist in teaching and enhancing specific skills, and teach you about tactics involved in the game.

If one of the Coaches in the Club approaches you and asks if you would mind him pointing out a problem, and a solution, please listen courteously. Coaches want to help everybody maximise their skill level and hence their enjoyment of the game.

HOW TO CONTACT A COACH

When you first take up bowls, the Club Coach will assign a Coach to you. This Coach will give you the essential basic introduction to the game, and when they deem you ready, they will refer you to the Club Coach to be passed to participate in organised games. After this basic introduction, it is expected that organised group coaching will be available for new bowlers, and you are invited to join in these sessions. If you have any specific problems you wish to discuss, you should approach the Coach assigned to you. You are of course, always free to approach the Club Coach for assistance or assignment to another Coach/Mentor. You can also directly approach any of the Coaches in the Club, and this is certainly the correct procedure once you have progressed beyond the first twelve months and you are looking for more advanced coaching. The Club Members Handbook lists the names of the Coaching Panel on the page containing the details of the Bowls Committee, and their telephone numbers can be found in the Members Listing Section.

COACHING GUIDES & AIDS

The following publications are not included if you access this manual on the Web Site. They are available from the Club Coach.

- In The Groove
- Guidance for New Bowlers & The Etiquette of Bowls

Please read these carefully. They provide valuable information to help you when you start the game of Lawn Bowls, but they can also be used as a reference source in years to come. The Club Coach also has access to many sources of printed and audio-visual on-line information for new and experienced bowlers and is happy to disseminate them to you.

IMPROVEMENT TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF SKILL

After you have been taught the basic skills, it is essential to practice. It cannot be over emphasised that the basic shot in the game of Lawn Bowls is the draw shot. Practice and master this shot, and all the other shots will follow. As you begin to master the basic draw shot, you will be looking at the techniques involved in playing the other shots used in the game. Participate in appropriate organised coaching sessions put on by the Club Coaches, or directly approach any of the Club Coaches to request specific skill development.



Photo: Our Midweek Women's Only Pennant Side 1 (season 2012/2013) celebrates winning their Division 1 Quarter Final at Bennetswood



PENNANT BOWLS

PENNANT OVERVIEW

Mulgrave Country Club currently enters:

- 5 Sides of 16 in Weekend Pennant competition, plus 1 Side of 12.
- 6 Sides of 12 in Midweek Pennant, plus 1 Side of 6 in 6-A-Side.
- 3 Sides of 7 in Thursday 7-A-Side Pennant.



Photo: Our Weekend Pennant Side 1 (season 2012/13) celebrates winning their Division 2 Quarter Final against Mitcham. This followed winning promotion the previous week to Division 1 for season 2013/14.

WEEKEND PENNANT

In season 2022-2023, Weekend Pennant comprises several different formats:

- Premier Division, with one Section of 10 Sides, and Division 1, with four Sections of 10 Sides each, with Sides consisting of 16 players, in 4 teams of 4 players each. These Divisions have an 18-round home and away season. Premier Division has 3 rounds of finals, including the Premier Division Grand Final, while Division 1 has 4 rounds of finals, including Section finals and the Division 1 Grand Final.
- Divisions 2 to 6 have eight Sections of 8 Sides each, also with Sides consisting of 16 players, in 4 teams of 4 players. These Divisions have a 14 round home and away season, followed by four rounds of finals, including Section finals and Division finals.

- Division 7 and 8 also have Sections of 8 Sides each, but consisting of 12 players per Side, in 3 teams of 4 players each, with a 14 round home and away season, followed by four rounds of finals. The breakdown of Divisions will be determined by entries received.
- The Pennant season begins mid-October, and completes in mid to late February each year, followed by finals in February and March. There is a mid-season break between Christmas and mid-January each year. Whilst the rules governing Pennant each year do change, the key elements you should be aware of for Pennant are:
 - Weekend Pennant is played mainly on a Saturday afternoon, with a scheduled start time of 1.00pm. However, there are two “double headers” in Premier Division and Division 1 where consecutive rounds are played on Saturday and Sunday. Finals also comprise “double headers” with play on both Saturday and Sunday. Note that players should arrive at venues at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time.
 - In Premier Division and Divisions 1-8, Sides play the other Sides in their Section twice, once at home, and once away.
 - Win/loss is determined by the overall shots up for a team and then by the combined shots up for all teams for a Side.
 - The Side earns 2 points for each winning team, and 10 points for winning overall. Drawn rinks or Sides split the points. Ladder positions are determined by total points, then by the difference in shots for and shots against. This applies to all Pennant competitions regardless of the number of teams making up a Side.



- In Divisions 1 to 8, the top four sides in each section play knockout finals to determine the Section winner, with the Side finishing top playing the Side finishing fourth, and the Sides finishing second and third playing each other. The winners of these games play to determine the Section winner.
- Section winners in Divisions 2-8 play a knockout competition against the other Section winners to determine the Metropolitan Champion for each Division.
- Division 1 play a knockout competition against the other 3 Section winners.
- Premier Division plays a final 4 system over 3 rounds, 1v2, 3v4; Loser 1v2 v Winner 3v4, Grand Final.
- A promotion / relegation system is in place between Divisions. In Season 2023-2024, Sections in Premier and Division 1 will be reduced to eight Sides each, and a two-tier Premier Division will be introduced. This will impact promotion and relegation in all Divisions and details can be found in the Bowls Victoria website.

MIDWEEK PENNANT

In season 2022-2023, Midweek Pennant comprises:

- Divisions 1 to 6, with eight Sections of 8 Sides each, consisting of 12 players per Side, in 3 teams of 4 players each. These Divisions have a 14 round home and away season, followed by four rounds of finals, including Section finals and Division finals.
- A 6-A-Side Division with Sections of 8 Sides (the number of Sections to be determined by entries received). This Division also has a 14 round home and away season, followed by four rounds of finals, including Section finals and Division finals.

Midweek Pennant is normally played on a Tuesday, with a scheduled start time of 10.30am, but finals are played on Tuesday and the immediately following Thursday. Games scheduled for Melbourne Cup Day are moved to the Wednesday of that week.

Determination of winners and points is the same format as Weekend Pennant.

Midweek Side 4
Section Final 2019-2020



THURSDAY 7-A-SIDE PENNANT

In Season 2022-2023, the Thursday 7-A-Side Pennant will be played in separate Spring and Summer competitions. Sections will consist of four Sides each, playing 6 rounds of home and away games followed by 2 rounds of finals. The number of Sections will be determined by the entries received. Sides in a Section may vary from Spring to Summer season.

Each Side consists of 7 players, playing in two teams of Pairs and one team of Triples. Thursday 7-A-Side Pennant is played on a Thursday with a scheduled start time of 10.30am.

Determination of winners and points is the same format as Weekend Pennant.

SELECTORS

There are three Selection Committees, one each for Weekend Pennant, Midweek Pennant, and Thursday Pennant. The Selection Committees are appointed by the Committee of the Bowls Section prior to the commencement of each Pennant Season, with one member of each being appointed Chairman. The number of bowlers on each Selection Committee is as follows:

- Weekend Pennant - six (6) members plus the Club coach
- Midweek Pennant - five (5) members
- Thursday Pennant - two (2) members

The successful appointees are appointed for two (2) years unless they resign or are removed from office under Rule 18.3 of MCC Bowls Section Rules, with half the positions becoming vacant each year.

During the winter months, prior to the season, Selectors meet as needed to update player lists, consider the grading of players, and to set dates for practice matches prior to the commencement of Pennant. During the season, Weekend Pennant Selectors meet on Monday evening, Midweek Pennant Selectors meet on Wednesday morning, and Thursday Selectors meet on Monday morning.

The Selection of any Pennant player is not easy. It involves the evaluation of ability, suitability and character of the player concerned, which determines the side in which the player is selected. It needs to be understood that the Bowls Section of the Mulgrave Country Club is large, over 140 members. It is our commitment and endeavour to give every player, including you, a game in Pennant if you want one, taking into consideration the progress you have made.

It is important that any player selected for a Weekend Pennant match and subsequently not available shall notify the Chairman of Selectors (or failing the Chairman any Selector) as soon as possible but not later than 9.00am on the morning of the match and Midweek Pennant match no later than 7.30am on the morning of the match.

Furthermore players who have prior knowledge of their unavailability for a forthcoming Midweek or Weekend must place their names on the Unavailable List, provided on the

Bowls Section Notice Board, no later than 5.00pm on Mondays for Weekend Pennant, and 9.00am on Wednesdays for Midweek Pennant.

The Selectors wish you all the best and will give you every encouragement in your endeavour to establish yourself as a regular Pennant bowler with the Mulgrave Country Club.

PENNANT PRACTICE

Pennant practice for all Pennant competitions is held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons throughout the season. Coaches can make themselves available for tuition during these sessions, and it is recommended that Weekend Pennant teams practice in their nominated rinks on a Thursday afternoon.

The Head Coach conducts regular training and skills sessions which he advertises via Notice Boards, Website and Team App.

Coaches also arrange practice drills throughout the season to enable bowlers to focus on particular bowls skills.

SELECTORS' NIGHTS

During the season, the Selectors will arrange meeting nights to enable the exchange of information, and to answer any questions Pennant bowlers may have throughout the season. In the recent past there have been the following sessions:

- Weekend Pennant, Round 1 Team Announcement Night, - Monday prior to the first Pennant match in October.
- Midweek Pennant, Round 1 Information Session -- Tuesday prior to the first Pennant match in October.
- Mid-Season Information Night - usually near the recommencement of Pennant after the Christmas/New Year break.

These are very open sessions, and a great opportunity to gain an understanding and ask questions of the Pennant Selectors on their thoughts about the season, selection policies, and any general questions about Pennant.

CLUB, REGION, AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Included in the Member's Handbook are the Club Championship events scheduled for the year. Participation in these events is a great way to get to know your fellow members, and to improve your game. The main events normally scheduled each season include:

- Singles Championships (Men's and Women's)
- Pairs Championship (Men's and Women's)
- Proportional Singles
- Over 80 Singles (also known as the OBE Singles)
- Mixed Pairs
- Triples Championship
- Fours Championship

Note that apart from the first two championships listed above, all other events are open, meaning that both men and women are eligible to participate in any combination, except for the Mixed Pairs where teams must have one women and one man. Entry forms, and closing date details, are available from the Bowls website or from the notice board area.

EASTERN RANGES BOWLS REGION TITLES

Eastern Ranges Bowls Region conducts annual Region Championship Events, which are open to all bowlers who are currently affiliated with Bowls Victoria, including:

- Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Over 60's Singles (Men's and Women's)
- Pairs (Men's and Women's)
- Over 60's Pairs (Men's and Women's)
- Triples (Men's and Women's)
- Fours (Men's and Women's)
- Champion of Champions Singles (Men's and Women's)

Sheets are posted on the notice boards for members to add their names for entry, and closing dates are advertised in the handbook.

BOWLS VICTORIA STATE TITLES

The winners of Regional Singles titles are eligible to participate in the corresponding events for the State Champion of Championship titles conducted by Bowls Victoria. Otherwise State events are open to all affiliated bowlers.

TOURNAMENTS

Mulgrave Country Club runs two Invitational Events during the year. These events are sponsored either by the main club, or by outside organisations, and currently include:

- Lendlease “Retire In Rowville” Triples.
- Easter Monday Triples.

Please refer to the Calendar of Events in the Member’s Handbook for further information, and also to the flyers (or Bowls website) for full details and entry forms.

SOCIAL BOWLS

INTRODUCTION

Social bowls is a fantastic way to be involved with the Club, and Mulgrave Country Club has a well-respected reputation for running a fabulous program of events for bowlers both from Mulgrave, as well as the many visitors we see regularly throughout the season.

Team lists and dates are maintained on the Notice Boards for all the events mentioned below. For most of these events, in addition to nominated teams, there is usually a list for those who want to play casually and/or who are not in a team on a regular basis, or be an emergency should the event be filled on any particular day. All events are normally in the Members' Handbook.

WEDNESDAY TRIPLES

Wednesday Triples runs throughout the year, and is a nominated event.

WINTER BOWLS

Following the end of the Pennant season, social games are organised on Saturdays through to the end of July. Entries are singles, with convenors making up teams of 4.

SUNDAY HAPPY DAYS

Mixed Fours Happy Days are scheduled monthly during the season, generally on the first Sunday of the month. These are very popular events, attracting many visitors from other Clubs. Happy Days are also a nominated event.

OTHER SOCIAL BOWLS EVENTS

The Social Bowls Committee organises a variety of other events throughout the year, including on Melbourne Cup Eve, and Easter Saturday. Challenge matches are held annually against Vermont South Bowling Club and Cumberland View Retirement Village.

INDOOR CARPET BOWLS

Indoor Bowls is a separate sporting section within Mulgrave Country Club, with its own committee, and full details can be found in the member's handbook.

Indoor Carpet Bowls events are held regularly throughout the autumn to spring seasons, May to August:

- Mixed social bowls every Tuesday.
- Pennant - 14-week season, plus finals.

APPENDIX 1 - TEAMAPP BROCHURE

**MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB BOWLS SECTION
NOW HAS ITS OWN APP**



Download this app and stay up to date with all the latest news and happenings in the Bowls Section!

Install the Mulgrave CC Bowls Section App on your smartphone or tablet now!

Follow these steps:

1. Download Team App from the Apple or Google Play app store.



2. Sign up to Team App. You will be sent an email to confirm your registration.
3. Log into the App and search for "Mulgrave CC Bowls Section".
4. Choose your applicable access group(s).
5. If you don't have a smartphone go to mulgraveccbowlsection.teamapp.com to sign up and view this App online.



Need help??

Contact Dennis Jeffery
 Email: denjoan3@bigpond.com
 Phone: 0497 469 665