

FRIENDLIES

An important part of the Club's activities centres around the games arranged against other bowls clubs. These 'Friendlies' still have the elements of competitive bowling, but are also social occasions designed to introduce our members to those of other Clubs. Novice bowlers are encouraged to play as many friendlies as they can to learn their art and the etiquette of the game.

Tradition plays its part in the organisation of the friendlies. The opposing captains will read out the names of the teams for each rink before play starts; a brief speech of welcome is made by the home captain before play starts. The visitors will 'take the mat' (play first) on the first end.

Although most bowling clubs are very similar in the way they are organised and tradition does play an important role in the formal side, there are significant differences between them. Some place more emphasis on competitive bowling, some on leagues and some on social bowling. A large percentage of clubs started off with very few members, a three rink green and almost no facilities for catering or changing clothes.

The facilities were gradually improved as more were encouraged to take up bowling. Club houses were provided, usually a second hand building and greens were extended to four, five and finally six rinks.

Nowadays all clubs will have changing rooms with toilets and kitchen facilities.

Although the green will look very similar, everyone has differences in the texture of the grass, the speed that the bowls run and the amount of swing or bias that affects the bowl. Each new green provides a challenge to the visiting bowler that must be overcome for them to be successful.

The home team pay a match fee for each match played.

As with most sports, practice makes perfect.