



CITY of MELBOURNE

BOWLS CLUB (CoMBC) Inc.



MEMBERS INFORMATION GUIDE

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A Message from the Chair

On behalf of all our members and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the City of Melbourne Bowling Club.

The Club has a very long, rich history. In 2016 we celebrated our 150th birthday, making us one of the oldest sporting clubs in the country.

Yet we have our eyes fixed firmly on the future. Our state-of-the-art building is home to a friendly, welcoming community right in the heart of Melbourne.

I am confident that you will feel welcome here and enjoy both the fellowship of our members and our stunning facilities.

We offer a wide range of formal and informal social activities and - of course - lawn bowls in a variety of social and competition formats.

Whether you want to catch up with friends - perhaps a BBQ with family, a Trivia Nights in the function room, a social game or to play competitive lawn bowls - you can do all that here.

Club practice times are late afternoons on Mondays and Thursdays, with free coaching available.

Our Club is run on the passion and enthusiasm of our members.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or skills that you would like to contribute, please do not hesitate to discuss with me or any of the other office bearers.

I look forward to seeing you at the club soon.



Lisa Larmour
Chair, CoMBC

Club Profile

Club History

The City of Melbourne Bowls Club Inc was founded as the West Melbourne Bowling Club on 18 August 1866 at the Sabloniere Hotel, which stood on the corner of A'Beckett and Queen Streets, Melbourne until 1972. The bowling green was adjacent to the hotel. Our inaugural president was Sir Charles McMahon, a former Police Commissioner and Speaker of the Lower House in the Victorian Parliament.

The club moved to the Flagstaff Gardens in 1879. In 1880 we were a foundation club when the Victorian Bowling Association (VBA) was formed. The inaugural president of the VBA was Cr Samuel Amess, one of our bowlers and a former club president, who was also a Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

George W Sims, the first VBA singles champion, was a member of the Club (and won a total of 19 championships in his time) and we have produced many state players since our inception.

The club changed its name to City Bowling Club in 1904 and to CoMBC in 1964.

In January 1994 fire destroyed a large part of our clubhouse, decimating our facilities, organisation and records. However, with the tireless support and dedication of club members, the club regrouped and continued to operate and prosper, even with limited facilities.

With thanks to City of Melbourne Council and dedicated Council staff, moving into our new clubhouse in May 2009 marked the completion of a journey which began on that sad day in 1994.

The Club has commissioned a history of our first 150 years, which is expected to be available from late 2023.

Where to find us

City of Melbourne Bowls Club Inc.
Flagstaff Gardens, West Melbourne VIC 3003
Phone: + 61 3 9829 0200

www.citybowls.org

TeamApp (available for smart phones and desktop)



Board and Committee Members

The club you have now joined has an administration with various committees which perform the everyday functions required to maintain the operational standard that is required in any organisation.

Board of Management



Lisa Larmour
Chair
chair@citybowls.net



Garry Loughnan
Vice-Chair
vicechair@citybowls.net



Ann Leonard
Secretary
secretary@citybowls.net



Glen Sinclair-Gibson
Treasurer
treasurer@citybowls.net



Lisa Barrett



Rose Ruban



Stu Lafranchi



Jeff Moore

Venue Manager



Tim Goldsbrough
manager@citybowls.net

Bowls Committee

Wendy Alberní
John McLaren
Deb Dowling
Julian Wightwick

Group email: bowlscommittee@citybowls.net

Equipment email: equipment@citybowls.net

Uniform email: uniforms@citybowls.net

Match email: matches@citybowls.net

Selection Committee

Keith McKnight
Gerard Reed
Bruce Taylor
Ian Rhodes

Group email: selectors@citybowls.net

Greens Director

Keith McKnight

Group email: greens@citybowls.net

Coaching Director

Keith McKnight

Group email: coaches@citybowls.net

Welfare Director

Kay Oke

Group email: welfare@citybowls.net

Social Committee

Liz Beech
Alison Hindson

Group email: socialcommittee@citybowls.net

Membership, Fees, Attire, Behaviour and Equipment

Membership Entitlements

Membership renewals are 28 February each year

- Locker and key *
- Change Room swipe card *
- Members / bar card
- One free Club shirt upon joining. Please contact the Bowls Committee uniforms@citbowls.net for further information
- Loan of bowls – bowls may be borrowed up to 3 months. Please contact the Bowls Committee equipment@citybowls.net for further information
- Free coaching – Monday and Thursday afternoons from 3.30pm

** For Bowling Members. Contact Ann Leonard, Secretary or Tim Goldsbrough, Venue Manager. (Contact details page 5)*

Club Facilities

- All members have full use of the greens. Bowling members are encouraged to join the pennant sides and Social members to consider upgrading their membership with a view to playing pennant
- A well-resourced bar with a carefully selected range of wines and other beverages
- BBQ area with two gas fired BBQs
- Modern men's and women's change rooms for those who wish to change before / after bowling.

Club Etiquette

- No foul language or shouting out at players
- Eating or drinking is not permitted on the rinks
- Smoking is only allowed in the area designated by a string of lights at northern end of the two greens.

Dog/Pet policy

Rules for dogs attending City of Melbourne Bowls Club:

- All dogs must be on a lead and under the control of their owner.
- No dogs are permitted inside the club house.
- The club has a zero tolerance for dogs displaying anti-social or aggressive behaviour.
- No pets permitted for non-members.
- Exemptions apply to assistance dogs in line with Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

Greens

The club has two greens - the Mansbridge carpet green and our Mills grass green. Both are available for games/practice with the grass green closed for maintenance every Monday until 4.00pm. Usage of the grass green is also affected by weather so please observe signage indicating its availability.

Access to the greens is permitted year-round between 8am and 9pm. During these times the change room swipe card will gain access through the front gate, if locked upon arrival. Both greens are floodlit and if required bar staff can activate this lighting.

Rinks are always available for members with the Mills grass green restricted to members usage only. If in doubt as to which rinks are available, please consult the bar staff.

Our Greenkeeper is Shane Waddingham and our Greens Director is Keith McKnight.

Green Fees

Summer pennant: \$10.00 per game

Winter pennant: \$5.00 per game. (One or two games possible)

Division 8 Spring pennant: \$5.00 per game

Midweek Pennant: \$5.00 per game



Buddy System

CoMBC has a “buddy” initiative where a number of current members have volunteered to be allocated your “buddy”. We expect this will ensure your transition into the club is an easy and enjoyable experience. If you are interested in being allocated a buddy, please contact the bowls committee. (*Contact details page 5*)

CoMBC Club Uniform Requirements

- Summer pennant - Club polo shirt (long or short sleeved), black or bottle green shorts, capri or long pants and flat soled shoes approved by Bowls Victoria are all compulsory. The club bowls jacket is also preferred.
- Winter pennant - Club polo shirt (long or short sleeved) or jacket is compulsory, casual non-club pants are accepted. If you prefer, full club uniform can be worn. Approved flat soled shoes must be worn, but can be any colour.

Uniform shirts are provided under the following conditions:

- Current playing full bowling members will receive a shirt upon commencement with the club
- Current playing full bowling member may purchase additional shirts

Additional items include: bowls bag, bowls cloth, measure, chalk, sunscreen, hat or visor, rain jacket and sunglasses.

Club polo shirts, jackets, hat bands, bucket hats, bowls cloths, measures and “Grip” cream/mats are available at the club. Contact uniforms@citybowls.net to arrange to try clothes for size and purchase. Other uniform items, shoes, and equipment can be purchased at the stores listed below or any other bowling store.

CoMBC Uniform pricing as at January 2022*:

Polo Tops (Short sleeved)	\$40.00
Polo Tops (Long sleeved)	\$45.00
Jackets	\$50.00
Hat Bands	\$10.00
Bucket Hats (Green or White)	\$15.00
Caps (Red)	\$15.00

Merchandise available at the bar

Stubby Holder	\$10.00
CoMBC Bowls Cloth	\$10.00

Other items available include: Grip, chalk etc

* prices are subject to change

For any queries regarding the CoMBC branded components of the uniform and merchandise, please contact bowlscommittee@citybowls.net

Bowls Stores

- Brighton – Resting Toucher, Breen Drive, East Brighton +61 3 8520 9600
www.restingtoucher.com.au
- Doncaster – Doncaster Sporting Gear, 914a Doncaster Road, Doncaster +61 3 9848 7387
www.dsgbowlsshop.com.au/online-bowls-shop
- Fairfield - Melbourne Bowls Centre, 320 Darebin Road, Fairfield
+61 3 9488 0478
www.melbournebowls.com.au

Bowls Victoria website: www.bv.org.au

Competition and Fixtures

TeamApp

Set up your profile, including phone number, in TeamApp so you can keep up to date with all Pennant and member communication. TeamApp contains:

- Members Directory – full member contact details
- News – Weekend tasks for Saturday pennant, new information
- Ladder – Direct link to BowlsLink for up-to-date ladder results
- Chat – organise transport, share good news, calls for assistance, call for players
- Events – notice of upcoming events, tournaments, intra club nights, training/practice etc
- Teams – Check out which team you are in each week
- Gallery – Photos of celebrations, events and tournaments
- Fixtures - updated at the start of pennant season
- Unavailability – If you cannot play, please let the selectors know ahead of time where possible
- Documents – Bowls Vic Conditions of Play, Tournament timetable, Club Championship conditions of play, Members Handbook.

Team Bowling

- Saturday pennant (Summer and Winter, warm up 12.30pm, start 1.00pm)
- Saturday Division 8 (Spring, for new bowlers, commences 10.00am)
- Midweek Tuesday (day Competition, commences 10.00am)
- Midweek Thursday (day Competition, commences 10.00am)
- Ad hoc competitions / tournaments throughout the year
- Practice matches (intra / external games)
- Wednesday intra club - new member/social and full members (commences 6.00pm)

Training Days and Times

The rinks are available to use for training anytime within reasonable hours; however, Monday and Thursday club coaching and training starts from 3.30pm.

Tournaments

CoMBC encourages all Bowling members to compete in Tournaments. The Tournament Master(s) will communicate details to members via noticeboards, email and / or via TeamApp.

CoMBC Coaches and Selectors encourage participation in Regional Events. METRO WEST region will publish a syllabus of events for Singles / Pairs / Mixed pairs / Triples / Fours. Apart from the Mixed Pairs, events are gender based, as have progression to State and National Titles.

Participation in regional events exposes your skills to a wider audience, and offers the opportunity to play on the best prepared surfaces. It also helps to promote and lift the profile of CoMBC.

Events

Social Events



CoMBC prides itself on not only being a competitive and respected bowls club but also a social club where members are encouraged to enjoy good company before and after bowls and whenever at the club.

There are events throughout the year, including (and definitely not limited to):

- Wine tasting
- Music trivia nights
- Restaurant Nights
- Melbourne Cup in November
- Christmas Party mid-December
- New Year's Eve Fireworks Party

The majority of these are open to members, their families and friends. You will be advised of upcoming events by email, newsletters, website and the Club's TeamApp.

Club Meetings include:

- Board of Management meeting – held monthly
- Bowls Committee meeting – held monthly
- Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held annually, usually in May, with nominations for Board, Committees and other positions due not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the AGM.

Club Communication

Club communication via the noticeboards (left hand side of passage opposite glass cabinets), email and TeamApp. Subjects include: upcoming meetings, minutes, social events, pennant games, intra club competitions, match cancellations, external club competitions, ad hoc information and club photos.

If you do not have an email address, CoMBC will send certain information to you by post: AGM notices, newsletters, membership fees etc. If you require information posted to you, please notify the Secretary.

Club Website - www.citybowls.org

The Club website provides a range of information. It should particularly be referred to if you or your friends are thinking of using the club facilities for a function or for barefoot bowls.

Things you should know about playing the game of bowls

The Four (4) Player Positions

A four player team is the most common form of competition however the game can be played with one, two or three players in differing formats.

1. Responsibility of the Lead - the 1st player to start the game is required to:

- Draw* their bowls as close to the jack as possible
- Place the mat as per the game plan or as directed by the Skip
- Deliver the jack and make sure it is centred before delivering the first bowl of the end
- Help to return lawn bowls to a safe position behind the mat at the conclusion of each end.

2. Responsibility of the Second – the second player must be a versatile player with the ability to:

- Draw on either hand to the jack or to a position designated by the Skip
- Be able to play on-shots to trail the jack to designated lengths
- Rest on or wrest out bowls from the head*
- When the Lead has failed, re-establish the Leads obligation at the head
- Fill in the scorecard, liaise with the opposing second to ensure the cards agree and adjust the scoreboard.

The Second plays an important part in building the head which involves both teams to consider the employment of the tactical skills of defence, attack and recovery.

3. Responsibility of the Third – the third player must be experienced in all shots from the draw to the drive* and must be able to quickly indicate the position of the head or bowls when asked for this information.

The Third duties include:

- Being in charge of the head when Skips are bowling or in the absence of the Skip
- If delegated to measure for shot and decide with the opponent the number of shots and signal the result to the Skip and the Second
- Help to return the bowls to a safe position behind the mat at the conclusion of each end
- Must know and be able to identify the teams and opponents bowls
- Answer the Skips queries correctly.

The Third should discourage any interruption by the Lead or Second when directing or measuring at the head.

4. Responsibility of the Skip – the Skip carries the responsibilities and duties and therefore must be supported by the team. The Skip:

- Is in charge of the team, delegates duties and notifies opponents when necessary
- Instructs the team members which shot to play
- Makes decisions with the opponent to comply with the laws the game and conditions of play ensures the score card is returned to the appropriate authority
- Shouldn't show disappointment if a player performs a bad shot. They should always commend a player who plays a good shot
- Ensures the team understands the game plan
- Must know his players strengths and weaknesses

Must be skilful of contrivance or design when building the head.

Terminology

**Draw – delivering the bowl to slow to a halt at the target point*

**Drive – delivering the bowl at speed with the intent to knock out the jack or opponent's bowl/s*

**Jack – small round ball that acts as the 'target'*

**Head – a cluster of bowls around the jack.*

Good Team Behaviour

- Discipline
- Encourage team mates
- The BIG scoreboard is the focus
- Use positive verbal and non-verbal signals
- Do not get on mat until the Skip has given instructions. Stay 1m back from mat
- Be vocal and applaud good shots by your team mates
- Support your team mates and chat to the opposition only after the game
- Do not use mobile phone during the game

Typical Pennant Day Schedule - Example

Weekly teams check

Each week check TeamApp to see:

- Which team you have been selected for and where you are playing. This is normally announced on Wednesday each week of the pennant season.
- Who is the **team manager**, this is a role that is shared throughout the pennant season.
- What **home game tasks** you have been allocated. Don't leave your duties to someone else, many hands make light work.

Saturday Afternoon

*Plan to arrive at the venue (home or away) from 11.50am allowing minimum 30 minute pregame practice on the surface you will be playing on. Pregame practice will help you warm the body and tune the mind. Every surface is different, explore its vagaries to better your afternoon performance. Turn up **HAPPY** and **POSITIVE**. Good things happen to happy people.*

Playing at Home (all times are approximate)

11.50am	Meet at CoMBC
12.45pm - 1pm	Roll (warm) up / Game commences
2.45pm approx.	Afternoon Tea (CoMBC usually provides this)
4pm – 5:30pm	End of game

Call of the card** commences when all teams have arrived back at the club followed by members draw and light snack***

Playing away (all times are approximate)

11:15am – 11.30am	Meet at CoMBC (unless going direct) or travel as a group (car share*)
11.50pm	Meet at opposition club
1pm	Game commences
2.45pm approx.	Afternoon Tea (if applicable; not all clubs provide Afternoon Tea)
4pm – 5:30pm	End of game

Travel back to CoMBC to watch afternoon pennant or participate in call of the cards** followed by members draw and light snack***

Saturday Morning

Playing at Home (all times are approximate)

9am	Meet at CoMBC
9.45am – 10am	Roll (warm) up / Game commences
12pm	End of game

Stay at CoMBC to watch afternoon pennant or return to participate in call of the cards** followed by members draw and light snack***

Playing away (all times are approximate)

9am – 9.15am	Meet at CoMBC (unless going direct)
9.15am	Travel as a group (car share*) to opposition club
10am	Game commences
12pm	End of game

Travel back to CoMBC to watch afternoon pennant or participate in call of the cards** followed by members draw and light snack***

Midweek (Tuesday)

Playing at Home (all times are approximate)

9.30am	Meet at CoMBC
10.15am – 10.30am	Roll (warm) up ends / Game commences
12pm	Half hour break
2pm	Game ends

Playing away (all times are approximate)

9am – 9.15am	Meet at CoMBC (unless going direct)
9.15am	Travel as a group (car share*) to opposition club
10.30am	Game commences
12pm	Half hour break (some clubs may provide lunch)
2pm	End of game

**Car Share – members may arrange this via the TeamApp chat function.*

***Call of the Cards - Announcing the scores for each rink i.e. the winners.*

**** Members draw and light snack - provided after calling of the cards*