

Barnes Bowling Club

A Unique Heritage Asset



Keeping our Club Special!

Barnes Bowling Club

The Sun Inn
9 Church Road
Barnes
London SW13 9HE

The Barnes Bowling Club green is the only surviving pub green in the whole of London, and the oldest green in the capital. We are lucky to be able to enjoy such a unique heritage, and we need to remember that our continued successful existence depends on the support of the wider community as well as on our own membership.



A unique heritage asset it is surprising how many longstanding Barnes residents are not aware of the club and its history. Bowls is one of the oldest, and at one time among the most popular, games, with many variations played on the 7400-plus greens around the country. The earliest reference to bowls in Barnes is the 1693 Parish records listing a 'cottage and land called the bowling green' next to Barnes pond, and the Sun Inn green dates from around 1775.

One of our club's aims is to promote the historic game of 'Elizabethan Bowls'. We have a number of distinctive features: we use highly-biased Lignum Vitae woods, and our game is played 'corner to corner' across an irregular rectangular green likely unchanged since the 18th Century. These make it one of the most important sites of sporting heritage in Britain, according to "Bowled Over"*, a recent book that tells the definitive story of bowls. It also has one of the few remaining walled gardens in the borough, and has attracted interest from Richmond Garden Society.

*'Bowled Over', by Hugh Hornby, published by Historic England as part of the Played in Britain series (www.playedinbritain.co.uk)

So much for our heritage. But our continued successful existence means nurturing both the culture of our club and our wider reputation, and following the:

Rules of the Club



First and foremost, civility and good manners are fundamental to the well being of the club. Although personal differences may arise between members from time to time, it is important that we treat each other with respect within the club and at our events elsewhere. This should also be extended to our green keeper and Sun Inn staff.

The Green & Play

We also need to treat our green with respect! Our 'corner to corner' play makes for a lot of wear, so always use a *low delivery*, and remember not to walk unnecessarily on the corners – the damage may not be visible immediately, but soon becomes very apparent.



Fitting all our competitions into less than five months (May to mid-September) is quite a task and everyone can help by playing their scheduled games as soon as possible.

When scheduled to play a competition game, it is etiquette **not** to practice earlier the same day, as this gives an advantage over an opponent who may not be in a position to do the same. But by all means, when your opponent arrives, play a couple of ends together to get the feel of the green before starting your match.



All members must respect the order of play: when coming in, please check if anyone else is waiting to play and join the queue! Members should not play another game straight away if there are others waiting to play.

We do not have a dress code (other than requiring shirts or T-shirts to be worn at all times in the club), but please remember that *flat-soled shoes* should always be worn when playing or walking on the green.

Mobile phones must not be used while any competition game is in progress.



Guests are welcome, and need to be signed in. There is a modest fee *only* if they play. This does not apply on the weekly Club Open Nights (Wednesdays, between 5pm and 8pm), Opening Day, Barnes Fair Day or International Day. Children and pets must be supervised and are not allowed on the green or to run around the club.



Our **Lease** requires that all drinks consumed on club premises by members and/or guests must be purchased from the Sun Inn. Please remember to return glasses to the Sun Inn and clear away any litter at the end of each session.

Subscriptions Paying subs promptly and letting the committee know if you are not renewing your membership helps keep our club financially healthy.

Security is important; so members should lock the clubhouse and entrance doors if they are the last to leave and remember to re-lock the gate to the Sun Inn car park, and not disclose the combination to others.

Members should also look after their club key (and hand it back if they decide not to renew their membership).

More details are given in the **Ground Rules** and **Playing Rules**, which are on the clubhouse noticeboard and on the members' page of our website, as is our constitution.

Nurturing our culture and wider reputation

Our wider reputation depends on how we are seen in our community, and we are keen to strengthen our links with other groups and organisations.

Both the club and individual members support local good causes and events, including Barnes Fair Day. We are keen to strengthen our links with other local groups and organisations and have communications with Barnes Community Association, the Barnes and Mortlake History Society, the Barnes Literary Society, and Richmond Council.

Welcoming existing and potential new members alike!

One of the club's aims is to ensure that our membership represents a good cross-section of the local community. It is gratifying that there is a waiting list to join, as new blood is always welcome. One of the committee's responsibilities is to make sure that new members make a positive contribution to the atmosphere and social aspects of the club.



The Committee. Committee members are elected annually at the AGM and hold meetings monthly during the playing season. Members can raise any issues they feel are important to the committee or simply drop a message into the 'suggestions box' in the clubhouse.

GOOD BOWLING!

BARNES BOWLING CLUB

Visit our website

www.barnesbowling.org

for information and to check on upcoming events

or

email the club secretary at

info@barnesbowling.org

