

EAST SURREY BOWLS LEAGUE

Founded 1986

Member Clubs:

Bletchingley BC*, Godstone BC*, Caterham BC*, Old Coulsdon BC*, Chipstead BC*,
Epsom BC*, Shirley Park BC*, Wallington BC*, Ashted BC, Horley BC, Sutton BC,
Cheam Fields BC, Purley BC, Purley Bury BC, Dorking BC, Warlingham Park BC

***Founder Clubs**

RULES AND CONSTITUTION *(Amended 30th November 2013)*

1. The League shall be a Men's league known as the EAST SURREY BOWLS LEAGUE. The Headquarters of the League shall be Old Coulsdon Bowling Club.

2. Membership of the League shall be by written application to the Secretary who will present it to the Annual General Meeting. A decision will be determined by the Member Clubs voting FOR or AGAINST the application. Membership of the League is restricted to Clubs within the Surrey County border on the East with Kent and the South with Sussex. A North/South line through Dorking/Leatherhead will provide the Westerner border and the London Boroughs of Croydon and Sutton will provide the Northern most border of the EAST SURREY BOWLS LEAGUE

3. In the event of a new Club joining the League, a Joining Fee of £10.00 will be payable in addition to the Annual Subscription in force at that time. The amount of the Annual Subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

4. The affairs of the League shall be conducted by a Committee which shall consist of the Officers and one Delegate member from each club.

5. The Officers of the League shall be a President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Results Secretary who will act as Press Officer. The Office of Secretary and Treasurer may be held as one Office.

6. The Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting which shall take place in either October or November each year. Officer nominations and propositions for discussion at the AGM should be made in writing to the League Secretary at least 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

7. One Delegate to the Committee shall be nominated by each Member Club. Such nominations are to be notified to the Secretary and should show the contact details of the Delegate or the Club, i.e: Email address and telephone number.

8. Only the Delegate or their representative will be allowed to vote at the Annual General Meeting, i.e. one vote per Club. Any changes to the Constitution requires a 66.67% majority of the Member clubs voting in favour. The Chairman of the Meeting will have a casting vote

The following paragraph will take effect from season 2015

9. The League will organize each season a two Division Inter-Club League played on Fixed Dates with promotion and relegation between the divisions and an Inter-Club Top Ten knockout competition between the Member Clubs.

*The following 4 paragraphs will be used in 2014 but deleted from the "Rules and Constitution" for season 2015 and replaced by **11.** below.*

The League will run a Team League Competition. The winning club will be awarded a cheque to the value of £75, and will hold the DON STANLEY Championship Trophy and the Championship Flag for a period of one year.

Suitable mementoes will be presented to the Clubs who are League Champions and League Runner Up each season.

The top division for season 2015 will be formed by the Clubs who finished in the top 9 positions of the season 2014 league table. The 7 remaining teams will form the second division supplemented by the two new Clubs who will join the League.

A Top Ten Competition will also be organized each year with the winners awarded a cheque to the value of £75, they will also hold the KEITH NASH Shield for the following year. The Club will receive a memento to keep.

10. RULES OF PLAY - LEAGUE

All matches shall be played in accordance within the spirit and the Laws of the Sport of Bowls except as otherwise provided for in these Rules.

11. The two clubs who finish at the bottom of division one will be relegated to division two and be replaced in division one by the top two in division two. League Officers will arrange a Fixed Date fixture exchange between the four clubs soon after the Promotion/Relegation issues are settled each season not later than the AGM. The Club finishing as Champions of the top division will be presented with a cheque for £75 and will hold for one year "The DON STANLEY Championship Trophy" and the Championship Flag. They along with the runner up will be presented with suitable "to keep" awards. A "to keep" award will also be made to the winning Club of the second division League Competition.

The following paragraph will be used in 2014 but deleted from the "Rules and Constitution" for season 2015 and replaced by 11.1 below..

Clubs will play each other Home or Away. Matches are to be played on Saturdays or Sundays as previously agreed between Clubs. Midweek fixtures are permitted, if agreed between the individual Clubs involved.

11.1 Clubs will play each other Home and Away each season. Matches are to be played on the "League Fixed Dates" as previously agreed by the Clubs at an AGM. Midweek and alternative dates to the "fixed date schedule" are permitted, but only in extreme circumstances and by mutual agreement of both Clubs. The Results Secretary must be informed of any changes to the "Fixed Date" schedule.

11.2 A Match shall consist of each Club playing four Fours. The duration of the match shall be 21 ends and all players must be a bona fide member of the club for which he is playing. A player can only play for one ESL club in any one Season.

11.3 In the event of players being absent from one or both teams the match shall proceed no later than 15 minutes after the appointed time. After the time extension if either or both teams are still short of up to 4 players then the game will commence with:

1 short = A Triple playing against a Rink and 3 Rinks vs. 3 Rinks.

2 short = Two Triples playing against Rinks and 2 Rinks vs. 2 Rinks.

3 short = Three Triples playing against Rinks and 1 Rink vs. 1 Rink.

4 short = Four Rinks against 4 Triples. Overall match points going to the non-defaulting club.

NB: The Triples will play with 6 woods against the 8 woods of the Rink(s); therefore the Triple would forfeit the No. 2 position.

Late arriving players may join the match only up until the conclusion of the 4th end.

11.4 Rinks will be drawn. The visiting Captain or representative shall make the draw to establish the opposing fours, and the rink numbers to be played on. Captains may however mutually agree to play each other.

11.5 SCORING:- Two points will be awarded to the winner on each Rink. One point each shall be awarded for a tied Rink. Four points shall be awarded for an overall aggregate win. Two points each shall be awarded for an overall aggregate tie.

11.6 An abandoned match with less than 15 ends completed on all rinks must be rearranged. Failure to do so will be covered by rule **11.7**. In the event of an abandonment after a minimum 15 ends on all rinks have been played; Result and points allocation would be based on the completed ends played on each individual rinks.

11.7 The Home clubs Green Keeper, or Match Captain are the only people who can declare the Green unfit for play. Matches cancelled for this or any other reason **must** be rearranged by mutual agreement between the Clubs to maintain the integrity of the League. To rearrange a fixture the Home club should offer 1 weekend date and 2 midweek dates. The League Results Secretary **must** be informed of the details of the rearrangement. Clubs who fail to rearrange a match that directly affects Promotion/Relegation issues will be instructed to play at a time and place deemed to be fair to both Clubs by The League Officers.

Should it prove impossible for The League Officers to be able to reach a measure of agreement between the clubs on a date and time then the result and points allocation will be 10 points and 10 shots to the non culpable club and 2 points and minus 10 shots to the culpable club. Decisions taken by The League Committee will be final and will be seen to be fair to all other members of the League.

NB: Should a Member Club fail to honour a fixture twice in any season it should be assumed that they do not have the resources to be part of the League in its present format. This in the first instance would become a matter for the League Officers to resolve with the culpable club.

11.8 The Club with the highest number of points in both divisions at the end of the season shall be declared the Divisions Champions. In the event of a tie on points, the Club with the highest shots difference shall be declared Division winners.

11.9 Dress for morning or evening matches shall be white above the waist, grey trousers or tailored grey shorts, grey socks and approved bowling shoes. Afternoon matches; white above the waist, white trousers or white tailored shorts with white socks with approved bowling shoes. Coloured Club shirts may be worn subject to the following:-

- i) The Club shirt must be registered and approved by Bowls England.
- ii) Club team shirts may be worn before, during, and at the after match formalities.

11.10 Match results must be notified to the League Results Secretary by both Clubs by Email. **RESULTS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Both Clubs must retain the signed scorecards for possible scrutiny by the Results Secretary.

12. TOP TEN COMPETITION RULES

A "Top Ten Competition" will be organized each year. The winners will be presented with a cheque for £75 and a "to keep" award. They will also hold "The KEITH NASH Shield" for one year.

12.1 Rules shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls unless otherwise provided for within these rules.

12.2 Eligibility is open only to Member Clubs of the EAST SURREY LEAGUE.

12.3 Matches are to be played on a knockout basis. The winning Club will proceed to the next round.

12.4 Matches will consist of four events all starting at the same time, Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours, played on the same green. The visiting Captain will make the draw to determine the number of the rink that each event will be played on.

12.5 As soon as possible after the draw is published, the Challenger (the club at the top of each match) must offer their opponents three dates, one of which must be a Weekend. No Club need start a Midweek "Top Ten" match before 6pm unless by mutual agreement. If through bad weather or unforeseen circumstances the match cannot be completed before the closing date of the round an extension can be sought from a League Officer. If an extension is granted the match must be played within 10 days of the "play by" date. If clubs are unable to agree dates the League Officers organizing the competition will arbitrate. Their decision could include DISQUALIFICATION of one or both Clubs.

12.6 Two points are to be awarded to the winners of each event (One point to each club if the event is tied.)

If, after all events are finished and the points allocated, both clubs have 4 points each then the winner will be determined by the aggregate of shots scored.

Should the aggregate shots scored be equal, then immediately the Pairs, Triples and Fours will play one end each to decide the result of the match.

Before the commencement of the three events a coin shall be spun to determine which Club will take the mat. All players in the three events shall remain in the same event and shall retain their playing positions from the original match.

Each of the three events must produce a clear winner and the club holding shot wood in each of the events will be awarded one point upon completion of the end.

The winning club will be the club who wins at least 2 points of the 3 available.

12.7 The ten players representing a Club may be changed for each round.

12.8 Clubs who fail to be ready to play within fifteen minutes of the appointed time will be disqualified.

12.9 Scorecards from each match must be signed by both Captains and retained for scrutiny. The winners to notify the Results Secretary of the result by Email as soon as possible.

12.10 Dress for Top Ten matches shall be in accordance with Rule **11.9**. The Final is to be played in whites.

12.11 The draw for the Top Ten competition will be made by The League Officials. Matches are to be played in accordance with the dates shown on the competition draw sheet that is shown on the ESL website and will be issued to each Club. The League Results Secretary will be responsible for notifying each Club of their next match in the competition. The Final will be played on a fixed date on a neutral Green appointed by The League Officers.

12.12 THE LEAGUE OFFICERS COMMITTEE: Matters not covered by the above Rules will be decided upon by The League Officers who will decide if an issue should be made the subject of a vote by the Member Clubs. The League Officers will decide what voting majority is required to carry an issue to a "fair to all" conclusion. The Officers decisions will be final.