



Bellingham Bowling Club

Competitions List and Information



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Introduction To Competitions

When you first begin to bowl, understanding all the different competitions can be a daunting prospect. Even when an experienced member of the club explains some of the matches available, (in addition to the general roll-ups or practice), it can still take a while to get used to what you can take part in as an individual bowler or as part of the Club's various teams.

Whether you are an occasional bowler or someone who just likes to roll-up with a friend or play alone, understanding what other competitions are available is important because Bellingham Bowls Club want to ensure you can take part in additional bowls matches, gain experience and improve your bowling skill.

Even if you are someone who may not feel that competitive bowls is for you, you should not be worried about playing in a competitive match because, as a friendly sport, you will always be encouraged to have a go regardless of your ability.

Bowls is a game that is easy to play, but difficult to master. With that thought in mind, even the most experienced players have off days. The reason for this is that you will be playing on a green that can be changeable and unpredictable. Of course, the more you play the more you will improve and manage the different conditions. So don't be shy in wanting to get involved in competitions either at club or other levels.

The contents of this document will explain all the competitions for the men's and ladies' sections as well as the various mixed competitions and special bowling events.

There are several Leagues for both ladies and men and numerous knockout cups and trophies in addition to National (Bowls England) and County (Kent) competitions.

If you are the sort of person who wants to aspire to greater things, then the pinnacle for any bowler is to be awarded a Kent County Badge. You can achieve this by either taking part in county Singles, Pairs, Triples or Fours competitions and reaching a Kent quarter final. An explanation can be found in the Kent section below.

The various bowling disciplines, number of ends and scoring are as follows (we call bowls – "woods").

- 4 wood singles – Each player has 4 woods. The first to score 21 wins. No limit to the number of ends.
- 2 wood singles – Each player has 2 woods. The first to score 21 wins. No limit to the number of ends.
- 4 wood pairs - 2 players per team. Each player has 4 woods. There are usually 18 ends after which the highest score wins.
- 3 wood triples - 3 players per team. Each player has 3 woods. There is usually a limit of 18 ends after which the highest score wins.
- 2 wood fours - 4 players per team. Each player has 2 woods. There is usually a limit of either 18 or 21 ends after which the highest score wins.

For a more detailed explanation of Bowls terms please see your Bellingham Bowls club Handbook.

Numerous past and present Bellingham members have had success at National and County level. Why not spend a little time having a look at the Honours Boards located at the upper level at the club? There might be one or two names you recognise.

Information About Etiquette:

Bowls is a very sociable sport but there are a few simple rules that make the game enjoyable for everyone: a friendly and sporting attitude towards both your teammates and your opponents are appreciated and reciprocated.

For information about bowls etiquette please refer to page 19 of the Bellingham Bowls Club members Handbook on the club website.

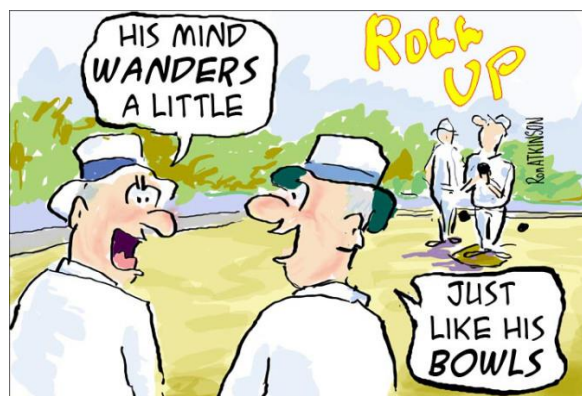
Club Diary and priority of matches:

Matches that are either fixed or agreed between players (other than general practice play or roll ups) must be noted in the club Rink Book. The Rink Book is in a folder in the foyer at the club.

All matches are played on a priority basis so, for example, if a Kent match has been agreed and noted in the diary on the same day and time as a Bellingham club match, the Kent match will be played as a priority over all other fixtures. This means the players in the Kent match, will have first choice of rink.

The order of priority is: National, Kent, League matches and knockouts, Club Competitions, general roll up play and practice.

All of us at Bellingham wish you the best with your bowling and don't forget there are always players about who are willing to provide advice, coaching and encouragement to enable you to take an active part in the life of Bellingham Bowls Club. Above all else just enjoy your bowling.



Men's Section

Bowls England:

Bowls England is the governing body of the National Bowling Association. All bowls clubs are affiliated to Bowls England and all events are played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations and the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

Part of the annual membership fee you paid to the club is passed on to Bowls England which means you are a fully paid-up member of the National Bowling Association. Currently this is £7 (2024).

This means you are entitled to take part in national men's competitions and these are.

Men's Competitions	Eligibility	Format
Senior Singles	Aged 55 and over on 1st April	Four bowls/21 shots up
Senior Pairs	Both players aged 55 and over on 1st April from clubs within same county	Three bowls per player/18 ends
Champion of Champions Singles	Club Championship Winners and plus county/national winners	Four bowls/21 shots up

There are also mixed national competitions as follows:

Mixed Competitions	Eligibility	Format
Family Pairs	Eligible players should be from one of the following pairings:	Three bowls per player/18 ends
	Grandmother and granddaughter/grandson	
	Grandfather and granddaughter/grandson	
	Mother and daughter/son	
	Father and daughter/son	
	Sister and sister/brother	
	Brother and brother/sister	
	Step relatives of the above are also eligible to play	
	Marriage	
	Civil Partnership	

Mixed national competitions - continued:

Mixed Pairs	1 x man/1 x woman; both players from clubs within same county	Three bowls per player/18 ends
Mixed Fours	2 x men/2 x women;	Two bowls per player/15 ends
	All players from clubs within same county	

Where do I play these matches?

Most qualifying rounds are held within the local area. The final qualification match is held at a neutral venue agreed by the players.

How are these matches arranged?

Matches during the qualifying rounds are arranged by the players.

When are these competitions played?

The qualifying rounds are held either on weekday evenings or at weekends – this is agreed by the players. The National Finals are held annually at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa – usually the venue for the Commonwealth Games for Lawn Bowls when in the UK.

How do I Enter?

Entries will be accepted following the conclusion of the current season.

Bowls England Website: www.bowlsengland.com. Please refer to the competition section how to enter competitions.

Top Club:

This is a national inter-club competition for up to 708 entries from all over the country. Each County has a Top Club knockout and Kent is split into two areas, North West and South East. Bellingham is in the North West Kent area.

Each club has 11 players in five disciplines these are.

- **2 wood singles**
- **4 wood singles**
- **4 wood pairs**
- **3 wood triples**
- **2 wood fours**

To progress through the rounds, the team must win at least 3 of the five disciplines so you can win or lose 3-2, 4-1 or 5-0.

If a club wins the area final, they will progress to the round of 32 at a neutral ground against the nearest county. There is then a round of 16 against the next nearest county. The national quarterfinals, semi-finals and final are played at Royal Leamington Spa in September each year.

Club Two Fours:

This is also a Bowls England affiliated national competition on a knockout basis. Up to 845 clubs take part each year. The early rounds are divided into 32 County based areas. Bellingham is within the North West Kent area.

The format is two teams of four players each having two woods. The winner is the team with the highest total aggregate score over the two rinks. Two national rounds follow the early county rounds and then 8 teams advance to the National Finals in Leamington Spa during September.

Kent competitions:

Every year competitions are arranged by each County in England. Bellingham is affiliated to The Kent County Bowling Association ("KCBA").

You must be registered with the KCBA and Bowls England to enable you to enter County competitions therefore part of your annual fee is paid to the KCBA. Currently this is £5 (2024).

A competitions page is on the Kent Bowls website - www.kentbowls.com which provides all the information about competition formats and a guide for new competitors. Please have a look through the website as there is too much to include in this booklet.

There is a cost to enter each competition which is set by the County each year. Application forms will be made available during September each year and the entries are made through our club. Payment is made at the same time as the club sends the forms and entry money to the KCBA.

There are four divisions in the KCBA and Bellingham is in Division 1. This is only geographical and has no relevance to any kind of promotion or relegation. It is purely for convenience of locality when playing in the various formats. However, as you advance in any competition, you will play individuals or teams from clubs in the other Divisions and this could be anywhere in Kent.

If you manage to advance to the Divisional Final in the unbadged singles format and win, you will then receive your Kent badge and advance to the County Quarter finals. It is also possible to gain your Kent badge in all other formats. For example, in the unbadged singles you would need to play in eight rounds to win the County title.

Entrants must be aware that the matches are played on a weekly basis as follows.

- Monday Badged Singles
- Tuesday Pairs
- Wednesday Triples
- Thursday Fours
- Friday Unbadged singles and Over 55 fours
- 2 wood singles - early rounds are played on one Sunday in May
- Under 25 singles and pairs – no specific day

If you enter the competitions, you must be prepared to play on the day fixed. If you keep winning this is on a weekly basis and each game normally starts at 6pm. An earlier date and/or time can be arranged with the agreement of your opponent. If you know you cannot be available in advance of the matches, which normally start at the end of May, then you should not enter.

It is possible in competitions, other than singles, to have a substitute if a player is unable to take part in any round but, if they do so, they may not play in a different team or act as a substitute in another team in the same format. However, you may for example, play in a triple team and substitute in a fours team.

The Cox Cup:

This is a KCBA knockout competition which Bellingham enters each year. There is no limit to the number of teams a club may enter.

Each club entry consists of two teams of four players each having 2 woods. The matches are played with one four playing at home and the other four playing away against fours of the same opposing team. The matches are played simultaneously and are over 18 ends. The winner is the team with highest combined score on each rink. In the event of a tie at the end of the match a deciding end is played and the team with the best nearest bowl will win. The extra end can be played at home or away, but teams will agree where this will be before the match begins.

North West Kent League:

This is a two rink 3 wood triples competition played normally on a Thursday evening at 6pm (5.30pm from August).

There are 8 divisions of up to 8 teams in the North West Kent area. The entered clubs come from as far as Swanley and Sevenoaks, but most clubs will be familiar to you. Clubs may enter more than one team and Bellingham (at the time of publication, 2024) has two teams and both are in division 3. Some clubs have three teams.

The matches consist of 18 ends and the winning rink is awarded 2 match points. All game points are added up at the end and the team with the highest aggregate points is awarded an additional 2 match points. In the event of a draw, 1 point is awarded to each team. Therefore 6 points are available in the match.

The league also tots up the amount of game shots difference in the event of teams having equal league points at the end of the season. This is important in a promotion or relegation situation.

The matches are played home and away over the outdoor season and there is a two-club promotion and relegation rule.

Bellingham usually has a squad of players for each team, and you must stay with that team throughout the season. For example, if we have 9 players per team, selection will mean that you are rested for some games although swapping matches with other players in your squad is possible depending on your personal availability.

Once you have played in a match for one team, you may not then swap to the other Bellingham team for that season.

The Fred Tyler Cup:

This is the knockout version of the North West Kent League. The matches are drawn at the start of the season and a team could be drawn against any other club in the 8 divisions.

The format is the same as the league and the matches are played usually on a Tuesday evening between the two drawn teams. Teams may only field players who have already played in a team in the league. Once again you may not swap from one team to another one in the same season.

LX League:

This league is a 3 wood, four triples competition for players aged over 60 years (hence "LX"). Games are usually played mostly on a Wednesday afternoon (some on a Tuesday) at 2pm. All matches are arranged on specific dates before the league season commences on the first Wednesday in May.

There are 19 teams in the league (2024) and you play every other team once only. The matches are arranged each year so that if you play a club at home this year, next year you play them away.

There are 2 points available for each rink (1 point each in the event of a drawn rink) and an extra 2 points for the team with the best aggregate score overall. Therefore 10 points are available in the match.

The Ron Ault Cup:

This is the knockout version of the LX League except there is only two triples each with 3 woods.

The winning team is the one with the best aggregate score overall. It is therefore possible to win one and lose one rink and still win the match. For example, you win 23-19 on rink one but lose 15-12 on rink two. Adding the scores together, you win 35-34.

The draw is made before the start of the season, and the matches are arranged with the club you are drawn against on a mutually convenient day and time. The final is played on a neutral ground.

PCL League

This is the Private Clubs League competition. Matches are usually played on a Saturday afternoon at 2pm and consist of four rinks of four players each having 2 woods.

The winning team in each rink is awarded 1 point and the team with the highest aggregate total over the four rinks is awarded an additional 3 points. In the event of an overall draw each team is awarded 1½ points. Therefore 7 points are available in the match.

Presidents Cup:

The President's Cup is the PCL knockout competition. The matches are played in four disciplines, one each of: singles, pairs, triples and fours.

The winning team is determined by the highest combined team aggregate score in all four matches.

LSCBA (London & Southern Counties Bowling Association):

The association has member clubs from Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Sussex.

There are various formats organised by the association and Bellingham normally enters many or all of them. There are singles (Gold Badge and Lonsdale), pairs, triples, fours and mixed fours.

The Bellingham Club Singles Champion is usually entered in the Gold Badge Singles competition and the runner up in the Lonsdale competition. The winners of the Club Selected Pairs are usually entered in the pair's competition.

Pairs, triples and fours are played over 18 ends. First to 21 shots in the singles.

Challenge Shield:

This is a knockout competition of two teams of four with 2 woods per player. The match is 18 ends.

The two teams play one match away and one at home at the same time and the scores are combined to give an overall score. The team with the best aggregate score on both rinks will advance to the next round. In the event of a draw an extra end at the home club will be played.

BB&DBA (Bromley, Beckenham & District Bowling Association):

There are numerous formats, competitions and other events organised by the BB&DBA each year. Bellingham is a full member of the Association and enters teams in the organised competitions.

The BB&DBA competitions are for either men, ladies or mixed teams and each format can be any combination apart from the singles.

The formats are:

- Ladies Singles Four woods (Club champion enters the singles) 21 shots.
- Men's Singles Four woods (Club champion enters the singles). 21 shots.
- Pairs Four woods per player. 18 ends.
- Triples Three woods per player. 18 ends.
- Fours (Rinks) Two woods per player. 18 ends.

If you would like to know more about the BB&DBA please visit www.bbdba.org.

Bellingham Club Competitions:

Each year the club offers members the opportunity to take part in several internal competitions. All matches are on a round by round knockout basis.

To enter a club competition, a form is made available to all club members, and you must indicate which of the competitions you wish to play. You may enter as many of them as you wish however, there is a general rule that if you enter the selected pairs, you must also enter the club pairs.

The club organises a finals weekend for all in-house club competitions. This is usually a weekend in early September. The date of the finals weekend is noted on the form and in the club fixtures book.

The 1st round draw is made by the club's Bowls Committee on a random basis. If you are drawn first, you are the challenger, and it is your responsibility to contact your opponent and offer some dates and times to play your match. Once the match has been arranged, the challenger should insert the match, day and time in the rink book located in the foyer at the club.

- **Championship** – 4 wood singles. First to 21 shots. No end limit.
 - **Handicap** - 4 wood singles. Each player is given a handicap between 0 and +14. No limit on the number of ends. Players with the lowest handicap have to reach 21 shots before the player with higher handicap reaches the number of additional shots required between the two players handicaps. Example 1: Player one has a handicap of 0, the opponent has +4. The player with +4 must reach 25 shots before the payer with 0 reaches 21.

Example 2: Player one has +5 and player two +12. Player two must reach 28 shots before player one reaches 21.

- **Open Singles** - This is a mixed competition otherwise known as sets. This format is for 2 players having 4 woods each. There are two sets of 9 ends and whoever has the highest score at the end of the first 9 ends wins that set and you are awarded 1 point.

If you win both sets, you win the match 2-0.

If you win one set and draw the next you will still win 1½ - ½. It is possible for the match to end 1 – 1 or ½ - ½. In the event of a tie after two sets, two extra ends will be played. You only need to win by one shot on each extra end. If you win the first two ends, you will win the match either 2 -1 or 1½ - ½.

If there is still a tie at the end of the first two extra ends, there will be one more extra sudden death end and whoever wins that by one shot will win the match.

- **Club Pairs** 4 woods per player. 18 ends. Highest score wins. Teams are agreed between the players.
- **Selected Pairs** Same as Club pairs but teams are drawn at random.
- **Mixed Pairs** Same as Club and selected pairs. Teams comprise 1 x man + 1 x lady.
- **Club Triples** 3 woods per player. 18 ends. Highest score wins.
- **Derby Cup** This is a 4-wood singles competition for men and ladies mostly for new players or those members who have joined the club in the last few years. The name Derby Cup has been traditionally linked to the Epsom Derby which can only be entered by horses aged 3 years. However, the club has relaxed this rule for some players whose handicap has been set at 3 or less.

The format has changed to a first-round competition usually on the first Saturday in September. The first matches are played in a box system of 3, 4 or 5 players depending on the number of entries. There will usually be 4 boxes and each player will play each other. The number of ends is determined by how many players are in each box.

The top player in each box will advance to a semi-final later in the day and the final will be played on club finals day fixed in September each year. (See club handbook)

If you have won the Derby cup or been a finalist, you cannot be entered again even if you have been a member for less than 3 years.

Note:

The Club Singles Champion is entered in the national Champion of Champions competition in the following season.

Ladies' Section

Bowls England is the governing body of the National Bowling Association. All bowls clubs are affiliated to Bowls England and all events are played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations and the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

Part of the annual membership fee you paid to the club is passed on to Bowls England which means you are a fully paid-up member of the National Bowling Association. Currently this is £7 (2024).

This means you are entitled to take part in National Ladies' Competitions, and these are:

Mixed Competitions	Eligibility	Format
Senior Singles	Aged 55 and over on 1st April	Four bowls/21 shots up
Senior Pairs	Both players aged 55 and over on 1st April from clubs within same county	Three bowls per player/18 ends
Champion of Champions Singles	Club Championship Winners in the previous year plus county/national winners	Four bowls/21 shots up

There are also Mixed National competitions as follows:

Mixed Competitions	Eligibility	Format
Family Pairs	Eligible players should be from one of the following pairings:	Three bowls per player/18 ends
	Grandmother and granddaughter/grandson	
	Grandfather and granddaughter/grandson	
	Mother and daughter/son	
	Father and daughter/son	
	Sister and sister/brother	
	Brother and brother/sister	
	Step relatives of the above are also eligible to play	
	Marriage	
	Civil Partnership	

Mixed National Competitions continued:

Mixed Pairs	1 x man/1 x woman; Both players from clubs within same county	Three bowls per player/18 ends
Mixed Fours	2 x men/2 x women;	Two bowls per player/15 ends
	All players from clubs within same county	

Where do I play these matches?

The majority of qualifying rounds are held within your local area. The final qualification match is held at a neutral venue agreed by the players.

How are these matches arranged?

Matches during the qualifying rounds are arranged by the players.

When are these competitions played?

The qualifying rounds are held either on weekday evenings or at weekends – this is agreed by the players. The National Finals are held annually at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa – usually venue for the Commonwealth Games for Lawn Bowls.

How do I Enter?

Entries will be accepted following the conclusion of the current season.

Bowls England Website: www.bowlsengland.com. Please refer to the competition section how to enter competitions.

Top Club:

This is a national inter-club competition with over 700 entries from all over the country. Each County has a Top Club knockout. Kent is split into two areas, North West and South East. Bellingham is in the North West area.

Each club has 11 players in five disciplines these are:

- **2 wood singles**
- **4 wood singles**
- **4 wood pairs**
- **3 wood triples**
- **2 wood fours**

To progress through the rounds, you have to win at least 3 of the five disciplines so you can win or lose 3-2, 4-1 or 5-0.

If a club wins the area final, they will progress to the next round at a neutral ground against the nearest county. The national quarterfinals, semi-finals and final take place at Royal Leamington Spa in September.

Kent competitions:

Every year competitions are arranged by each County in England. Bellingham is affiliated to the Kent County Women's Bowling Association ("KCWBA").

Every club player must be registered with the KCBA and Bowls England to enable you to enter County competitions therefore part of your annual fee is paid to the KCWBA. WWW.kentbowls.com. Currently this is £5 (2024).

There is a competitions page on the website www.kentbowls.com which provides all the information about competition formats and a guide for new competitors. Please have a look through the website as there is too much to include in this booklet.

There is a cost to enter each competition which is set by the County each year. Application forms will be made available during September each year and the entries are made through our club. Payment is made at the same time as the club sends the forms and entry money to the KCWBA.

There are four divisions in the KCWBA and Bellingham is in Division 1. This purely geographical and has no relevance to any kind of promotion or relegation. It is purely for convenience of locality when playing in the various formats.

However, as you advance in any competition, you will play individuals or teams from clubs in the other Divisions and this could be anywhere in Kent

If you manage to advance to the Divisional Final in the unbadged singles format and win, you will then receive your Kent badge and advance to the County Quarter finals. It is also possible to gain your Kent badge in all other formats.

For example, in the unbadged singles you would need to play in a number of rounds to win that format.

Entrants must be aware that the matches are played on a weekly basis as follows:

- Monday Badged Singles
- Tuesday Pairs and Over 55 fours
- Wednesday Fours
- Thursday Triples
- Friday Unbadged singles

If you enter the competitions, you must be prepared to play on the day fixed and if you keep winning this is on a weekly basis. Each game normally starts at 6pm unless another time is agreed with your opponent. You may agree to play on another day, but this must be prior to the normal day assigned. If you know you cannot be available in advance, then you should not enter.

It is possible in competitions other than singles to have a substitute if a player is unable to take part in any round but, if they do so, they may not then act as a substitute in another team in the same format.

Mollie Cleggett Memorial Cup:

This is a County run competition on a knockout basis. Entries are made alongside the normal Kent competitions. There are four Area Administrative Divisions and Bellingham is in Division 1.

It is a four player 2 wood format over 18 ends. The highest score wins and the team will advance to the next round in your division. If you win the divisional final, your team will advance to the county semi-final.

The semi-finals and final are usually played on the same day at a club determined by the county before the competition begins. This could be anywhere in Kent.

Ladies Kent Benevolent Triples:

This is a County organised competition and was traditionally played at Bellingham for many years because we have two greens which allowed for more teams to take part. However, this has recently been moved to Forest Hill Bowls Club until further notice.

It is a one-day 2 wood triples competition and each entered team plays three matches over 10 ends. The winning team is determined by the highest aggregate score.

Belle Trophy:

This is an inter-club, invitation knockout competition organised and hosted by Bellingham Bowls Club Ladies Section. It is a singles, pairs, triples and fours format. The winners will be the team with the highest combined aggregate score over the four disciplines.

The competition draw is made at Bellingham usually in May each year and teams who have entered are invited to the club for the draw.

The early rounds are played at the club who are drawn first and each round is on the same basis up to the semi-finals.

The final and the 3rd/4th place matches are played on the same day at Bellingham. After the matches Bellingham provides a meal and refreshments for each team.

20 local club's Ladies teams entered the competition in 2023. The trophy was not contested in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

North West Kent League:

This is a two rink, 3 wood triples competition played on a Thursday evening at 6pm (5.30pm from August).

There are 4 divisions of 7 teams in the North West Kent area. The entered clubs come from as far as Swanley and Sevenoaks. Clubs may enter more than one team.

The matches consist of 18 ends and the winning rink is awarded 2 points. All shots are added up at the end of the match and the team with the most shots is awarded an additional 2 points. In the event of a draw, 1 point is awarded to each team. Therefore 6 points are available in the match.

The league also tots up the amount of game shots difference in the event of teams having equal league points at the end of the season. This is important in a promotion or relegation situation.

The matches are played home and away over the outdoor season and there is a two-club promotion and relegation rule.

The Gladys Tyler Cup:

This is the knockout version of the North West Kent League. The matches are drawn at the start of the season and a team could be drawn against any other club in the various divisions.

The format is exactly the same as the league although the matches are played usually every two weeks on a Monday from round one. Teams may only field players who have already played in a team in the league.

Jubilee League:

This is a two rink, 3 wood triples invitation competition played against a number of teams in the North West Kent area and run by West Wickham Bowling Club. Clubs play each other once in the season, at home one year and then away the following year.

2 points are awarded to each winning rink (1 point for a draw) and then 2 additional points awarded for the highest combined aggregate score. Therefore, it is possible to win or lose 6-0, 5-1, 4-2 or draw 3-3.

There are separate rules which apply but the matches are played in accordance with Bowls England general rules.

BB&DBA (Bromley, Beckenham & District Bowling Association):

There are numerous formats, competitions and other events organised by the BB&DBA each year. Bellingham is a full member of the Association and enters teams in the organised competitions.

The BB&DBA competitions are for either men, ladies or mixed teams and each format can be any combination apart from the singles.

The formats are:

- Ladies Singles Four woods (Club champion enters the singles)
- Men's Singles Four woods (Club champion enters the singles)
- Pairs Four woods per player
- Triples Three woods per player
- Fours (Rinks) Two woods per player
- No specific day under 25 singles and pairs

If you would like to know more about the BB&DBA please visit www.bbdba.org.

Bellingham Club Competitions:

Each year the club offers members the opportunity to take part in several internal competitions. All matches are on a round by round knockout basis.

To enter a club competition, a form is made available to all club members, and you must indicate which of the competitions you wish to play. You may enter as many of them as you wish however, there is a general rule that if you enter the selected pairs, you must also enter the club pairs.

The club organises a finals weekend for all in-house club competitions. This is usually a weekend in early September. The date of the finals weekend is noted on the form and in the club fixtures book.

The 1st round draw is made by the club's Bowls Committee on a random basis. If you are drawn first, you are the challenger, and it is your responsibility to contact your opponent and offer some dates and times to play your match. Once the match has been arranged, the challenger should insert the match, day and time in the rink book located in the foyer at the club.

- **Championship** – 4 wood singles. First to 21 shots. No end limit.
- **Open Singles** - This is a mixed competition otherwise known as sets. This format is for 2 players having 4 woods each. There are two sets of 9 ends and whoever has the highest score at the end of the first 9 ends wins that set and you are awarded 1 point.

If you win both sets, you win the match 2-0.

If you win one set and draw the next you will still win $1\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$. It is possible for the match to end $1 - 1$ or $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$. In the event of a tie after two sets, two extra ends will be played. You only need to win by one shot on each extra end. If you win the first two ends, you will win the match either 2 -1 or $1\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$.

If there is still a tie at the end of the first two extra ends, there will be one more extra sudden death end and whoever wins that by one shot will win the match.

- **Club Pairs** 4 woods per player. 18 ends. Highest score wins. Teams are agreed between the players.
- **Selected Pairs** Same as Club pairs but teams are drawn at random.
- **Mixed Pairs** Same as Club and selected pairs. Teams comprise 1 x man + 1 x lady.

- **Club Triples** 3 woods per player. 18 ends. Highest score wins.
- **100 up.** This is a singles 4 woods competition. No limit to the number of ends. First to score 100 shots wins. There are 10 points available for each end as follows: the nearest wood to the jack scores 4 points, the next nearest 3 points, then 2 points and finally the fourth nearest 1 point. In the event of a draw (100 each), an extra end is played and the player with the nearest bowl wins.
- **Win Moon Trophy** This competition is for unbadged players only (Kent County Badged players may not enter).

This is a 4-wood singles format over three sets. The winner of each set is the player who reaches 7 shots. The draw is on the day of the competition.
- **Derby Cup** This is a 4-wood singles competition for men and ladies mostly for new players or those members who have joined the club in the last few years. The name Derby Cup has been traditionally linked to the Epsom Derby which can only be entered by horses aged 3 years. However, the club has relaxed this rule for some players whose handicap has been set at 3 or less.

The format has changed to a first-round competition usually on the first Saturday in September. The first matches are played in a box system of 3, 4 or 5 players depending on the number of entries. There will usually be 4 boxes and each player will play each other. The number of ends is determined by how many players are in each box.

The top player in each box will advance to a semi-final later in the day and the final will be played on club finals day fixed in September each year. (See club handbook)

If you have won the Derby cup or been a finalist, you cannot be entered again even if you have been a member for less than 3 years.

Note:

The Club Singles Champion is entered in the national Champion of Champions competition in the following season.

The Cath Pearce Trophy:

This is a 2 wood pairs competition. Each match is played over 8/10 ends depending on how many entries there are. The matches are played in boxes or small leagues of players who each play against each other to determine who progresses into the next round.

Each pair is awarded 10 points for a win, 5 points for a draw and 1 point for each end won. The winners of the boxes advance to a playoff.

The matches are played on one day and pairs are drawn on the day. The final is also played on the same day.

Special Days and Friendly Matches

Joint Captains Day:

There are Ladies and Men's Captains and in honour of this coveted position, a day is assigned by the Club to celebrate their hard work during the year.

The day is open to any member who wishes to play and usually consists of a number of mixed triples teams who are arranged by the Captains. The format normally remains the same - 3 woods 18 ends, but the type of games and number of ends may change at the discretion of the two Captains.

It is intended that the day is fun and friendly. The dress code is also determined by the two Captains.

The Brian Timpson Trophy:

This trophy is played at the club in late September each year. The competition was created in honour of our very own Brian Timpson who is a life member and benefactor of the trophy.

It is normally played in the mixed triples 3 woods 18 ends format and any member of the club may enter. Each team is drawn to represent as equal ability and experience as possible.

Each team might play several shortened end games and the team with the best results (and aggregate score if required) will win the trophy.

Friendly matches:

During the season a number of friendly matches are organised by either the Ladies or Men's sections or both in mixed friendlies. These matches are pre-arranged and normally would be a two three or four triples format.

Watch out for these as they could be a good way of getting used to competition game play.

A selection sheet for the friendly matches is placed on the notice board in the foyer of the club and you are asked to put your name down if you are available for selection.

Keep an eye out on the notice board each time you enter the club.

Borough of Croydon:

A friendly match is arranged against the Borough of Croydon at the start of the season each year. See the notice board at the club for details and if you are interested in playing, please add your name to the list.

Lewisham Indoor:

Bellingham BC is also challenged to two friendly matches against Lewisham Indoor Bowling Club which is located at Kangley Bridge Road, Sydenham (near to Lower Sydenham Railway Station). The matches are usually played in October and again early in the following year. The teams can be up to 6 triples.

Other Mixed Friendly matches:

Bellingham arranges several friendly matches as follows:

- West Beckenham BC Home and away (3 triples)
- Orpington BC Home one year, away the next (4 triples)
- Holmesdale BC Home one year, away the next (4 triples)

