

HEREFORDSHIRE SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION REGARDING COUNTY MEMBERSHIP AND WHAT IT OFFERS

STARTING A SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Short Mat Bowling is one of the fastest growing new sports in the country, originally conceived in Ireland in the 1960's; it did not arrive in this country until the middle 1980's. It is the perfect indoor sporting activity for the long autumn and winter afternoons and evenings, mainly played in village halls, community and leisure centres. Persons of all ages can enjoy both the social and competitive aspects of the game and also benefit from the healthy exercise content.

The basic requirements would be the availability of a hall, with a level floor, capable of taking one or more 45' x 6' bowling mats, together with the associated equipment (see information under equipment list). Mats and equipment are available for purchase, or hire in the first instance. Any person, group, village hall/community centre etc., can obtain more information from the County Secretary.

Also, arrangements can be made, via the County Secretary, for a County Officer to meet the organisers at their proposed venue to give them any assistance they may require. Such assistance can also include group coaching and discussion on the rules of the game, plus information on the localities of other County Clubs.

Any Club having the necessary equipment to play 'Short Mat Bowls' may apply for County membership to the County Secretary. The annual club membership fee is £20.00. Forms can be obtained from the County Secretary, Sue Stannard, HSMBA, Kings Lea, Kings Caple, HR1 4UD.

It is the prime objective of this County Association to promote and develop the game in the best interest of its members. So why not come and join us.

Information about the County Association

County Leagues

There is an optional County Winter League (played October to March) and Summer League (played May to August) open to all clubs having two or more suitable mats and equipment, including heavy weight yellow jacks. The ESMBA & HSMBA do not endorse the jacks sold with rubber coating. These jacks are therefore not permitted to be used in any league match or competition at any level.

There are currently two divisions in each League. The Winter League is a double rink format requiring 8 players per team. The Summer League has a more flexible format which permits teams to play with as few as 5 or as many as 10 players per match.

League entry forms are available from the County Secretary, Sue Stannard, HSMBA, Kings Lea, Kings Caple, HR1 4UD,

The League Membership Fee is £10.00 per team entered in the Winter League and £5.00 per team entered in the Summer League.

'Medal Money' to enable the purchase of League trophies/mementoes etc., a charge of 25p per player per match (home and away) will be collected by the club from each team player (eight players per team) in the Winter League. This money to be retained by the club until a total 'Medal Money' payment invoice is sent to the club by the County Treasurer towards the end of the Winter League season (February/March).

For further detailed information please contact the County Secretary.

HSMBA Tournaments

The County Championships

Each year the Association hold the County Championships for Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours, Mixed Fours and Under 18's. These Championships are run by the County Committee and are open to all registered players to compete against others in the County to find the Champion of each discipline. There is a small entry fee which is in place to cover the cost of the venue etc. The winner holds the County Trophy for a year plus all winners and runners up are presented with individual trophies at the County Presentation Evening held towards the end of April each year.

The Macmillan Cancer Support Charity Tournament

Played over a full Saturday in November, this competition is for teams of four from any County affiliated Club from Hereford, Gloucester and other counties, but as this is a charity event players DO NOT have to be registered to the ESMBA/County thus allowing all Club Members to participate. The entry fee per team of four is £24.00. The winner holds the County Trophy for a year plus all winners and runners up are presented with individual trophies at the County Presentation Evening held towards the end of April each year. Players select their own team of four; all entries must be on the official entry form. After hall hire and administration expenses, all proceeds including raffle monies are donated to the Macmillan Cancer Support Charityall raffle prizes are donated by Clubs and players.

The L.E.H. Two Team Trophy Competition

Clubs may enter a team of ten registered players at £15.00 per team. A knock-out style draw will be made of all team entries. All matches to be played on a home and away format, the team with the highest total 'shots' over the two games will go forward to the next round. Each match shall consist of four games: one singles, one pairs, one triples and one fours, a total of ten players. All games to be played over 10 ends. The final is played in March each year over one match at a neutral venue to both finalists. This competition is held between Clubs from both Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. The winners & runners up hold a LEH Shield for a year plus all winners and runners up are presented with individual trophies at the County Presentation Evening held towards the end of April each year.

Bromyard County Triples Challenge Cup Competition

This trophy was presented to the County by the Management of the Bromyard Leisure Centre. Entry will be accepted from any triples teams of registered players from any County registered club. All preliminary rounds will be held at Club level. Sixteen teams qualify for the finals that will then play a straight knock-out down to the finalists. The competition finals day will be played at the Larruperz Centre, Ross on Wye on a date to be decided. An entry fee of £12.00 per team will be charged. The winning team hold the Bromyard Cup for a year plus all winners and runners up are presented with individual trophies at the County Presentation Evening held towards the end of April each year.

The County is affiliated to the English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA)

Club members wishing to play in the league and competitions have to be ESMBA/HSMBA registered and pay an annual fee of £7.00 per player – registration runs from 1 September to 31 August, but players can be registered at any time during that period.

The ESMBA are responsible for organising the **English National Championships**. All registered players may enter the Nationals Qualifiers held at County level with the winners of each discipline going on to represent the County by playing in the National Finals held each year in April.

All registered players are entitled to enter any one or all of the various disciplines. Players may choose their own playing partners who may be from different clubs but must be ESMBA/HSMBA registered. This registration fee also covers for entry into any other competition or league organised by the ESMBA, HSMBA or any of the other Counties Open Tournaments.

The ESMBA also organises the English Inter-Counties leagues (summer and winter). The HSMBA enter the winter league with both a Premier and an 'A' Team.

County Presentation Evening

Prior to the Annual General Meeting, all County Championship/County Competitions and League Title Winners will be presented with their trophies and replicas. All Club Members, whether collecting trophies or not, will be welcome to the evening event and buffet, which is held in April each year.

Other general information

Short Mat International

A bi-monthly magazine published dealing exclusively with short mat bowling is available on subscription from the publishers. Contact: the subscriptions department on 0121 286 9449.

Short Mat Bowling Holidays

These are becoming increasingly popular and there are specially organised individual or group holidays available in many parts of the country and abroad.

Short Mat Equipment List

The short mat for bowls should be 45' x 6' (min. 40' x 6') and the equipment for each mat is:

- 2 Fenders
- 2 Delivery mats
- 1 Centre Block
- 1 Score Board
- 1 or 2 Jacks (yellow - heavyweight)

Players normally buy their own bowls, but the Club may wish to purchase some sets of bowls of different sizes or weights for new members to try before committing themselves to the purchase of their own. These need not necessarily be new woods; good second hand woods are readily available.

Slipperettes can be bought from Pershore Bowls for use until players buy their own bowling shoes, however, members should be encouraged to purchase regulation bowling shoes at the earliest opportunity, and bowling shoes **MUST** be worn when playing at any other club, in friendly, league and competition games.

CURRENT COUNTY CONTACTS:

County Chairman:

Ian Park, Meadowview, Greenhill Farm, Woolhope, HR1 4RQ ☎01531 670765
Email: ijp.park@btinternet.com

County Secretary:

Sue Stannard, Kings Lea, Kings Caple, Hereford HR1 4UD ☎01432 840871
Email: sue.stannard1@btinternet.com

County Treasurer:

Rita Hancock, Treetops, Quarry Lane, Gorsley HR9 7SJ ☎01989 720168
Email: r.hancock107@btinternet.com

County League Sec:

Ian Roe, Yew Tree Cottage, How Caple HR1 4TA ☎01989 740527
Email: ian_roe@btinternet.com

** all entry payment figures current @ 30/09/2017

All Clubs must have a constitution, which is set of rules and guidelines by which the Club is run. It must be tailored to fit the needs of your particular group. Herewith is a suggested layout to use as a basis for your Club's constitution. It can be as simple or as detailed as you require. It should be checked periodically; amendments or additions can only be made at future AGM's or Special General Meetings, as required. The County Association must hold a copy of your Club's Constitution once set up.

EXAMPLE CONSTITUTION

<u>NAME</u>	Contact name, address and phone number and club venue
<u>AIMS</u>	Promote the game of Short Mat Bowls Recreational – Competitive Affiliation to HSMBA Under ESMBA rules
<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	Annual Fee Weekly subs (set at AGM) Guests – new members – to be approved by Committee Committee may regulate the size of membership. No discrimination
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Officers – Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Captain. Number of committee elected at AGM. Number of meetings per year Minutes recorded Sub committees
<u>FINANCE</u>	Keep accounts for general meetings and AGM (audited) Pay all accounts Two from three signatures on Cheques
<u>AGM</u>	Notice of AGM to members Receive reports Determine on motions submitted by Committee or members Decide on fees Auditors Elect Officers and Committee for coming year
<u>EGM</u>	Period of notice To consider motions from Committee or members
<u>VOTING</u>	Proposals to be seconded One vote per member Chairman to have casting vote, in case of tie Number of votes required for a majority
<u>QUORUM</u>	Minimum number of members required for meetings – general & AGM's
<u>CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION</u>	Must be at an AGM or EGM Notice required Votes required for a majority

DISSOLUTION

Must be at EGM
Notice required
Number of votes required
Members only
Disposal of assets, after payment of all creditors.

ADDRESSES FOR SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT ETC.

Cotswold Bowls Centre
Golden Jubilee Way, Stroud GL5 3HQ
☎ 01453 762405

Club Sport Ledbury
24 Homend Road, Ledbury HR8 2AA
☎ 01531 635242

Pershore Bowls Centre
Unit 58c, Pershore Trading Estate, Pershore,
Worcestershire WR10 2DD
☎ 01386 552411

Verde Sports Limited
Gabbots Farm Barn, Bury Lane, Withnell, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8SW
☎ 01254 831666

There are now also many online sites for the purchase of everything from mats to bowls, clothing, bowls-bags etc. so check these out.

Following the National Finals in April each year there are nearly new mats for sale through the ESMBA at a good price, however, these usually have to be reserved fairly early on in the year. For further information contact the HSMBA Chairman or Secretary.