

Welcome to the
Sorrento Bowling Club
(Incorporating Croquet and Darts)
Club Information
Booklet

(For new and prospective members)



Updated January 2021

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Welcome

On behalf of the Management of the Sorrento Bowling Club, we thank you for the interest that you have shown in our Club and wish you a warm welcome. This booklet provides information about the Club and its operations. More detailed information can also be found on our Club's website at sorrentobowlingclub.com.au

About the Club

The Sorrento Bowling Club (Inc), incorporated in 1976, has developed into one of the largest bowling and most decorated clubs in the State. Sorrento is the first club to be admitted to *Clubs WA's Hall of Fame* in recognition of winning three consecutive Club of the Year awards and has won *Bowls WA's Metropolitan Bowling Club of the Year* on numerous occasions. Sorrento was also runner up in the *Bowls Australia's Best Bowling Club in Australia* award.



Located in a beautiful rustic setting surrounded by lush park lands and greenery, we are one of the most successful bowling clubs in the State, offering five high quality lawn bowling greens four of which are floodlit and two croquet courts, a spacious and comfortable club house, a pleasant undercover BBQ area, gardens and other outdoor areas.

Around 900 members enjoy a wide range of services and facilities designed to meet their needs, whether that involves playing competitive or social lawn bowls, croquet, mahjong or darts or simply enjoying the Club's great social environment. We offer a warm and friendly place to meet friends, enjoy a drink from our fully stocked bar or perhaps a meal on a Friday evening..

As an incorporated body, Sorrento operates under the requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act (2015)* and as a licensed premise with an unrestricted Club Licence,

in accordance with the requirements of the *Liquor Control Act (1988)*. In addition, the Club operates in accordance with its Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Conduct. These documents can be found on the Club's website.

Club Management

Operationally, Sorrento is managed by a President, two Vice Presidents (one responsible for Sports and Participation and the other for Operations), a Treasurer, Office Manager and appointed independent directors. These office bearers comprise the Club's Governing Council and are responsible for the overall stewardship of the Club.

A range of committees and sub-committees support the Vice Presidents. A complete organisational structure is available on the Club's website.

Positions are declared vacant soon after the end of the Club's financial year (30 April), and office bearers are elected before, and ratified at, the next Annual General Meeting held in June or July each year.

Our Vision and Mission

Our vision, set out in the Constitution, is to "be recognised as the best bowling club in Western Australia". Our mission is to "meet the needs of the community to play sport, principally lawn bowls, and in so doing provide a friendly environment and facilities that Club members and the community enjoy".

Our Successes

Sorrento is widely regarded as one of the best bowling clubs in the State, recognised by Bowls Australia, Bowls WA and Clubs WA with the following awards:

- 2012 Bowls WA Most Outstanding Metropolitan Bowling Club of the Year
- 2013 Clubs WA Medium Club of the Year
- 2015 Bowls WA Most Outstanding Metropolitan Club of the Year
- 2016 Clubs WA Medium Club of the Year
- 2016 Club Manager of the Year
- 2017 Clubs WA Medium Club of the Year
- 2017 Club Manager of the Year

- 2018 Bowls WA Metropolitan Club of the Year
- 2018 Clubs WA Medium Club of the Year
- 2018 Coach of the Year
- 2019 Inauguration into Clubs WA Hall of Fame
- 2019 Runner up - Bowls Australia's Best Bowling Club in Australia award
- 2020 Finalist in Bowls WA Most Outstanding Metropolitan Club of the Year

Our Values



The Club's values, also enunciated in the Constitution, are to:

- Effectively lead and manage a successful and vibrant Club
- Maintain and increase membership
- Establish a friendly, cohesive and integrated Club environment
- Improve the bowls, croquet and darts performance of our members and teams
- Prudently manage our resources and build a strong financial position
- Present professional greens and surrounds
- Establish and present a pleasant, functional and vibrant clubhouse and bar facilities.

These values are reflected in our Club's Code of Conduct which sets out the standards of behaviour that are required from Club members.

To ensure that all members are treated with mutual respect and in accordance with the Club's legal and moral requirements, anti-social or unfriendly behaviour, or foul language will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Member Communications

A wide variety of communication channels are available for members to find out what's happening around the Club. These include:

- The Club's website which is updated regularly and provides a wealth of information about the Club
- A high-quality quarterly magazine available in hard or electronic copy
- E-Newsletters – these regular e-Newsletters provide current information on what's happening around the Club and other interesting topics
- Emails – we maintain up to date records of our members' email addresses and use this means to communicate with members and keep them informed
- Publications such as the Club Fixtures Booklet, Pennant Fixtures and Bowls WA publications
- A Facebook page is maintained by the Club to connect and interact with members.
- Notice boards are widely used throughout the Club
- Electronic notice board located above the bar
- Announcements and updates by members of the Governing Council and committee members.

Member to member discussions are of course a great way to find out what's happening and for members to have their say. Members should get to know who the chairs of committees and other elected representatives are and make themselves known to them.

While the Club makes every effort to keep its members informed, it remains the personal responsibility of each member to keep themselves informed by being proactive and actively seeking out pertinent information.

Membership Types and Fees

The Club offers a range of membership types, providing flexibility to meet the needs of a member. Payment fees and conditions set by our various sporting associations are reflected in our membership types and their associated fee structures. These are available on the Club's website.

Social Membership

This is the least expensive option that allows members to use all the Club's facilities except the bowling greens or croquet courts. Social members are not eligible to hold office or vote at Club meetings.



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Recreational Membership

Recreational members pay a lower fee than full members and are permitted to play either bowls or croquet but are not permitted to play in Club championships or Pennant competitions, unless requested to do so by the Club management. Recreational members are not eligible to hold office or vote at Club meetings.

Full Membership

This class of membership allows members to use all the Club's facilities and to play bowls or croquet. Full members may also vote and hold office. Additional fees are applicable for members who wish to play both sports.

Members may upgrade their membership at any time by paying the additional fee. Membership fee details are subject to annual review.

Membership fees are determined by the Governing Council each year. The Club's financial year operates from May to April. Members are requested to pay their fees by the due date. A current Fee Schedule for each financial year can be found on our website: sorrentobowlingclub.com.au.

Volunteering



Sorrento, like most incorporated clubs, could not operate without the support of our volunteers. Essentially, every position from the President down is performed by a volunteer who receives no remuneration for their services but are recognised in various ways.

All members are encouraged to support the Club and share the load by volunteering in some capacity. The work is not onerous, and our volunteers have a good time and stay healthy.

Our Office Manager will provide more information about the roles for volunteers and what is involved. Jobs are tailored to meet the needs of our volunteers in terms of time and training.

Dress and Licensed Premise Requirements

Under normal circumstances neat casual dress, including closed footwear is required. The Club appreciates, however, that some members are trade workers who look forward to a drink after work. Work attire is therefore acceptable before 7pm.

As a licensed premise the Club adheres to the requirements of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*, particularly in relation to the responsible serving of alcohol.

Under the Club's Club Licence, the bowling greens and croquet courts are not licensed areas and therefore members must not consume or carry alcohol onto the greens. Banks and surrounds are licensed. Also, under our Club Licence, members are permitted to bring up to five guests into the Club but remain responsible for their dress and behaviour.

The Club house, greens and banks are designated as smoke-free areas. Smoking within five metres of an entrance is also not permitted. Designated smoking posts are located around the Club.

Sports – Lawn Bowls

Everyone can enjoy and have fun playing lawn bowls on our greens – any age, gender, entire families and employees or employers. The following notes will help you to get started in bowls. The game is challenging and involves combining skill and tactics. The



following is a short introduction to the game of lawn bowls. It is not intended to be a coaching manual and only provides some basic information to help you get started in the game.

The playing area

Lawn bowls is played on a green. Sorrento has five greens named A-Green through to E-Green. Each green is usually divided into six rinks, numbered 1 to 6. When allocated a game you will also be assigned a rink such as A4 (A-Green, Rink No 4).

Each rink has a centre line and boundary pegs to the left and right of the rink. Each rink also has a “T” at each end, and behind that a ditch. Bowls that come to rest (stop) outside of the boundary pegs or in the ditch are “dead bowls” that are removed from

the green. Bowls that touch the jack and continue into the ditch are “live” and still count.

The mat may be placed anywhere on the centre line from behind the T up to a maximum distance that is indicated by side markers on the green. A coin toss is used to determine who decides where the mat is placed for the first end. After the first end, the player or side that wins the preceding end places the mat. The jack must be delivered to a length of over 21 metres.

Essential Equipment

The mat is where you stand to deliver the jack or bowl. The jack is a white smaller ball that becomes the target for your bowls. Individual brands of bowls differ in the following ways:

- Size – bowls range from size 0 (the smallest and lightest bowl) through to size 6.
- Colour – a range of colours is available.
- Bias – bowls are weighted and shaped on one side to create a bias, causing the bowl to travel in an arc rather than a straight line. Bowls styles and types range from a very tight arc to the wide arc of the older style bowls.

Other equipment includes a tape measure to determine which bowls are closest to the jack in a tight situation, a spray or chalk for marking bowls that touch the jack, and cleaning cloths. Bowls shoes are important and you will not be allowed on the green without them and if you become serious about bowls and want to play competitively, including Pennants, then a Club shirt and bowls pants/skirt are required.

Object of the Game

The aim of the game is to roll your bowl as close to the jack as possible. After all bowls have been delivered, the closest bowl is “shot” and scores one point. If your two bowls are closer than your opponent’s bowls then two points are awarded, and so on. The most a team of four players can score is eight by having all their bowls closer than their opponents’ closest bowl.

A game, depending on the competition, will last for several ends. A Pennant game is over 21 ends, but other competitions may last for 15 or 18 ends, and sometimes will be based on a time limit, or a set number of shots up.

Over the prescribed number of ends, individual end points will be aggregated (and recorded on a score card). At the end of the game, the person or team with the most points is the winner.

Types of games

Games include singles, pairs, triples or fours. The Club caters for roll ups and impromptu games, with members playing against other members, through to organised games such as social bowls, twilight bowls, scroungers and community bowls, and ultimately our Pennant competitions with up to eleven divisions representing the Club.

A team of four bowlers is made up of a lead, second, third and skipper. The lead puts down the jack and delivers the first bowls. The second builds on the work of the lead and maintains both the score card and score board. The third oversees the end (as the skipper is at the opposite end of the rink) and may recommend shots when asked to do so by the skipper. The skipper controls the game, directing players on what shots to play. The skipper also determines the tactics of the game.

The skipper may call a player to draw to the jack; play a position bowl; or to play an upshot which could be an overweight bowl through to a drive.

Competitive bowls

Once you have played social bowls for a while you may wish to progress to playing Pennants (during the summer season) or to participate in the Club Championships.



Competitions cover events such as the summer Inter-club Pennants league competition, our Club Championships events, Gala Days, Invitation Days, the Easter Carnival and other sponsored competitions. There is a Novice Championship for bowlers who have played bowls for less than two years and a Veterans' event for the over 70s. The Club also hosts various State and Bowls WA organised events.



Club Championships are open to all full members of the Club. A list for entrants' names is normally placed on the notice board. Nominations usually close a few days before the event begins. Full details are published on the notice board. A draw for

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the match schedule is then performed and displayed within the Club. All participants must wear Club uniforms when playing in competitions.

Pennant games, in which you can represent your Club in a division compatible with your ability, are played from late October through to late March. Whilst competing at this level you can play against other clubs in the area and meet other players and foster lasting friendships. If you are interested in playing Pennant bowls, please contact the Selection Committee or fill out the form which can be found on the Club's website.

A Sorrento Club shirt and blue pants or shorts are required for the men and a blue skirt, pants or shorts for the women are required for Pennants and Club competitions. Shirts may be ordered through the Club. You will also require special flat lawn bowling shoes. A hat or cap is also advisable. You need to buy these from a recognised Bowls Shop to make sure that what your purchase complies with the Bowls Australia specifications.

Social bowls

Initially it is suggested that you play some games socially, where the competition is not as demanding. Both recreational and full members are permitted to play social bowls.

Coaching and social games are played in "mufti" (casual clothes), and, except for flat soled shoes, you do not need to make any immediate purchases. Club bowls are available for you to use if you do not have your own.

Mixed social bowls are normally played on Friday and Sunday afternoons throughout the year. In the winter Men's social bowls are played on Thursdays. On Wednesdays and Saturday afternoons we play any gender social bowls. In the summer, any gender Twilight bowls is played on Wednesday evenings. Your name needs to be "in" to the event organisers at least 30 minutes before the advertised start time for that event. Some events allow for nominated teams (where your whole team is formed before the event), while others are formed by the organisers. Members are encouraged to phone the Club on 9447 0696 in to join in.

Pennants

Sorrento plays Pennant bowls on Tuesdays (women), Thursdays (men) and Saturdays (men and women). Sorrento has up to eleven divisions playing on a Pennant day. A division comprises either two, three or four teams of four players. Each player has two bowls. Each team that wins scores one point and if the sum of the individual team scores is more than their opponents (which is called the aggregate) then each team scores an additional point.

The most points that can be scored by a four team Pennant team are eight and the lowest is zero if all teams lose. Game scores for and against contribute to a division's percentage.

Tactics and Influences of a game

Many things will influence how a bowl behaves, including:

- Wind will affect the bias of a bowl, either holding it out or pushing it across the line or past the jack. The stronger the wind the greater the effect.
- Sorrento uses Santa Anna couch grass and offers the best lawn greens in the State. Other Clubs offer a variety of grass and non-grass surfaces such as carpet and synthetic. Each surface will affect bowls differently. Different types of bowls will act differently in the prevailing circumstances.
- How the bowl is delivered has the most impact on a bowl's performance.

While bowlers will often blame the wind or the surface, on most occasions it is more about how they delivered their bowl. Two major aspects of delivering a bowl are "the weight" or what speed (force) you use to deliver the bowl and "the grass" or the angle you use to deliver the bowl so that the bias and other elements such as wind cause the bowl to arc toward the jack.

Protocol of the Game

Members should check the noticeboard at the entrance of the Club to see what greens are open on a day. Social bowls or roll-ups are not permitted on a green where Pennants, State or Club championships are being played. Bowlers will be in uniform for these events. All roll-ups are to be "on the boundary pegs" – the yellow posts approximately 450mm long that denote the edge of a rink. Mats and jacks are to be placed in line with these pegs and not the numbers of the rinks. The reason for this is to even out the wear across the green.

Attitude and behaviour are important. Bowls can be very competitive but nevertheless it should be played with a good spirit and at the end of the day it's about having an enjoyable experience.

Apart from our Members, our greens are the Club's greatest asset and should always be protected. Players should be vigilant to make sure that correct footwear is worn and that greens are not damaged through inappropriate behaviour such as unnecessary driving. If you use our greens, then you are responsible for ensuring any children you may have with you behave appropriately.

Our greens are not licensed and therefore alcohol must not be consumed or carried onto the greens.

Bowls Coaching

Bowling looks easy – and it is – once you grasp the basics. A good way to start is to get some coaching. Our Club offers free coaching. Please contact one of the Coaches to make an appointment. It is important to develop good habits, so a coach will get you going on the right track.

Types of bowls

Bowls types are many and varied, differing in terms of the size, look and performance on the green. Bowls are available for learners and you should not therefore outlay for a set of bowls until you are aware of your requirements. Your Coach will help you determine the correct size and make to suit you.

Bowls Practice (also known as “having a roll-up”)

Members are encouraged to practise and spare greens that are “open” may be used for roll-ups at any time after 10:00 am except for Mondays. When a Club competition is being played social bowlers may play social games, have roll-ups and receive coaching only if a spare green is available. Roll-ups are permitted prior to a social game but certain rules apply for roll-ups prior to Pennants and other competitions.

Green fees

The maintenance of playing greens is supported by the payment of green fees for both social and competitive games. In social games, part of the green fee is used for prize money with the balance going to Club funds.

Etiquette of bowls

There are some basic etiquette guidelines for new bowlers to follow. These are designed to make a game more enjoyable for all involved whilst protecting our greens from wear and tear.

- Never drop your bowls onto the green as this causes indentations
- Do not sit on the banks of the green with your feet on the green or in the ditch. We try to prevent sand getting onto the green and avoid increasing the slope of the green toward the edge
- When you have finished your turn bowling each end it is better to stand on the bank as this reduces wear on the green
- Try not to move or speak when someone is delivering their bowl as this can be distracting
- Drinking and smoking on the actual green is not allowed. The Club house and banks are licensed but the greens are not. There are designated areas for smoking
- It is customary to offer to buy your opponent a drink after the game
- Players are encouraged to have fun whilst respecting fellow bowlers. We all play

bowls for enjoyment and companionship. Positive encouragement is more productive and motivating than criticism.

Bowls Wrap Up

This has hopefully provided a very brief overview of what lawn bowls is all about. Like any sport, the aim is to have an enjoyable experience and if you are a competitive person, then to have a win or give it your best shot. Learning the basics is important. Stance, style and understanding of game and etiquette are naturally important. Our Club offers a range of material that explains the game more fully and coaching is available.

Apart from this, the best way to learn is to play. We can team you up with a more experienced bowler to help show you the ropes if you would like. Otherwise play in the many events that we have such as twilight bowls or social bowls; or talk to members about joining them for a roll-up.

If you are feeling lost, then approach a member of the Club and ask for help. We are more than willing to make your association with the Club enjoyable and fulfilling.

Sports – Croquet

The Croquet section of the Club is managed by a Croquet Committee comprising: Captain, Vice-Captain, Secretary and a General Officer. This group meets every 6 to 8 weeks. All croquet players are encouraged to raise ideas and/or issues with a Committee member at any time for discussion at the next meeting.



Croquet Coaching

Free coaching is offered to all players. Please contact the Croquet Captain for details.

Equipment

All players are required to wear flat shoes on the courts. Casual clothing may be worn on practice days. Club-owned mallets are available for the use of new players to determine the best height and weight of mallet to suit them before they purchase their own mallet.

Golf Croquet

This popular game is easy to learn and play initially but develops in complexity and skill the more it is played. Another style of croquet is that of Ricochet which can be taught to members on request. Social Golf Croquet is played throughout the year.

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The set days and times may change during a year, so members and potential players are requested to refer to the Croquet section (found under “SPORTS” on the Club’s website for details and updates.

Practice and Family Fun days

Members who wish to practise alone or bring family and friends to the Club for an “all ages” fun game are welcome to do so at times that are not regular playing times. Arrangements should be made through a member of the Croquet Committee.

Competitive Croquet

Members are encouraged to participate in Club competitions. Doubles and Singles Championships are held annually. Periodically other in-house fun competitions are played at the Club.

Pennants matches are played once a week in the evening for a few weeks during summer, giving members the opportunity to represent their Club and to meet members of other local Clubs.

Members can also represent the Club by entering competitions run by other Clubs from time to time. Members are expected to wear Club colours for all competitions and whenever representing the Club at events.

Croquet Green Fees

Green fees contribute to the on-going maintenance of the croquet courts. Please see the Club’s website for details of all croquet membership fees.

Sports - Darts



Competition darts are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the winter and summer seasons. We have numerous dart teams playing across high and low divisions. The games can be very competitive but are mainly played just for enjoyment. Forthcoming events for the next season are displayed on the Darts notice board.

So, whether you average 80 or 25 in darts, or have not played at all, we have a spot for you. Membership for the darts section is included in the Fees Schedule on the website and covers all Dart Association registration fees. Members can enjoy the annual trip away and our famous end of year dinner. For more information, please contact the Secretary if you require additional information. The Office Manager will supply you with contact details.

Affiliated Clubs

Sorrento encourages like-minded sporting clubs such as cricket and veterans' football to join us as affiliated clubs. This allows their members to enjoy the benefits of our facilities and infrastructure. Affiliation arrangements are individually negotiated.

Social Events and Facilities

We always welcome new Social members. We have an active Social Section. Frequent evening meals and entertainment have proven to be very popular with the dance floor coming alive with singing, dancing, laughter and friendly fun.

We also have card and board games, a regular newsletter and Club sponsors' discounts. We always offer good fun and companionship through Christmas and New Year's Eve Parties, "Member Draw" Jackpots, Melbourne Cup Day, fund-raising bowling days for the Heart Foundation, Beyond Blue, Cancer Council and the Silver Chain organisation as well as frequent live entertainment evenings throughout the year.

Social days where Mothers and Daughters or Fathers and Sons combine for a game of bowls followed by a sausage sizzle are now a regular event in our annual calendar.

Please make sure the Office Manager has your latest e-mail address so that we can send you details of upcoming events as well as our regular newsletter. If you want details of latest fees or more information, please call the Office Manager on 9447 0696.

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday

This day is normally set aside for the watering and maintenance of the greens, although some events are conducted on this day.

In the summer a green is available after mid-day for Women's Pennant practice. Croquet greens are closed

Tuesday

Bowls: Summer – Women's Pennant Bowls and Community Bowls in the evening

Croquet: Social croquet. Bowls and croquet BBQ supper at 6:30pm

Darts: Men's and mixed social darts are played during the winter season

Wednesday

Bowls: Summer – Women’s Club Championships. Winter – any gender Social.
Summer - any gender Twilight Bowls
Croquet: Social croquet

Thursday

Bowls: Summer - Men’s Midweek Pennants. Winter - Men’s social bowls
Croquet: Social croquet
Darts: Men’s Inter-Bowling Club Darts competitions played in the winter

Friday

Bowls: Mixed Social bowls and charity fund-raising events
Croquet: Social croquet

Saturday

Bowls: Summer - Men’s Pennant competition. Women’s Pennant Competition
Winter – Any gender social bowls competitions
Croquet: Social croquet

Sunday

Bowls: Summer - Club Events, Championship Events and Social bowls
Winter - Social bowls and scroungers on Sunday mornings
Croquet: Family day and social play by arrangement.

Club Opening Hours

The opening hours for the Club depend on events being held at the Club, weather conditions, and/or patronage. Bar hours depend on several factors, e.g. whether darts are being played, patronage etc. Please note that the Office is manned by volunteers and may not always be open.

Conclusion

We trust that you have found this booklet interesting and informative. As mentioned previously, more detailed information is available from our website, through regular e-Newsletters and emails, on notice boards and through our quarterly newsletters. If you require more information, please feel free to ask one of our Board or committee members or one of our friendly bar staff.



Peter KATSAMBANIS MLA

Member for Hillarys



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