



SOME BASICS

Lawn Bowls is easy to play, but, knowing some of the lingo and rules is useful for beginners.

Firstly the green.

The green is divided into strips that are called rinks.

The rinks are numbered, for example: Rink 1; Rink 2; Rink 3 and so on.

Most clubs have 6 rinks within one green. The green can be divided into rinks not less than 4.2 metres nor more than 5.7 metres wide. A ditch surrounds the whole green.

In order to be counted as live, a bowl, or wood, is normally required to come to rest within the boundaries of the rink.

THE BOWLS

A bowl is called a wood. This is because they used to be made out of wood.

A wood is flatter on one side than the other. This creates what is known as a bias.

A wood is constructed that when rolled along a level ground it traces a curving path. The amount of the curve increases as the speed of the bowl decreases.

With the average speed of delivery of a bowl the effect of the bias is negligible until the bowls has travelled quite a lot of its full distance.

Until it comes to rest it curves more and more in response to the bias.

TEAMS

Lawn Bowls is played with different numbers of players.

One player is known as Singles; two in a team, is known as Pairs; three in each team, is a Triple; four on each team, is known as Rinks.

For teams of two or more, there is a Skip, who plays last; and a lead, who delivers the jack and their own wood first.

Each team member will deliver a wood, then the other team, or individual will take their turn.

The number of woods used depends upon how many people are playing. In a Singles or Pairs competition, players normally use four woods each; in Triples, each player uses three woods; and in Rinks they use just two each.



SCORING

There are many variants within lawn bowls, but, the main method used to accumulate points in a match, is as follows.

When all players have delivered their woods toward the jack at the opposite end of the Rink, the scoring of that end takes place.

The team who has the wood that is closest to the jack scores one point. If the next closest wood is from the opposition, the scoring stops. If the next closest wood is that of the scoring team, they score another point, and so on, until the opposition has a wood that is closer to the jack.

All of these points are added together and added to the scoreboard. A new end is started by the lead placing the mat where they wish, and delivering the jack to start a new end.

SHOTS

There are a number of shots that can be used by a player.

Draw: This is the staple shot of any player. A wood is delivered at a medium pace, with a curve in to towards the jack or what is known as the head.

Yard On: This is the first of three shots that uses more pace, known as weight. The aim is to reach the head with enough force to move something.

Running: This is a weighted shot played with enough weight to go 3 or 4 yards beyond the jack.

Drive: This is played with as much force as possible. It is the "heaviest" of the 3 weighted shots in lawn bowls. It can disrupt the head.

DELIVERY

A mat is placed on the Rink. This is laid down between an inner and outer marker, and anywhere between a marker near the ditch, and no further up the Rink than another set point.

Each player will stand with one, or both feet on the mat.

They will then deliver their wood by swinging their arm back and then forward.

To avoid damaging the green, the wood is released as close to the ground as possible by bending the knees.

At least one foot is required to be touching or above the mat when the wood is released from the hand.

CONTACT



Aston Clinton Bowls Club,
Aston Clinton Park, London Road,
Buckinghamshire, HP22 5HL.



<https://astonclintonbowlsclub.co.uk>



info@astonclintonbowlsclub.co.uk



+44 (0) 1844 351 461

TERMS

During a bowls match you may hear a number of different terms.

If a player delivers a particularly good shot, the cry of, "Well you bowled," may be shouted by other players. It is the equivalent of a Paul Hollywood handshake on the Bake Off.

When someone says that a wood is "first" in the head, this means that it is the scoring shot. Likewise, "second" refers to the shot lying second nearest the jack.

A heavy wood is when a player unintentionally delivers a bowl beyond the jack or the intended target.

Weight is the term used to refer to the power applied to the delivery of a wood.

