

THE KITCHENER LAWN BOWLING CLUB

SINCE 1902

...connecting generations through affordable, healthful sport...

New Member Information 2011

The Club:

- **The Kitchener Lawn Bowling Club** is located near the intersection of Spadina Road and Highland Road East in Kitchener, behind the large, white apartment building on Spadina (you cannot see the Club from either Spadina or Highland). Turn onto Wentworth Avenue (off Spadina) and make a left turn onto West Lansdowne Avenue (a lane). Watch for the sign on Wentworth. There is plenty of **free parking**.
- The Club's location is **peaceful, safe and secure** in the centre of the city with **no noisy traffic**. The Club is surrounded by quiet homes, an open forest and public tennis courts.
- The Club has a **long tradition, serving the community since 1902**. Club members enjoy a variation of the same healthful, outdoor game that has challenged and enchanted players for thousands of years.
- Currently, Club members range in age from 10 to 85. We have a very active junior club with its own executive. But we all believe in the same thing: maintaining a youthful spirit and attitude through healthful physical activity and good, clean sportsmanship!
- The Club has a modern 10-rink **lawn bowling green** that is kept in top playing condition throughout the summer for members and guests.
- There is a spacious, air-conditioned **clubhouse** with washrooms, kitchen, lounge and meeting areas and picture windows that overlook the green. Updated bulletin boards keep you posted about activities and events at our Club and other clubs.
- The greens are surrounded by lawn, flower beds, benches and shade shelters. The entire property is protected by chain-link fence and a locked gate.
- Floodlights illuminate the greens after dusk.

Membership and Fees:

• **The Club operates on a volunteer basis. Our success depends on the cooperation of members to help with various tasks such as raking leaves in the fall, helping in the kitchen for tournaments, weeding the green, minor maintenance around the property, fundraising, etc. We are proud to be independent of operational subsidies from the City of Kitchener or any other agency. We have fun working together for the good of the Club.**

- After attending a few jitneys to determine whether they enjoy the game, new players are asked if they would like to join the Kitchener Lawn Bowling Club. **Membership fees** (2011 rates) are: \$120 per person for returning members, \$95 for first-year members, \$50 for youth/student members (18 and under or still in school or college/university), \$45 for social members. This is your entire annual fee at the Kitchener Lawn Bowling Club! Compare this to golf in which people often pay this much per round!
- Membership in the Club includes membership in the **Ontario Lawn Bowling Association** (OLBA), a province-wide affiliation of clubs in most towns and cities. OLBA membership entitles its members to play at other clubs and in tournaments throughout Ontario. Members receive an annual OLBA guide and a renewable membership card.
- There is an annual general meeting each October at which members elect an executive to provide leadership for the Club. A spring information meeting kicks off the season.

Bowling at the Kitchener Lawn Bowling Club:

- **Jitneys** are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting at 7 p.m. (please arrive by 6:45 p.m.). Jitneys normally begin about mid-May depending on weather and if the greens have sufficiently recovered from the winter. Jitneys continue into mid to late September.
- Jitneys are the normal "club nights" for members. Two games are played with a **refreshment break** (coffee, cool drinks, cookies – all for the low, low cost of 25-cents!) between the games and after the second game. Normally members are going home by about 9:30 – 10:00 p.m.
- Players pay 50-cents each per night. Some of this money is divided back out to the players as prizes at the end of the evening and the remainder of the money goes to the Club.
- Each member plays on a team of 2 or 3 players. At jitneys, teams are selected randomly by drawing tokens before each game. **There are no "set" or stacked teams; you are on a different team selected entirely by chance for every game.** New members are leads who bowl first with lots of help from other team players (skips and vice-skips) and even opposing players. New members are not expected to be very proficient or to bowl alone without help from other players. **There is no pressure to perform. You will naturally get better over time.**

- We pride ourselves on being a **very friendly club**. The focus at jitneys is that everyone has fun and gets exercise. Games are very social and interactive; we laugh and “visit” as we play. If you don’t feel like bowling on any particular night, come out and enjoy the social fun anyway! **The focus for new members is on learning the game and getting oriented to the Club.**
- **Tournaments** are held on special days (normally Saturdays) during the course of the season. Members set up teams and play longer, much more competitive games with separate entry fees. These are always attended by teams from other clubs. There are prizes and often lunches or other special features. New members usually wait for at least part of a season before playing in tournaments. While competition is keen, the rivalry is always friendly in lawn bowling! We shake hands in good sportsmanship before and after every game, win or lose. Prizes for tournaments are usually provided by corporate sponsors.

Basics of lawn bowling:

- Lawn bowling is played on a very flat surface covered by carefully manicured grass similar to the green on a golf course.
- Players participate in teams and roll **bowls** which they attempt to place closer to a **jack** (a smaller white, round ball placed at the opposite end of the green) than their opponents place their bowls.
- The bowls themselves are “biased” – not truly round like an alley bowling ball. As a result, it is impossible to throw a lawn bowl in a straight line. The challenge lies in gauging how far to throw a bowl to the left or right of the jack and to match the curve of the bowl’s direction with the right amount of speed (“weight”) to propel the bowl accurately to the jack. Tricky to do, but easy to understand!
- Because the game is played on grass with all of its variables (length of turf, moisture, unevenness, etc.), the game is challenging but not physically demanding. As with any sport, consistency is the long-term challenge.
- The game is similar to curling in that teams move up and down their green in a set of **ends** for each game. Club jitney games are always eight ends. Scoring is also like curling: each team scores one point for each of its bowls that is closer to the jack than the opposing team’s bowls. But unlike curling, the target (the jack) can move and there is no tiresome sweeping!
- **The rules of play are very simple and experienced players will show you the way.**

Equipment:

- Do not worry about equipment. **Wear flat-soled shoes such as tennis shoes.**
- The Club has spare sets of bowls which new members can use. Eventually, most members want to own their own bowls (always in a set of four) and there are usually previously owned sets available for sale. Some of the bowls rolling on our greens have been used since the 1930s!
- Other equipment required for the games is always supplied by the club where you are playing.
- **Any style of dress is fine for jitneys.** At the height of summer, most members wear shorts and certainly dress for comfort. Normally players wear white clothes for tournaments.

Other Club Fun:

- The Club holds regular barbeques, special dinners, family days, sponsor appreciation nights, card parties (often during the winter) and other events as fund raisers to support Club operations. We usually organize bus trips to a casino. These social events – also open to non-members – are important for members to relax and get to know one another better.
- **We are friendly, welcoming people.** We want to have fun and we want our new members to have fun too through the wonderful game of lawn bowling!

The Wide World of Lawn Bowling:

- Bowling at the Kitchener Lawn Bowling Club is only the beginning. Through the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association, members can compete at district, provincial, national and even international levels. It is up to you how proficient you become and how far you wish to carry your game!
- **We are extremely proud that one of our members was the 2010 Ontario Youth Female gold medalist for the second consecutive year. We are all champions at the Kitchener Lawn Bowling Club and we will be even better with your participation!**

Contacts:

- Check the Club’s website for updated information: www.kitbowls.com. The website has a map that shows the location of the Club.
- Telephone any of these members for more information: Daryl at 519-743-1038; Bonnie at 519-578-2026; Dianne, 519-569-8922; Ernie at 519-896-0294.