

Short Mat at Canterbury Bowling Club



What is it?

Short Mat bowls is a very sociable mixed indoor activity played on a mat some 45 feet long and 6 feet wide.

In the middle of the mat is a block of wood (the centre block) which discourages the weighted or firing wood which may be experienced in the outdoor game.

Many of the rules of outdoor bowls apply. It is a sport where strength plays little part.

Where?

It is played in the winter months in the main Club area where two mats are laid down almost permanently for the indoor season.

When?

The season starts in early October and runs through until early April. Short Mat is played on a variety of days and can be open for practice provided it does not clash with matches or other events taking place in the Clubhouse.

For a beginner who wants to learn what it is all about there will be an Open Day in October. Flat shoes are necessary to prevent damage to the mat.

Once the season is under way there is a rollup on a Tuesday or Friday morning at 10am where beginners can hone their skills.

More competitive bowling is provided by the Mid Week League which plays out over Wednesday mornings 10am, Thursday mornings 10am, and Thursday afternoons 2pm. These are similar to the roll-up in that teams are randomly drawn, but scores are kept to find the most successful bowlers over the season.

Teams of at least five players play over the season in the Monday Night Triples League (matches start at 6pm and 7.30pm). Not everyone in the

team plays every week. If this is something you would like to play in, then make sure that you put your name down early in the season.

You can enter the Novice Singles knockout competition if you have not previously won this competition or the Singles competition. A Drawn Pairs knockout competition is also run.

Experienced bowlers can, if selected, play matches home and away against the many teams comprising the East Kent Short Mat League.

How much?

There are small entry fees for competitions and for most other activities there is a charge of £1.50 per session.

Who?

All Canterbury Bowling Club members are eligible to play, including Social Members. On an Open Day, Club members may bring along family members who, if they enjoy the experience, may continue to play by joining as Social Members, provided there is sufficient rink capacity.

Other things

The dress code, outside of the early coaching sessions and roll ups, is grey trousers/shorts/skirts and white tops or Club shirts.

The Short Mat board in the entrance hallway has details of the competition rules and progress in the various leagues and competitions.