**BEXHILL BOWLING CLUB**:

January 2020

**BOWLS ETIQUETTE**

**Occasionally we are all guilty of forgetting the niceties and courtesies of the game. Here are some gentle reminders: -**

**1. Ensure you know the rules of the game, and observe them**

**2. Be punctual. You could even be early and help set up equipment for the game!**

**3. Be correctly attired**

**4. Introduce yourself and shake hands. Wish your opponent(s) well**

**5. Keep quiet and refrain from moving when players are on the mat**

**6. Stand still at the head when a player is about to bowl**

**7. Before the skips come to the mat to bowl, number threes (usually) should place the correct bowl on the mat in readiness**

**8. Try to avoid obscuring the rink numbers, boundary pegs and toucher markers (for ditched bowls and jacks)**

**9. When not bowling, stand on the bank, or, if on the green, well back and to one side or other of the mat**

**10. Be aware of anyone about to bowl from the other end of the green, and do not move in their sightline. This applies even if you are not involved in a game at the time**

**11. Keep track of the play, and be ready to bowl when it's your turn. Wait a moment to see if your skip wants to guide you.**

**12. When your opponent is bowling, stand well out of his/her line of sight, keeping still and silent**

**13. Do not wander around, distracting attention. You can socialise after the game**

**14. Walk quickly down the centre of the green when changing ends, and around the head, not through it, possibly moving bowls or the jack**

**15. Do not stop to exchange information when between mat and jack. Information should be given at either end of the rink. A good skip will remain at the head, awaiting his/her team for this purpose**

**16. Never deliver your bowl until the previous one has come to a stop. Remember that possession of the mat is your opponent' s until his/her bowl is still. Just remain on the mat until your skip has given you the 'distance from the mat' signal**

**17. Concentrate on the game. Do not chatter with others. They should be concentrating too!**

**18. Do not criticise the green, team members, poor play, 'fluke' bowls, lucky wicks etc, but compliment well played bowls of either team**

**19. Respect the green. Do not drop bowls on it or throw them from the bank. Much damage can be caused by such actions**

**20. If you need to leave the green, alert both teams, or your opponent and marker if playing singles**

**21. On sunny days be aware of your shadow. Keep it from covering the jack or falling in front of or within the peripheral vision of the player on the mat**

**22. Keep cheerful, even when losing. It boosts your team's morale and shows good sportsmanship**

**23. If a drive has been indicated, warn your fellow players to stand well back or on the bank. Also let adjacent rinks know the situation**

**24. When the game is over, congratulate or commiserate with your opponents, compliment them on their play, shake hands all round and each other offer their opponents a drink**

**25. Be a gracious winner or a cheerful lose**

**26. Enjoy every game for the pleasure and the friendship it provides**

**27. If necessary, help clear the green of equipment.**