



# OAK BAY LAWN BOWLING CLUB



## HOW IS THE GAME PLAYED?

**The object of lawn bowls is to roll your bowls closer to a target than those of your opponent.**

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The game takes place on a 40m square of closely cut grass called a “green.” A green is divided into 8 “rinks.” Each rink can accommodate a game with one to four players per side.

First, a small white ball called a “jack” is delivered along the surface of the rink. Then each player rolls bowls, which weigh about 1.5kg, from one end of the rink towards the jack.

The bowls are biased (eccentrically balanced) so do not roll in a straight line, but curl towards the jack.

The winner scores one point for each bowl that is nearer to the jack than any opponents’ bowls.

For the next end, play starts from the other end of the rink. A typical game consists of 14 ends and takes about two hours.

The game requires far more strategy and tactics than might appear at first sight.

## WHO DOES OBLBC SERVE?

**The Club provides an important community service to those who are unwilling, or no longer able, to play contact sports or sports that require a high level of physical conditioning.**

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Men and women, boys and girls can all compete on an equal basis. The game does not depend on physical strength and is remarkably accommodating for anyone with reduced physical capabilities.

- The greens are open to the public, free of charge, every Friday at 6:00 p.m. Basic instruction for the game is provided.
- Members, particularly new ones, receive coaching from qualified instructors.
- In our club, we have active players from the age of 17 to 92.
- People start as young as age 10. World champion lawn bowlers are usually in their 20s and 30s.
- On the other hand, several of our members never rolled a bowl until they were in their 80s.

That is why lawn bowls is called “The Game for Life.” You often hear players say, “I wish I had started earlier.”

## THE CLUB PROVIDES EXCELLENT VALUE

**Any teenager or adult can join the Club at the lowest cost of any chargeable recreational facility in Oak Bay.**

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- There are no initiation fees unlike, say, golf clubs and yacht clubs.
- Playing membership at \$210 per annum is about 50% of the price for annual use of the Oak Bay Recreation Centre. High school students pay just \$35 a year.
- Social membership at \$55 is similar to membership in Monterey Seniors Centre. There is a varied program of winter indoor activities – short mat bowling, bridge, cribbage, darts, scrabble, etc.
- Equipment required for lawn bowls is minimal. The Club provides bowls for first year members.
- There is no dress code for most activities. For tournaments, it is customary to wear white clothing.

Bowling is one of the few organized, physical, competitive activities that seniors can do if they have some physical limitations. Curling is more dangerous (slipping and falling); golf is far less accommodating for the arthritic and less mobile; contact sports are out; as are sports that require rapid movement such as baseball, tennis, etc.

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*“... there is a certain camaraderie among lawn bowlers not found in any other sport. It is excellent exercise, does not take a whole day of time, and good sportsmanship is always present. Millions of Americans, not just a few thousand, should be on the green, for once a person becomes a member of a club and gets on the green, he will find that his future will be filled with untold pleasures . . . and many added years.” — Walt Disney*



## **OBLBC COSTS THE MUNICIPALITY VERY LITTLE**

**Unlike other municipal sports facilities in Oak Bay, the Bowling Club is fully maintained by its members.**

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While the Municipality has title to the land and buildings at the Club, members built the greens and the two clubhouses in stages as part of the original post-WWII plan for Carnarvon Park.

Almost no Oak Bay Parks & Recreation resources are used in the operational maintenance of the club buildings and greens. Unlike all the other sports facilities in Oak Bay parks, we maintain the grounds with our own equipment and volunteer labour, and operate the buildings at our expense.

The cost of creating lawn bowling greens today ranges upwards from \$75,000 per green. Artificial surfaces, which two or three bowling clubs in BC have, cost around \$300,000 per green. The Oak Bay greens were constructed entirely through Club funds and volunteer labour.



## **WHY JOIN OBLBC?**

**People join the OBLBC because it is an enjoyable and safe sporting activity for young and old.**

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Here are the reasons that some of the current 200 members joined the Club:

- A member of OBLBC recommended that I try lawn bowling, so I tried it one Friday evening and was hooked!
- Used to play competitive sports but I am no longer able to meet the physical demands of the sports I grew up with.
- I wanted to play in the National Lawn Bowling Championships—and I did!
- Like to travel and meet like-minded people. OBLBC membership opens doors to 7000 clubs all over the world.
- Just moved here and knew almost no one; joining the Club was a way of creating an instant social circle.
- Recently bereaved, I welcomed the chance to meet new people.
- Enjoy the Club's year-round social program and the chance to meet groups of new people, a few at a time.
- Could not afford to join the local golf clubs. At \$210 a year and no initiation fee for unlimited outdoor and indoor play year-round, the OBLBC value can't be beaten!
- Upon pushing open the Club gate in a moment of curiosity, I was captivated by what I saw.



## **WHAT IS THE OBLBC?**

**The Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club is a specially designed facility for playing lawn bowls that has existed in Oak Bay for more than 50 years.**

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The Club provides two high-calibre greens for outdoor bowling during the summer as well as clubhouse amenities that cater for a full and varied programme of activities and social functions in the winter.

- The Club is one of Oak Bay's most used sports facilities with two to six hours of organized activities daily.
- Up to 128 players can play simultaneously on the two greens.
- Names are drawn at random for friendly games almost every day of the playing season. This random mixing of teams provides a low-key way to eventually meet all club members.
- In the six-month outdoor playing season, some 3000 two-hour games are played.

The Lawn Bowling Club is a recreational asset that Oak Bay can be proud of.

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