



Open **S**ingles **C**ircuit

Welcome to the Open Singles Circuit!

Thank you for your interest in the OSC.

The Open Singles Circuit (OSC) is really taking off and we would like to bring you on board and share the benefits of what we have to offer your club and the wider game. Evolving from the very successful EMPB (East Midlands Premier Bowls) Tour, the OSC is the most exciting and fastest growing concept in bowls today. It's fully endorsed by the EIBA, so now is the perfect time to get involved and reap the rewards for your club and your players.

THE CONCEPT

The Open Singles Circuit is exactly just that; a circuit of club owned and run open singles events throughout the UK, where all the results from all the events earn all the players ranking points which contribute to the OSC Rankings List. The rankings list is reset at the start of each new season to reward each player's current form. Local sponsorship and the player's entry fees form the prize fund for each local event. At the end of each season the top ranked players on the OSC Rankings List qualify for the Grand Final event, which is fully funded by OSC and updated live over the internet for bowls fans all over the world.

BENEFITS

So what are the benefits to running your own OSC event and why is it a positive move for your club to become involved?

By becoming part of the OSC we can realise the following benefits together:

- **SIGNIFICANT REVENUE** for your club over the duration of your event
- **STIMULATING INTEREST WITHIN THE SPORT** from the local clubs, players and supporters as well as a UK wide audience
- **TANGIBLE CASH REWARDS** for the players (several of who may be from your club)
- **A PROFESSIONAL FORMAT AND SHOWCASE** of our sport
- **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND NETWORKING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES** –our dedicated website has had in excess of 200,000 views in the first season

Don't just take our word for it though, visit the Open Singles Circuit website and Facebook page and view the testimonials from clubs, top players and supporters to see why working with us will be a positive move for your club.

FORMAT

All events on the OSC are played to the recognised and exciting format of 2 sets of 7 ends with a deciding 3 end tie breaker if required. All jacks are re-spotted, as seen on TV, excluding nominated killed ends.

PLAYERS

OSC Events are open to anyone: Male, female, young, old, disabled, amateur or professional, we welcome and encourage all entrants. You are not even required to be a member of a bowls club to enter an OSC event.

Naturally these events attract some of the world's better bowling talent. World champion Nick Brett has participated in previous tournaments on the circuit. Also other great players such as Mark Royal, Jamie Walker, Scott Edwards, Neil Smith and Les Gillett are all regular competitors.

Everyone entering has the chance to test their game against the best players on the circuit, in a truly competitive environment. Playing the two 7 end sets format really means the best player of the day is usually the victor. We would be confident that your Open Singles Circuit Event will become a 'Blue Ribbon Day' within your club's calendar.

SUPPORT PROCESS

We are here to help and support you from starting with guiding you through the planning process, selecting your dates, offering advice on gaining sponsorship if required; we are here every step of the way and have experience in all tournament matters.

The Open Singles Circuit Team comprises of:

Neil Smith (Swindon) – OSC Administrator
Jordan Moody (Salisbury) – Technical Director
Steve Broome (Shropshire) – OSC Merchandiser
Katy Smith (Swindon) – OSC Website & Social Media Platforms
Danny Brown (Lincoln) – OSC Consultant

Your initial point of contact will be with Neil Smith, who will:

- Provide you with this 'Open Singles Circuit Information Pack' including the 'Terms & Conditions for joining the Open Singles Circuit' and the 'Open Singles Circuit Event Rules'
- Liaise with you over finding a suitable date in the bowling calendar for your event
- Provide guidance over queries you might have regarding the format and timings for your event, the recommended number of entries and the overall playing duration
- Provide guidance, if required, over the prize fund distribution

Once you have confirmed a date for your event you will be provided with your own 'Event Pack' containing:

- Website facilities including event promotion, individual event web page containing - draw, results, live results where possible, local sponsorship logos with link backs to your sponsors website and the venue and event specific details
- Red and white bowls stickers for home and away players
- Customised Entry Form containing sponsors logos for full exposure
- Event Organiser's Checklist
- Customised Score Card Template
- Customised Draw Sheet Template
- Scoreboard Set Score Templates
- EIBA Competition Licence

On conclusion of your event, the Open Singles Circuit Rankings List will be updated. This updated Rankings List is released on the website following all events.

SUSTAINING THE OPEN SINGLES CIRCUIT

The Open Singles Circuit is managed by a few willing volunteers, all bowlers trying to put something innovative back into the game for the benefit of clubs and players alike. There are NO membership costs to either clubs or players and all monies paid in via entry fees are all handled by you, the clubs, for your own distribution.

Up to now any costs associated with the OSC and its rapid development have been absorbed by those volunteers but as you will appreciate, that situation cannot be sustained indefinitely. Whilst we will all remain volunteers working without pay, there are inevitably administration and licensing costs, as well as web space hire charges to be found week on week. We passionately believe that the OSC adds value to our sport where ambitious players can prosper and profit.

Therefore we include, as part of our Terms and Conditions, the most modest levy of £2.50 per player entered in your event. By levying at this rate and in this way, we believe the cost can be passed onto the players within the entry fee.

The OSC is fully endorsed by the EIBA. The player levy payments will be made payable to the EIBA and held in their account for OSC use.

The OSC will invoice the participating clubs upon receipt of the draw form for publication on the website, there will be no delay in publishing the draw, we only invoice in this way as we invoice based solely upon the number of players participating at your event, as outlined in the 'TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR JOINING THE OPEN SINGLES CIRCUIT'

We do hope you will agree that our approach adds considerable value and appreciate that we cannot sustain this without assistance from our partner clubs. If you have any questions or queries regarding this please do not hesitate to ask.

OPEN SINGLES CIRCUIT EVENT RULES

1. A match with each player having four bowls will consist of two sets - each played over 7 ends. The winner of each set will be the player with the most shots at the completion of the 7th end. A set will be deemed to be completed (with advice from the marker or competition official if required) if at any point it becomes impossible for one player to draw or win the set given the number of ends remaining. The winner of the match being the better of two sets as described in rule 2 below. All rounds of the competition will be played over 2 sets plus a tie break if required, including the final.

2. The winner of each set shall receive 1 point. If the shots scored are tied after the last end of a set, the set will be drawn, scoring $\frac{1}{2}$ a point per player. If the match is tied at two drawn sets or one set each, a best of 3 ends tie-break will be played to determine the winner. This will be the winner of each end and NOT the total number of shots won in the 3 ends. If at the completion of the deciding 3rd end of the match tie-break, the scores are equal, a 4th end will be played with each player delivering a single bowl to determine the winner. If opposing bowls are equal distance from the jack, they will be removed and further single bowls will be played to determine the winner. In any such fourth end, the jack, if hit off rink will be re-spotted as described in rule 7.

3. In all cases a “no score” end will count as an end.

4. Play will be in both directions. The player winning the toss shall have the choice of starting or giving away the jack in the first set. The loser of the toss shall have the choice of starting or giving away the jack in the second set, the winner of an end will start the next end in the same set.

5. In the match tie-break, the player winning the toss shall choose whether to take the jack or give it away in both the first & third ends (assuming a third end is required) or to take or give away the jack in the second end. In the event of a fourth end being required the player winning a “new” toss shall have the choice of starting or giving the jack away.

6. The player to start will select where to place the mat along the centre line of the rink and deliver the jack. A full length jack will be at the 2m T Mark from the 2m Mat Line, or from the 3m T Mark to the 3m Mat Line, this is dependent on each club deciding on 2m or 3m Ts.

7. In the event of the jack being hit off the rink it will be replaced at one of two predefined points on the rink, these points (spots) will be 300mm behind the 2m or 3m T Mark and half way between the centre line of the rink & the edge of the rink, the jack will be replaced on one of these spots prior to the next bowl being delivered or the end decided. If the jack is hit off the rink to the right, it will be positioned on the right hand predefined point. If the jack is hit off to the left, it will be positioned on the left hand predefined point. When the predefined point is occupied, the jack will be repositioned at the nearest available position along the line between the predefined points and the centre line of the rink, but not touching an obstructing bowl. In the third end of a match tie break (only) each player will be entitled to “kill” (or burn”) the end once, with the end being replayed. (Players must clearly declare to the marker their intention to kill the end prior to the delivery of each bowl). Unless such a prior declaration is made and in all other circumstance there will be no dead ends and the re-spot rule (no 7) will apply. If a club already has re-spots in an alternative place on the green then these spots do not have to be re-positioned and will be used instead of the above mentioned measurements.

8. The jack, when hit into the ditch within the rink width, will remain in play and not be repositioned.

9. Any bowl leaving the confines of the rink (except on delivery) and not a live toucher in the ditch will be deemed to be dead and immediately removed.

10. A live rebounding jack within the confines of the rink but less than the minimum of 20m from the front edge of the mat will be repositioned at the appropriate predefined point as described at rule 7.

11. Measurements between the Jack, including a repositioned jack, and the live bowls will be carried out in the normal manner, players may request the marker to measure or may call an umpire at their own discretion, an umpire's decision is final.

12. Players may visit the head after their third bowl. Players can ask the marker to visit the head after their second bowl, if allowed by the marker both players must walk back to the mat together.

13. Any Full Set of 4 Matching Bowls from the same original set can be used and must contain a valid in-date bowls stamp (As per EIBA Ltd regulations)
14. All players should report to the Tournament Organiser on arrival at the venue to book in.
15. There will be no grace period for late arrivals under any circumstances. If players arrive late and miss their start time they will be eliminated as no show.
16. Coloured Bowls Stickers will be supplied to the host Club by Open Singles Circuit, "The Home" or first drawn player must play using Red Bowls Stickers and "The Away" or second drawn player must play using White Bowls Stickers. These will be issued to players on check in and subsequently before each round as required.
17. Dress shall be whites below the waist and any bowls shirt will be allowed. There will be no restrictions on sponsors logo sizes and/or locations on player's shirts or trousers/skirts.
18. Two trial ends (one in each direction) will be allowed prior to the start of each match. The players can decide whether they want 2 or 4 bowls.
19. In all cases where a dispute arises, and an umpire cannot rule, the Tournament Organiser's decision shall be final.
20. Please take the time to check on local club rules in particular dress codes. Some clubs have a rule in place that prevents practice sessions in denim jeans or tracksuit bottoms.
21. If required to do so by the host club, all players must, once eliminated from the competition, be prepared to mark the next match on the rink on which their final match was played.
22. Each tournament will be played with a minimum of 48 players per event at the draw stage.
23. Aero Trifecta Bowls - Some clubs may decide to ban trifecta bowls for use at their club. We have to respect the clubs decision as all the OSC events are club tournaments.
24. The OSC encourages all clubs to play background music during tournament play; however, it is the organiser's responsibility to ensure all necessary licences are in place to do so.

OSC Rules Revision 5 20th MAY 2016.

JOINING THE OSC

So to put your club firmly on the UK's bowling map and join the Open Singles Circuit revolution, all you need to do is complete our 'TERMS & CONDITIONS AGREEMENT' and return it to our Tournament Director Neil Smith by email to neilsmith1966@hotmail.co.uk.

TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR JOINING THE OSC

At the OSC, we realise that as societies and people's attitudes have changed over the years, so bowls itself must change to survive and prosper. We are keen to operate a professional, yet flexible and relaxed approach, with the belief that this will make our concept and your event successful.

To that end, we only have a few points that we require all participating clubs to read and abide to:

1. Each club will agree to the £2.50 per entrant levy to be paid to the OSC on completion of the draw. (e.g. 64 players results in a payment of £160 to the OSC). This levy is paid to the EIBA but remains as OSC funds.

2. The number of entries at any Open Singles event must be no less than 48.

3. Entry fees can be either £15.00 or £20.00 (excluding the £2.50 levy):

The minimum prize fund for:

£15.00 (£17.50 inc. levy) Tournaments

- Winner - £750
- Runner up - £300
- Semi Finalists - £150
- Quarter Finalists - £75

Approximately £700 Sponsorship needed

£20.00 (£22.50 inc. levy) Tournaments

- Winner - £1000
- Runner up - £400/£500
- Semi Finalists - £200/ £250
- Quarter Finalists - £100

Approximately £1000 Sponsorship needed

4. Clubs can choose to cover the player levy cost themselves or recoup it by adding it onto the entry fee

5. The draw sheet and schedule issued by the OSC team must be adhered to at all times

6. Each club will assist the OSC in promoting the OSC Main Sponsors, by way of advertising posters in clubs, advertising boards or promotion activities on events days, should there be a requirement to do so and if these companies do not clash with club main sponsors.

7. Each club is responsible for setting up, running and acquiring sponsorship for their own event and implementation of these rules.