



Founded in 1912

Little Bowden Bowls Club extends a very warm welcome to any touring clubs or visitors to the area. We have included below a very brief historical outline of the town and on the following page a brief outline of the Club.

Little Bowden Bowling Club is located in Market Harborough which is a market town lying in the valley of the River Welland on the borders of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. Harborough is a medieval new town created in the reign of Henry II, the town was created to take advantage of favourable trade conditions and to give the opportunity to raise more Taxes (Things don't change do they?). The Manor of Great Bowden was the centre of a Royal Soke and was owned by The Crown; hence the land was available to the King. The township of Harborough was created where the Leicester to Northampton Road crossed the Welland river. The original size of the town was 60 acres and it did not expand outside of this area until the early 1800's. In 1202 the town paid three marks to have a market on Mondays, this was changed to Tuesdays in 1221, and in 1900 the market rights were purchased from the Earls of Harborough. A new market was opened on Springfield Street at this time which removed the livestock market from the town street's, however the retail market remained on the Square until 1938 when it was removed to a new market hall on the Northampton Road. It is interesting to note that today the old square is again being used for farmers markets.



Apart from the market, the town has benefited from its excellent transport links. Market Harborough sits astride what was an important coaching route to the north of England: in 1763 for instance, 54 stagecoaches and wagons passed through the town. The arrival in 1809 of the Grand Union Canal branch and basin was a further boost to trade and it was followed by the railways in the 1850's. The Angel Hotel was one of the premier coaching inns of the town with stabling for 90 horses and is still to be found to the north end of the High Street. In the north west corner of the High Street are some fine examples of late Georgian houses c1790 and 19th Century properties. Within 100 yards of the bowls club can be found St Nicholas Church which dates back to the 13th Century the church has been carefully protected and is open to view.

Places of Interest worthy of a visit are:- Foxton Locks and inclined plan (9 locks in line); Rockingham Castle near Corby; Althorpe Hall (Princess Diana's Home); Leicester Space Museum



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Little Bowden Bowling Club was founded in 1912, it is situated on what at that time was the croquet lawn to the St Nicholas Church rectory. We are not quite sure as to the arrangements made at that time between the club and church authorities or how the green was formed. We do know however that the clubhouse was a wooden clap board construction with quite small windows doors etc and which over the many years of its existence has been altered, extended, and modernised on quite a number of occasions. Separate from the clubhouse was always a green keepers shed and equipment storage facility. The club has always been a members' owned club and the members have always serviced and managed all the Facilities.

In the late 1990's the club successfully applied for a Lottery Grant to provide a new clubhouse which contains two changing rooms, male, female and disabled toilets, a main club room, which is directly serviced by a kitchen and licensed bar. This new facility is a "State of the Art" construction fully accessible by the disabled and meets all current requirements. Access to the clubhouse from the car park is by way of ramped approaches and similar ramped access is available to the green, a special wide wheeled disability chair is available for individuals use.



The club car park which is located immediately off the Kettering road, and which is shielded from view of the green by a 2 metre high hedge, provides sufficient space for the parking of 30 Cars.

The green is large enough to provide seven rinks in either direction, although we normally only set out six rinks. We bowl east to west during all afternoon games and north to south in evening games, this procedure helps to reduce wear and tear upon the green and also means that bowlers do not have to handle the effects of facing into a setting sun in evening matches.

The Club enters four teams in to the Tuesday Evening Local Leagues and has at least one team in each of the 3 divisions associated with the League. The Club also competes in the South Leicestershire Triples League. Ladies matches are played most Wednesdays and friendly fixtures with other clubs are played Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.