

Berkshire Bowls Coaching Scheme

Buying Bowls – Player’s Guide

Choosing the right set of bowls can feel daunting, but breaking it down into clear steps makes the process much easier. This guide blends simple narrative with tables, checklists, and callouts to help you decide what works best for your game and budget.

Key Buying Factors

Factor	What to Consider	Why It Matters
Surface	Indoor (fast) → narrower bias; Outdoor (slower) → wider bias	Surface speed changes bowl swing
Bias	Choose narrow, mid, or wide line preference	Matches role & shot type
Grip	Non-grip, dimpled, or embedded	Affects comfort & control
Size	0000–6 (try before you buy)	Must fit the hand comfortably
Price	£50–£400+	Balance budget vs quality
New vs Used	Cost saving vs guarantee	Availability & condition

Grip Types

Grip Type	Description	Best For
Non-gripped	Smooth shoulders, no grooves	Experienced players, dry conditions
Dimpled	Round or oblong indents for fingertips	Most common, beginner-friendly
Embedded	Inset groove + dimples	Smaller hands, extra control

Price Guide (2024)

Type	Black/Brown	Colour
New	£300	£350+
Second-hand	£50–£200 (depends on stamp)	£100–£300 (depends on stamp)

Checklist – Buying Second-Hand Bowls

- Confirm size and weight – try similar bowls if possible.
- Check the expiry stamp date is valid (or acceptable for your level).
- Ensure all bowls in the set have matching serial numbers.

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- Factor in postage costs – bowls are heavy!
- Be flexible on colour/design, as choice may be limited.

Myth Busting

“Always buy the biggest bowl you can hold.” – Not true! Comfort and control are far more important than bowl size. A bowl that strains your hand or wrist will hurt your consistency.

Resources & Suppliers

Here are some places to explore when buying bowls:

- Local Suppliers:
 - Cotswold Bowls Centre – <https://www.cotswold-bowls-centre.co.uk/>
 - Egham Bowls Shop – <https://www.eghambowlsshop.co.uk/>
 - Bowlsweat Direct – <https://bowlsdirect.com/>
- Online Second-Hand Sources:
 - eBay – <https://www.ebay.co.uk/>
 - Secondhand Bowls – <https://secondhandbowls.co.uk/>
 - Jack & Bowl – <https://jackandbowl.co.uk/collections/pre-loved-bowls>
 - Ballybrakes Bowls – <https://www.ballybrakesbowls.com/brand/second-hand-bowls/>

Key Takeaways

- Surface and bias choice go hand-in-hand – match your bowls to where you play most often.
- Choose grip and size for comfort, not just tradition or advice.
- Price varies – second-hand is a smart choice for most players.
- Check stamps and condition carefully before buying pre-loved bowls.
- Ask a coach if unsure – a second opinion can save money and frustration.