



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD



Bowling Green, Leicester Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0LR

Newsletter – July 2021

A second big stepand more

It was great to see the first League matches get under way on 21 June. The EIBA did not change their guidance for Indoor Clubs, and so we had no option but to continue with the revised format of the game and the additional requirements for distancing and sanitisation of the rinks and equipment. We still await to see what relaxations may come our way in July from the EIBA. Any changes we are proposing will have to be found to be within the EIBA's Guidance rules. For example, relaxation of distancing means we can open 8 rinks, but we have decided only if we also retain the sanitisation of equipment between sessions.

The Club has already made some small adjustments to the weekly schedule. Although we were operating with rinks 3 and 6 closed, **from 25 July we will be open on all 8 rinks**. You will have already noticed the change to Monday rink times to give more opportunities for roll-ups now that the Leagues have started, but we are able to go further;

- **Mondays now have two sessions starting at 09.30 and 12.00.** And we can now offer drinks from the bar once the session has started and the member of bar staff is able to leave the Reception desk. Monday evenings will not be restarted until the Winter season.
- From 19 July, we are going to remove the requirement for mat placing at the 'red spot' and the mat can be placed on the 'T'.
- From 19 July, casting of the jack will be re-instated.
- From 19 July, the scoreboards can be used – but we ask that you nominate one player per rink to update the scoreboards (after alternate ends).
- There will now be **just one session on Sundays starting at 10.30**. The Club reserves the right to close this session should there be no bookings made before the previous Friday evening.
- We ask you to be considerate to other Members at busy times and in areas of the building that are crowded. Please try to maintain 1 metre distancing and, if you have one with you, wear a face mask in those areas.

We are to stay as a **Members Only** Club throughout the Summer season (sorry, this does mean that you can't bring friends and family for a roll-up). We will retain the cleaning of rinkside furniture, mats and jacks between sessions. The bar will continue to offer table service both within the bar lounge and at rinkside tables. We will not be able to use the pushers until the Winter season, as this increases the time taken to clean between sessions.

AGMs

The Company AGM, and presentation of the Accounts, will be held in September this year. We need to hold in then as by law we are required to hold the meeting within twelve months of the Financial Year end, which in our case is/was 31st December. It has been agreed that the Club AGM, and any necessary BMC elections, can be delayed and held as usual in April 2022 when we hope that we will be able to revert to more normal AGM timings.

Memberships Renewal 2021/22

Club memberships will be due for renewal at the end of August. Renewal letters (e-mails) and forms will be sent out in early August. Hopefully, you will have received an e-mail from the Club to explain the discount being applied to Members who renewed in April last year. The key points are as follows;

Pandemic Discount

1. This “Pandemic Discount” will apply only to current members who paid the full subscription (£60 or £55 with the early payment discount) for the 2020 – 21 season which was from 1 April 2020 to the extended date of 31 August 2021.
2. The Pandemic Discount is 50 % of the current membership subscription of £60, and eligible members will therefore pay £30.
3. The usual early payment discount will not apply to anyone this year.
4. All subscriptions become due on 1 September 2021 and must be paid by 30 September, otherwise their membership will be suspended, and they will no longer be able to play bowls, nor will they receive the Pandemic Discount if they renew after 30 September.

Some members have suggested making a donation to the Club (of the saving offered, or a larger amount), to help it to regain some of the losses sustained during the various lockdowns. If you would like to help with that, there is now a box on the membership renewal form for that purpose. Also, if you are a tax payer, you can help still further by agreeing to “Gift Aid” which costs you nothing extra, but enables the Club to recover the tax paid on the value of your donation from the Government, which is an additional 25% on top of your donation. This Club belongs to you and every other member, so it is important that we recover as much as we can of our reserves to maintain the longevity of your club.

Your Renewal Forms will be in envelopes at Reception from a date in early August. Please keep your eyes open for the signs and collect your envelopes as soon as possible. Thankyou.

Locker Room

The EIBA advice is that we are currently still required to maintain distancing at all times in locker room. The design of our area makes this requirement difficult to achieve or control, so we are asking that you wear your **face mask** whenever the lockers are crowded and **use the hand sanitiser** provided after touching the lockers.



Tokens



The Bar is now able to sell the rink tokens in packs of five for £15. Please note that all League games will require payment by tokens. **The tokens can be used for any rink session payment.** Cash payment will continue to be an issue until things are back to pre-Covid conditions, as it is not possible to have a cash float at Reception. If you do not have tokens, please have a contactless payment card with you. Did you know that the Club is charged for each card transaction? By buying tokens (and five at a time) it is not only queuing at Reception that you are reducing, but you are also saving the Club money.

Club Competitions

The draw due to take place on the 4 July has been delayed to 18 July to allow more time for entries to be received. Some competitions do not yet have enough entries to make them viable but we hope to run most competitions. The draw will be available on the web and on the Competition Board by the locker room.

The Office has been refunding all Winter 20/21 Competition entry fees.

Ensure that if you are the challenger, i.e. the first player on the list, that you challenge your opponent within one week of the round beginning. This is so that you don't hold up the following round. The rules state that if this doesn't happen teams will (and have been) banned from the following round for not complying. It is especially important this year as the time between rounds has been shortened.



Winter Leagues

The Office is in the process of refunding all Winter League 20/21 entry fees to the Team Captains. Chuck Kershaw has generated the entry forms for the 21/22 Winter season and the envelopes are on the end of Reception for collection. Captains are asked to get their team entries confirmed as soon as possible – latest date for entries 23 August.

Killing the Golden Goose

Whilst on the topic of the Winter Leagues. One of the lessons learnt in the last month is that many League teams may have problems in September with the loss of team members. In the Summer season we have seen teams drop out, and this has even threatened the very existence of some of the normal leagues.

We know that you all want to play in teams with your friends, or players that you consider to be of the same standard as yourselves, but it may be time to bring fresh blood into your teams. We would rather see teams offering to take on new members than have to shut down a league for the lack of teams. For the Summer season we have put a notice on the Mission 650 Board by the mail pigeon holes for players who wish to join a League team. We are willing to do the same for the Winter season, and will also offer to have a list for Captains who wish to find additional players.

Summer Galas

The first Summer Gala was held on 3 July and the event was enjoyed by all 30+ members who attended. Unfortunately, on the day it was not possible to read out a list of names of the friends that we have lost during the last 18 months, but we are sure that everyone's thoughts were with the families and their other friends. David Brown gave a short speech outlining the financial challenges for the near future and expressed the Club's hopes for increasing attendances as the weeks progress.

Every event has its winners and losers, but there were smiles all the way round. The Spider was won by Eric Clarke. The two winning teams were; for the Home sides Pauline Wells, Laura Hickin and Barry Pelos and for the Away sides John Robinson, Suzanne Hughes and

Peter Bennett. Well done to them all. We won't mention the two wrong bias bowls – nobody noticed! The event raised in the region of £70 for the Club on the Spider and raffle alone.



The next Gala will be on **Saturday, 7 August** at 14.00, and the theme will be Summer Dress – sorry, no bikinis or trunks, but your beach shirts and shorts are certainly allowed. Tea and biscuits will be served at half time. There will be a raffle, and all contributions to the prizes will be gratefully received. The list to collect signatures of willing players is on the Gala noticeboard by Rink 1

– get your names added quickly!

Bowls for Sale



We have a limited number of bowls for sale which might suit one of our new starters, or a member wishing to add a set for outdoor use. If interested in seeing our stock or want to donate your bowls for sale, please contact Carol Pick, or talk to one of the other coaches.

If you are the Member who left a black and white shopping bag of items for sale some months ago – we were not given any contact details or they came misplaced. Please contact Carol Pick as we are reluctant to sell anything until we have contact details. We will help you sell unwanted bowls and equipment until the Club reinstates the “for sale” notice board in the foyer.

We all need friends.

And this Club needs yours. One of the ways that we have been successful at recruiting new members in the past is by introducing our friends and neighbours to the joy of this frustrating game. The Club has always valued the efforts of those Club members who have helped to swell our numbers, and for some years now we have run the “Introduce a Friend” scheme to reward those efforts.

This year is destined to see a further reduction in our membership due to the various health problems picked up during the Pandemic (not the least, long-Covid) plus the competition from all those other pastimes we adopted whilst we couldn't play bowls. Normally we would expect to lose about 80 members at renewal time each year and then make those numbers up again throughout the next 12 months. Early indications are that we might lose 120 this year.

The “Introduce a Friend” scheme will give you four rink tokens for each friend or neighbour that you bring into the Club who then takes up full membership. Those friends that have never played before can enjoy the free sessions with a coach to get them to the point where they can enjoy social roll-ups with yourself.

Our Club has a reputation for being one of the friendliest Clubs in the country – so we should have a lot of friends! Ask either one of the Mission 650 Team, Hazel Armstrong our Membership Secretary or a coach, for more details of the scheme.

Help us stay safe.

If you are asked to take a Covid Test, please remember that you should not mix socially until you have received a negative result. **You should not enter the Club before you have been notified that your test was negative.**



Despite the recent relaxation announcement, we will continue to ask you to stick to these three simple routines. We believe that 1 metre spacing is easy to achieve both on the rinks and around the Club premises. Please ensure you continue to use your masks when finding crowds at the toilets and locker room. Use the hand sanitiser if you need to touch shared items. If you feel that the rinks are becoming 'stuffy' please report your concerns to the member of Bar Staff on duty as we try to maintain good air movement in all areas.

Do not travel to or enter the Club if -

- You or any member of your household have had any COVID-19 symptoms in the last 24 hours (with or without positive test).
- You have been abroad to a "quarantine required" country within previous 14 days
- You have visited a UK area in "Local Lockdown" within the previous 14 days
- You are a known contact of a person who has activated "Test, Track & Trace"

Volunteers still required



The Club is still searching for somebody who might be willing to take on the role of **Publicity Officer** for the Club.

There is still a post to be filled on the BMEC - the **Captains Representative**. Any Club Captain or Selector may apply for this role. **SOON PLEASE, or you could be volunteered!**

Can we also remind our lady Members that we are still looking for a lady to take on the role of **Junior Vice President** from the next AGM onwards. This post normally leads to the position of Club President after two years.

Pat Wright will be able to supply job descriptions for all four roles to any interested members.

Short Mat Finals

Please note we have been asked to host the Short Mat Finals again in September. We do have some issues to solve at this time, but if we can clear the clashes then the Club will host the Finals 16-19 September. This will mean the suspension of normal Club activities but, as ever, they are fascinating to come in and watch.

Hearing Aid Batteries – free to a good home

One of our Members lost his hearing aid and was fitted with a new one. The box of batteries he had just opened didn't fit the new aid. These are Phonak 312. He has left the box of batteries with the Bar – free to anyone who can use them.

Please follow the guidance, and keep safe.

When you need to buy new bowls equipment – remember to use the deal on Club discounts by showing your membership Card at your local bowls shop.



If you know of a Club Member who does not have access to the internet, please ring them and tell them about the items in this Newsletter.



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