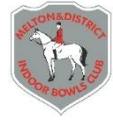




MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



Newsletter – January 2021



Sorry – We are going to be closed until at least the end of February 2021.

The end of the second lockdown, the imposition of Tier 4 and now the third National lockdown has meant that we are not able to open the Club. It is beginning to look as though the increased infection rates will mean an extended closure, and any relaxation in restrictions will not happen until we are well into late February. Even then, the Club will have to look carefully at the financial position created by any restrictions retained. Unless we get back to a Tier 2 style condition it is still unlikely that we could open and be able to breakeven financially. We would need a flood of players returning to bowl. Even given the limited number of rinks in operation, we still need to maintain an average above 12 players per session, across every day and session we are open in order to make the Club profitable.

Meanwhile we are continuing to maintain the house-keeping activities required to get us (as a business) and the building through the winter. We have had a couple of close calls with the local water table rising to threaten the chance of more flooding. So far, the hard work put in on the ditch by John Robinson and his team, and new defences built, seem to have paid dividends. The Board of Directors has ensured that we have applied for all of the various National and local financial grants and concessions available to businesses of our type and size. Like for all businesses, this will help ensure our future but is some way from covering all of our continuing costs.

As much as we want to return to being able to offer our members the chance to play again as soon as possible, we can only do that once we are allowed and we can be sure of everyone's safety. The Board of Directors has reviewed the current advice from the Government and do not see that as being possible before the end of February.

Winter Leagues

A decision to postpone the start of the Winter Leagues was taken on 30 October. It is now inevitable that we will not be running any leagues this Winter season. The League Secretary will be in contact with the Team Captains once the Club has re-opened for play.

Winter Season Competitions

It is now inevitable that we will not be able to run any competitions this Winter season. The Competition Secretary will be in contact with those members who had entered competitions once the Club has re-opened for play.

Keeping in Contact

During the lockdown the Club will try to keep you informed of any news or changes to the forecast for re-opening through these newsletters, the website and social media. We are hearing that these bulletins do not reach all of our Members as they do not have access to the internet. If you know of somebody in this position, but have a way of contacting them safely, e.g. their phone number, why not give them a call? This will not only give you a chance to bring them up to date with news but perhaps be a very welcome chance for them to talk to somebody on what might otherwise be a very lonely day.

Keeping fit

Remember you are still allowed to get out of the house for exercise. If you are like most of us then you will have been missing the two-hour sessions of walking up and down the rinks – particularly if you have battled against the extra food brought in for Christmas to feed a family that couldn't visit. It is all too easy to sit in a warm lounge and watch the TV, why not make the effort to get out at least every other day? Even if it is only once round the block. You will see other people and perhaps even get the chance for a safe distanced chat with a friend or neighbour. Mental health is as important as physical exercise and you should ensure that you have contact with another person every day.



Playing your part – post vaccines

In the November Newsletter we described all of the things that the Club had done to make the premises Covid Secure and able to open for bowls. Once vaccines have been given and the Club re-opens, we will still have to follow the three, simple precautions required for some significant time – perhaps into the Summer months.



The Government has made it clear that, whilst they will continue to manage the risks through the Tier system, the greatest impact on infection figures has been the simple things that we do ourselves. We should strive to stick to these three simple routines – **and if you are offered the vaccine, please seriously consider taking up the chance to reduce the risks to yourself and your contacts at the Club.** It should be remembered that significant immunity

is not gained until some three weeks after the first of the two jabs. Given the rate of supply of vaccines, most of us will not have had our first dose before mid-February. Inevitably this means that restrictions of some sort are to be with us well into May at least.

A New Club Discount



The Club is pleased to announce a scheme has been agreed with B&H Midlands Ltd. for 2021.

The shop has been unable to serve customers since Tier 4 regulations were imposed. It is hoped that a normal service will be possible at some time in late February. Stuart Hall informs us that they are still operating their on-line service, and will accept telephone orders which can be collected from the Covid-secure collection point at the business main entrance.



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 t 01664 565666 e sales@bhmidland.co.uk www.bhmidland.co.uk/bowls

Stuart also points out that they are also able to order items from the major Bowls suppliers that are not usually held by their shop as stock. At the moment they have no way of applying any Club discount for on-line purchases, but will be able to apply discounts for telephone orders supported by a membership number.

Initially B&H will provide discounts on only a limited range of their bowls products, including clothing and accessories. There will be certain items offered at 10%. and occasionally there will be special offers for limited periods. Unfortunately, in the current difficult trading climate, discounts will not be available on either bowls or sale items. For up-to-date details once we are open again, please watch the advertising display cabinet in the Club's lobby entrance area. The arrangement will be only for current Club members, and transactions can only be completed on presentation of a current membership card at collection.

The Sad News

Since the last Newsletter, we have been informed of some more deaths of former Members and friends. This month the toll includes both a new member, a past President and one of our founder members. The Club is endeavouring to send messages of condolence to the families, but in the current rules it has not always been possible to represent the Club at the funerals. The following Members have passed away and leave us with happy memories;

Terry Beeken was one of our founder members, and brother of Barry who still looks after our IT system.

We were informed just before Christmas that Paul James, our President in 2010/11, described by many as a real gentleman, died in December.

Peter Southerington, a newer member easily recognised by his grey ponytail and beard, died of a heart attack at his place of work.

We would also like to pass our sympathies to the Warrington family after the loss of Erica's father in early December. They have just had a really difficult year.

Please keep the Office informed if you hear of Members no longer with us.

Please stay at home, and keep safe.



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