



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



Newsletter – December 2020

Sorry – We are going to be closed until at least 11 January 2021.

The end of the second lockdown has not meant that we can open the Club. The restrictions imposed on Melton Mowbray in **Tier 3** have meant that the Board of Directors was forced to keep the Club closed. Had we been in Tier 2, it had been already concluded that to open the Club within the imposed restrictions would have disastrously increased the losses being incurred. We simply would not have sufficient Members playing and using the bar to generate the income needed. We would have been forced to close anyway.

One other twist in these new Tier restrictions was the inclusion of the rules about moving between different Tier areas. For example, if you travel from Tier 1 into Tier 2, or vice versa, then **you have to obey the restrictions that apply to Tier 2 in both locations**. In other words, you can't travel to a lower area to enjoy their relaxed rules. **Tier 3 – you shouldn't be travelling anywhere.**

Playing your part

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. We ask you to follow the three, simple precautions required.



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. If we want to see the Club open as soon as possible, and our

families returned to some sort of normality in their daily lives, then 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.

The vaccine news is really good to hear, but it should be remembered that full immunity is not gained until some six weeks after the first of the two jabs. Inevitably this means that restrictions of some sort are to be with us well into February at least.

Further Income Blow

Melton Building Society have decided that they no longer need to rent part of our car park for their staff. This is a loss in annual income of £5,000. In these difficult times it is some more unwelcome news.

Winter Leagues

You all should know by now that a decision to postpone the start of the Winter Leagues was taken on 30 October. It had become obvious that the local situation was rapidly getting worse, and once Charnwood was also added to the list of Tier 2 areas most leagues had teams which could no longer function.

The situation will be reviewed in January, and it is hoped that a short season will still be possible in the first quarter of 2021. The situation within teams may not have changed in the interim. Chuck Kershaw will need to know as soon as possible if other teams find they are unwilling/unable to honour league fixtures in the New Year.

Winter Season Competitions

As a result of the lower than normal uptake of entries for the Winter Competitions, Mick Rawle will extend the closing date for entries into late January. **It may be that no matches will be played until the first week of February 2021, and only a small number of competitions will run at all. If competitions are cancelled, any entry fees paid will be reimbursed.**



All winners of Competitions in the 2019-2020 Winter Season will count towards the next County Finals whenever they are played.

A set of competition winners photos from last season are available, and if anyone wants to buy one please contact Mick Rawle.

Let's change the subject! A Christmas tradition explained.

One of our Copper-clad sleuths has been researching Christmas traditions and has come up with this incredible story.

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the pre-Christmas pressure.

Then Mrs Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit which stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where! Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the toy bags fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had drunk all the cider and had hidden the rum! In his frustration, Santa accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. So, a cross Santa went to get the broom and found that the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang and an extremely irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little Angel with a great big Christmas tree. The Angel said very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas Santa. Isn't it a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to put it?"

..... And thus began the tradition of the little Angel on top of the Christmas tree.

A New Club Discount

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



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 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.

Sign Up or Miss Out

It is likely that the requirement for pre-booked sessions will continue in the first quarter of the New Year. Whilst it is unlikely that there will be any play in Leagues before late January, we should still be able to pre-book rinks for social sessions. It has been suggested that some League teams may even want to challenge other teams from their League for a friendly match. Just be careful to make sure you can meet any Covid rules on travel and household mixing in your selections. There should be no problem finding a free rink in the period whilst the League calendars are being rescheduled.



Just a reminder to all of you that like to attend either New & Improver sessions, Neil's 'All Welcome' Open session on Wednesdays or Friday 'Come One, Come All' sessions – you must remember to get your name on the lists held by the Bar before 9pm on the day before your session. There are just 18 places available at each session. We do not yet know when these sessions will restart.

Coaches will continue to attend these sessions, but again the EIBA may insist that any coaching required has to be pre-booked. Coaching is currently limited to four players a rink (and mixed households may yet be a problem) – please check. Either talk to a coach once the organised sessions restart, or ring 07719 301 102 to talk to the Duty Coach.

Sad News

In the last month, we have been informed of the deaths of two of our former Members and friends. 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;

Howard Kirk

Mavis Simons

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

REMEMBER – Once we're back



The first session every day will start at 09.30 - this includes Sundays.



If you know of a Club Member who does not have access to the internet, please tell them about the items in this Newsletter. Why not print a copy and put it in their Christmas card!

Finally, as Boris says Christmas is the time to be jolly careful. Please stay safe, and we'll be pleased to see you back again in the New Year.



And here's looking forward to

