



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD



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

Newsletter – November 2020

Not the result we wanted

CLOSED AGAIN

At the end of October, it was obvious that things were getting worse quickly. Despite Chuck Kershaw being able to set up the Leagues, and the various team captains dashing round their players to find players for the first week's fixtures, it was becoming increasingly apparent that many leagues were in trouble. An emergency meeting of the BMEC and Senior Directors had no option other than to agree a postponement of the start of the, already delayed, League season. We had hoped that we could continue with social bowling through to Christmas, but the Government's Halloween announcement put pay to that idea.

The Club closed until further notice at 10pm on Wednesday, 4 November 2020.

It is now important that we all try our best to stay safe and well. Our experiences of the last shutdown were not universally pleasant, and the Club encourages all Members to keep in contact with their playing friends. Many of our older Members found the lack of social contact, once the Club was closed, was one of the hardest things to bear. We have also discovered that many of them found returning to the Club (and any activity which involved more than a few people in close proximity) was equally hard to contemplate despite all the reassurances of the precautions that the Club put in place.

The Club will continue to review the layout and preventative measures employed to ensure that our building is as safe as we can make it once it is to re-open. It is likely that once the National restrictions are lifted there will be strict limits still in place which may make our life difficult. Any impositions on mixed households, or withdrawal of the "Rule of 6" for indoor sports, will have a major impact on our ability to re-open. We need more than our fingers crossed.

Keep safe, Keep checking the Club website

Winter Leagues

The situation will be reviewed at year end, and it is hoped that a short season will be possible starting in the first quarter of 2021.

Winter Season Competitions

As a consequence of the first closedown in March, before the 2019/20 County competitions had started, none of the winners of any Club Competitions this season will count towards

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

When we re-open, it is hoped that some competitions will still be run in the first quarter of 2021. A new entry closure date will be set as soon as we know when the Club is to re-open. A set of updated Competition Rules is available in the rack with the Competition entry forms. More will be made available should they run out. (A complete set of rules are on the Competition Notice Board by Rink 1 for use during a competition should there be a dispute on the green.) A set of competition winners photos from last season are available on the Competition Notice Board, and if anyone wants to buy one please contact Mick Rawle.

Rink Fee Tokens

The handling of cash at the bar having been made difficult by the Covid precautions, and given some members being reluctant to use card payments for small amounts, moved the Club to find a new way of collecting rink fees. The idea of pre-paid tokens was chosen as the way ahead. The Club now has the Rink Fee Tokens on sale, which can be bought in packets of 4 for £10 from the Bar staff. They are each equivalent to a standard 2-hour rink fee. These will be collected – just pop one in the rink pot - in much the same way as cash payments were made, but now without the Club having to consider quarantining the cash or attracting extra bank charge issues. (The plastic tokens are easily cleaned before re-sale.) **It is proposed that all League rink fees will have to be paid by token in future.** All future League matches have been standardised at the single token per person fee.

A New Club Discount

The Club is pleased to announce a scheme has been agreed with B&H Midlands Ltd. to start once normal shop trading recommences in the New Year.



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 is only eligible to current Club members, and transactions will only be completed on presentation of a current membership card.

How have other Clubs been doing?

John Poulton has been hearing from other Clubs in the East Midlands, and many have been hit just as hard if not harder. Harborough, Charnwood, Carlton and Church Gresley have all been closed for much longer than ourselves and some were only just preparing to open. Leicester, Stamford and Grantham like ourselves had been open for about two months for limited social bowling sessions. Barwell had been able to start their leagues as they appear to have been the least affected club in our area, but now join the rest of us in this latest lockdown. We have heard of a small number of indoor clubs in England that will not open again. Very sad news.

Stating the Obvious

Some have asked for confirmation that the events which have been appearing in the calendar at the bottom of the weekly rink bookings pages on the website are not taking place. Those events are planned months in advance, thanks in the past to the massive efforts of Jenny McConnell as our Fixtures Secretary, and loaded onto the website. It became obvious to everyone that none of these events would be possible in 2020, and perhaps even well into 2021.

Whilst we are still looking for somebody willing to take on this important role for the Club, Jenny is keeping an eye on any news about the resumption of these important competitions and friendlies. The postings are a sad reminder of the many regular matches we are missing this year.

We need somebody to take on the role of Fixtures Secretary for the Club – please contact Pat Wright if you think you can help. We have been spoilt by the massive amount of work that Jenny has put in behind the scenes over the last years. We have the additional problem that **our Club Captains and Selectors have yet to organise themselves to elect a Representative on the BMEC.** A role which would normally support the role of the Fixtures Secretary. Without these two posts filled early in the New Year, the Club may not be in a position to field teams in the County and Regional competitions in the 2021/22 season. Again, please contact Pat Wright for details of the job responsibilities.

Flood Defences

As reported in the last Newsletter, there is constant work to keep the ditch clear of blockages.



John Robinson denies that this is part of a scheme to introduce bog snorkelling into the Club's Summer Social Programme of events, but is pleased to say that the work is going well – in fact "it's a breeze". Any volunteers?

One plea to all Members for this Winter. If your bowl comes out of a ditch wet, don't just dry it – please tell the Bar Staff immediately. We can save a lot of time and money by taking quick action.

Sign Up or Miss Out

Whilst we have lost our chance to play in Leagues before Christmas, we look forward to the time when we can book rinks for social sessions. We are expecting that on re-opening the EIBA Guidance will stay in place that all sessions must be booked in advance. It is likely that

we will again have to go through a (hopefully shorter) period when only social bowling will be possible.

It has been suggested that, in this initial period, some League teams may even want to challenge other teams from their League for a friendly pre-season 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 weeks before Chuck is given the go-ahead to reinstate the League fixtures.



Just a reminder to all of you that like to attend either Galas, 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.

In the New Year, coaches will be attending the N&I sessions, but again the EIBA Guidance insists that any coaching required has to be pre-booked. Coaching is likely to be limited to four players a rink, and mixed households may be a problem – please check. Due to the reduction in available rinks it may not be possible to arrange a coaching rink at short notice. To get further information, either talk to the coach at one of the organised sessions when they restart, or ring 07719 301 102 to talk to the Duty Coach.

Congratulations

Colin Wagstaff has confirmed that he had accepted the post of Area Ambassador for Disability Bowls England. His role is to promote bowling for disabled bowlers of all categories - both physical and mental – for all Clubs in the East Midlands.

Sad News

We have been informed of the deaths of some of our Members since the closedown in March. 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;

Malcolm Nutter

Nora Clarke

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

REMEMBER



Once we're back, the first sessions every day will start at 09.30 - this includes Sundays.