



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD



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

Newsletter – October 2020

Welcome back

It is a long time since we have issued one of our monthly Newsletters. Also, a long time since many of you have been down to the Club, and we really miss you. We are not surprised that many members have been uncertain whether they felt comfortable with the idea of returning to an indoor activity. However, if you don't come down to the Club and see what we have done to keep everyone safe whilst in the building, it makes it doubly difficult for us to give you the confidence to return. You now do all the necessary Track & Trace at the Reception desk, along with rink registrations, using your plastic membership card – **please remember to bring it with you on every visit.**



We have implemented all of the precautions required by the Government for indoor sports halls, plus the additional requirements laid down by the EIBA for distancing and reduction of common touch items on the rinks. We have a “Rule of 6” on rinks. The biggest changes you will note are the lack of scoreboards and pushers, table service for drinks and the fact that lockers and changing rooms are still out-

of-bounds. (You need to empty your locker and take everything home with you between sessions.) We have handouts at Reception explaining the changes on the rinks regarding the casting of jacks (not done) and mat placements (the red spot).

It may surprise some of you that we have been open since 27 July. Initially we just opened 4 rinks for three sessions a day on weekdays, and two sessions a day at the weekend. As more players returned, we did try opening all rinks on those three sessions, but many members told us that it felt too “busy”. We have now responded with the idea of just six rinks, so that each rink has either an empty rink or a walkway to one side – which achieves a better feeling of adequate distancing.

Please note that **the first session every day now starts at 09.30** to give us more time for cleaning between sessions. We have also re-opened an afternoon session starting at 14.30, in readiness for the Leagues restarting on 1 November.



New Cleaning Equipment

To reduce the time taken to clean the rink-side and bar lounge furniture, the Club has invested in one of the fogging machines as used by public transport companies to clean buses and trains. It is now possible to give both our soft furnishings and hard surfaces a treatment which lasts at least 24 hours in under an hour. Our caretaker is carrying out this clean each day before most of us are out of bed (the area has to be unoccupied for at least

45 minutes after application). The Bar staff can now concentrate on just spillages and placement of furniture in the busy times between sessions when they are also booking in your arrival.

Rink-side Chairs and Tables

The closure of the changing rooms and our narrow walkway by the lockers has meant that we have had to ask you to take your bowls home and then carry them back for each time you play. We have placed chairs at the end of the rink for safe stowage of your bags and coats. The chairs have had to be “distanced” to meet Covid requirements – **please do not move the chairs closer together**. We are looking at the idea of providing extra rink tables so that you can still sit as a group without moving the chairs closer.

The National and Local Picture

We have all seen the recent increase of infection rates and now the introduction of the 3-Tier restriction system. We must expect that at some stage in the next few months Melton will suffer some form of local lockdown for (hopefully) a short period. Of course, the Club will have to comply with any shutdown orders which will result.

Recently David Brown was able to take part in a discussion meeting with the Director of Public Health for Leicestershire and Rutland, Mr Mike Sandy. Melton is no different from the rest of England with the age group 16-30 completely dominating the new cases identified in the last three weeks (for Melton, over 12 times the cases seen in the 65-75 age group). However, the number of cases in the older age groups are now increasing.

We ask all of our Members who might live in one of the current, neighbouring high risk areas to follow the rules associated with social mixing of households, and self-isolation if showing symptoms. It would appear that any travel by you to locations outside high risk areas has been banned. We ask that you are considerate to your fellow members and stay at home to avoid spreading the pandemic faster than any of us want.

Membership Renewals



Please remember that you will not be able to play at the Club – social roll-ups or competitive matches – until you have renewed your membership. It has been difficult to set up some Leagues as so many of the teams that were entered in March, still have players that have not renewed their annual subscriptions – **please, if you want to play, renew as soon as possible. If teams fail, then so will the leagues.**

Rink Fee Tokens

Payment for Leagues and organised, social sessions used to be collected in cash at the session. The handling of cash now causes the Club a Covid “cleansing” problem, and the banks increased charges for handling cash. Payments at the Club are now predominantly cashless, but still cause delays on entry to the Club. The Club is to introduce a Rink Fee Token, bought in advance in packets of 4 or 5 and 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 without the Covid or bank charge issues. (The plastic tokens are easily cleaned before re-sale.) **All League rink fees will have to be paid by token from 1 November.** All Leagues will be standardised at the single token per person fee.

Good news

John Robinson has been leading some discussions with B&H Midland Ltd., Melton to increase their advertising within the Club. As part of the discussions, it is hoped that the Club will be able to announce in the near future a discount scheme for Club members in their Bowls Shop. Watch this space.

Vacancies



The rather different circumstances surrounding the two AGM's this year have resulted in some posts not being filled. The Club is still looking for a candidate to take up the post of Junior Vice President – and this year we are asking for a lady member to take the post (the post has traditionally alternated between male and female). The post of Coaches representative on the Bowls Management Executive Committee (BMEC) was filled by Carol Pick, but we are still waiting for the various Club Captains and Selectors to nominate their Representative. The Committee is allowed to co-opt a temporary Representative until the group makes their selection, and would be interested to hear from any captain or selector willing to take on that role in the short term. Please contact Pat Wright for more details of the responsibilities of those two posts.

The Board of Directors is currently considering a number of positions which may need to be filled in the next few months as the terms of office are either coming up for renewal or are now overdue. More news to come in later Newsletters.

Winter Season 2019/20 Prize Money



Some competition winners and League winning team captains have yet to collect their prize money from the Winter 2019/20 season. Please contact Linda Birch in the Office who has your envelopes awaiting collection.

The Junior Club

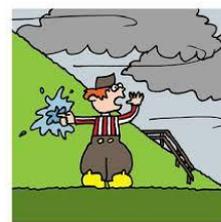
The Junior club is running again, with all expected Juniors having now returned to the Club. Although two competitions from the last winter season remain to be concluded, Saturday, 3 October 2020 saw the Junior Club having its own presentation of awards and trophies. The following players were awarded;



- EIBA Bronze Award** – Grace Wade, Henry Partridge, Tyler Johnson and Zac Stevenson-Wheeler
- Terry Mitchell** – Winner - Zac Stevenson-Wheeler
Runner Up – Bonnie Wright
- Plate Trophy** – Winner – Grace Wade
- U16 Pairs** – Winners – Max Magee and Zac Stevenson-Wheeler
Runners Up – Isabelle Pymm and Alex Warrington
- U18 Pairs** – Winners – Isabelle Pymm and Alex Warrington
Runners Up – Ellen Cartwright and Max Magee
- Most Improved Junior** - Henry Partridge and Zac Stevenson-Wheeler
- Stella Warren Award – 2019/20**
- **David Cornwell Team** (Ethan Giblett, Brandon Giblett, Paul Warrington, Alex Warrington, Jordan Butcher, Isabelle Pymm and Max Magee)
- Pegasus Trophy** – Alex Warrington

Flood Defences

As you may have noticed further work is being done to protect the Club from future flooding. The banks alongside the ditch have been built up and grassed, and there is constant work to keep the ditch clear of blockages. We know that our problems are a result of the rising water table, which we now monitor. A solution proposed involves digging a water table sump at the back of the Club from which we could pump water into the ditch if the level got too high. The Board is looking at the cost of this scheme.



Organised Social Sessions

From 1 November we are restarting the organised social sessions – i.e. New & Improvers, Wednesday Open, and the Friday afternoon Come One, Come All. As we have lost one of the afternoon sessions each day, the Club has had to move some of the session times to avoid clashes with League timings. The New & Improvers will now be at 12.00 noon on Tuesdays, and the Wednesday Open session has been moved to the 12.00 noon slot.

The EIBA rules require all sessions to be pre-booked. **To play you will have to either visit the Club or phone the Bar to get your name down on the list** – at the latest on the day before the session. Beware – there will only be 18 places available in each session.

Sad News

We are beginning to hear of the deaths of some of our Members in recent weeks. It is hoped to compile a list for the next Newsletter. 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. Please keep the Office informed if you hear of Members no longer with us.