



# NEWSLETTER



## Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club Limited

September/October 2019

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### **Winter Season Begins**

A hearty welcome back to our members who play outdoor bowls in the Summer months, I hope that you had a successful season.

During the early part of the summer, we carried out various items of work to improve our facilities still further. A couple of items have been left until the start of the Winter season, although these will, by now have been carried out. These were the replacement of all the old outside lighting and replacing it with LED fittings, primarily to save money.

We have also purchased a second shipping container for storage as we never seem to have sufficient storage space. This new container is being fitted out with racking to improve the utilisation of the interior space.

We are also planning to instal lighting at the barrier at the bottom of the ramp as a safety and security measure for the staff when locking up at night.

The playing surface was stretched just prior to the end of September and two problem areas were sorted out where debris had been left underneath the carpet. The damaged rebound strip has also been repaired albeit temporarily. We plan to have the whole of the rebound strips replaced next years and new carpet fitted to the the back of the end ditches.

### **Fantastic Fives Competition**

Once again, Melton made the finals of this EIBA Summer competition, having won it twice since 2015. Unfortunately, they were beaten into third place this year after a tie breaker for coming equal second. A very strong team from Wey Valley took the honours. Well done to the Melton Pork Pies team for another excellent years performance in this competition.

### **Recent Flooding**

Just as the new winter season began, the club suffered a flood, in the form of ground water being forced through joints in the concrete base thereby flooding the ditches to a depth varying between 10mm and 50mm. This would have been worse had it not happened during daylight hours when we were able to get contractors in to help get rid of the water.

Fortunately, only minor damage was caused to the original felt material that was in the ditches, (which was then disposed of). I must thank Roger Tinsley and his men together or Cleaner Kerry and a small group of members who helped, for their prompt response to our call for help.

Just pumping the water out of the building in itself gives us a problem of just where to discharge it so that it didn't simply soak into the ground and exacerbate the water table problem still further. We therefore had to pump the water as far as we could

away from the building in order to prevent this.

We believe that the flooding was caused when the ground became saturated with the sheer volume of water, which came down during the storm, and which was then not able to leave our site by the normal route. This caused the "Water Table" (which is the depth to which water is held within the ground), to increase in height until the level was above the bottom of the bowling ditches.

This is the second time that this has occurred over the past thirty years. The first occasion was before the flood relief work was carried out by the local authority to prevent such problems. On this occasion however, we believe that the work done by the contractors on the new housing estate just south of our site, has resulted in water not being able to flow down to the culvert on their land, as it did previously.

We did speak to the local planning authority during the planning and early building stage of the development, but they assured us that the development would not cause any future drainage problems.

We have been in touch with both the local and County authorities and have set in place an investigation to establish how this has happened and hopefully create a plan of action to prevent any future incidence.

A number of league matches had to be postponed so we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Further remedial work was necessary to replace the carpet gripper which was damaged by the flood water, although this didn't affect the bowling schedule.

We will of course monitor the situation and at the first sign of further trouble we will

take action to prevent any serious damage.

### **Competition Rules**

The competition rink bookings start on 1st November. This rink is then reserved for Club, County, and National knock-out competition matches until one week before the date of the match.

The Bowls Management committee has decided that this season, the competition will not always be rink 2, but will change from week to week. This means that occasionally, an evening league match will not take place on the rink in your fixtures list. However, the scorecard will always have the correct rink number

### **Updated History of Bowls**

By Walter Reid

Gurno was a gentle stone-age Brit,  
Who dug some mud from out of a pit,  
And made himself a home of wattles and clay,  
Then played bull's bladder football on Saturday.

When a Syston team came over the hill,  
Gurno could see there was little goodwill,  
They carried clubs and spears on the football pitch,  
They'd heard the victors prize was a bacon flitch.

The Meltonians put up a spirited fight,  
But against such weapons - beaten out of sight!  
Gurno gave up football that very day,  
And fired a set of bowls from out of his clay.

He trundled them down 'tween an avenue of trees,

Found he could hit the target with straight-line ease,  
Kept hitting the Jack, a pickled mammoth's eye,  
And it hadn't the durability of a coconut shy.  
Gurno thought he needed to effect a real test,  
And pondered how to produce that awkwardness,  
Then he put a pebble in the side of the pseudo lias,  
A resourceful chap, he'd invented the bias.

We've cussed him ever since. 🙄

*I thought that you would like this one!  
Well done Walter; another gem.*

### **Jack Bonshor**

Very sadly, we lost Jack on Sunday 22nd September. He was a founder member and great supporter of the club. In the early days Jack took his turn as Reception Steward when league match monies were collected at reception and score cards handed out.

He played regularly for the club in both friendly matches at home and away and also inter-league matches. He was a very keen and formidable player and continued playing well into his nineties.

Jack was a great all round sportsman in his younger days. He played cricket for Great Dalby for many years before taking up bowls in his forties, playing indoors at the Drill Hall on Asfordby Road, and at Holwell Sports outdoors.

Jack created and presented an annual award to his choice of the best club person of the year as part of Presentation night. This would usually be someone who had supported the club throughout the season, and/or improved their game sig-

nificantly, and many of our current bowlers have been awarded that honour.

Many members will remember him when playing outdoors, for his famous and very life like Cuckoo call. Jack would have the opposition looking all around the surrounding area for the illusive Cuckoo, to the enjoyment of the home players.

He also had a fantastic memory and I remember him telling me about the horse racing at Burton Lazars during the nineteen thirties. He could even remember the name of the winning horse and jockey, in the last ever race at the Burton Lazars circuit before the Second World War.

Having lost both his wife and then his only son within eighteen months, some ten years ago, Jack continued to be self sufficient even though he lived alone.

In recent years, his health began to fail and he was transferred into a Care Home for the last few years of his life.

Jack died at the age of ninety-nine, just failing to get a telegram from the queen.

We send sincere condolences to Jack's remaining family; he will be sadly missed by many of our members.

### **Company Policy on Subs & Fees**

Our current policy on subscription and rink fees has been in place now for five years but it has become necessary to amended this in light of the current recruitment policy.

Our very successful recruitment team together with our introductory offer to new members has resulted in around four hundred people joining the club over the past six years. This has resulted in our ability to withhold increases in bowling and membership costs.

The result of this was to simplify our New Membership offer so that everyone joining received a fifty percent discount on a full years membership regardless of when they actually join (If they join after 1st October, they receive their fifty percent discount on their first full years membership the year after first joining.) They pay one-twelfth (one month) for each complete month they play before the normal renewal date, i.e. 31st March.

Anyone currently joining between 1st April and 30th September will pay the monthly rats of £4:50 up to 30th September and then pay nothing for the remained of that season. They will then pay the full subscription fee by 1st April for the following year.

This means that the annual subscription must be divisible by twelve, and that is the reason for the current subscription being reduced from £55 to £54 last year.

The modified policy now reflects this change, so that any future change in subscription, will be an amount divisible by twelve.

This change was approved by the Board of Directors at their October meeting and has been published on the notice boards for all to see.

### **Membership**

You will recall that following this year's membership renewal date, I reported that we had lost a larger than usual number of members. Following the successes mentioned above by the Mission 650 group in their recruitment efforts, I am delighted to report that we now have recovered a significant number of those losses, as the report from Membership Secretary Cheryl shows below.

### **Membership report as at 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Brought forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019 -	614
Archived to date - (Losses)	-73
New members	<u>+55</u>
Total	596

The sudden rise is due to 8 joining in September and a further 18 joining in October.

The majority of these new members come from the Syston area.

Maybe with the Open Day on 12th October, we will be able to reach 600+.

This is very encouraging and if everyone can help by encouraging others to join, we could soon recover to our notional target of 650 members.

### **Requests for Change**

The Bar is regularly approached with requests for change, usually for the Coffee machine. Unfortunately the staff cannot open the till unless a purchase is made, because this is a function of the till, and not the Staff being difficult, as has been suggested by some.

So please try to bring with you sufficient change to meet your needs when attending the club, as this will save any unpleasantness when a refusal is made. Your assistance with this would be greatly appreciated.

### **Peter Bailey**

Peter and his wife have decided to leave the area in order to be closer to their family. This will be a significant loss to the club as Peter has been heavily involved with the 650 group, the B.M.C. and is also a Director of the business. However, family must come first, so we wish both Peter and his wife a long and happy retirement in their new home in Cheshire.