



# NEWSLETTER



**Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club Limited**

**January 2019**

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## Happy New Year

We wish all our members a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year for 2019, and hope that you enjoyed the festive season with your families and friends.

## Subs & Fees

Over the past twelve months, the business has done very well once again, in which we have carried out a number of improvements and repairs. Some business costs are, in the main, outside of our control, and as such all we can do is to try to reduce the expenditure on these things wherever we can.

The installation of Solar Panels seven years ago is a case in point. The cost of that installation was £105,000, but it produces an income of around £15,000 in Feed in Tariff, as well as saving us another £5,000 on electricity that we don't have to buy. Other projects carried out to improve the thermal efficiency of the building have also helped to reduce our energy bills.

However, the cost of energy continues to increase, and the cost per kWh of electricity will, by next year, be almost double what it was eight years ago.

The Board of Directors continue to investigate projects that will either improve the facilities for the benefit of our members, or reduce our use of energy. As an example, if it were possible to generate all the electricity that we need to run the

club, we would save a further £27,000 each year.

However, undertaking projects to achieve these savings costs money, so we have to balance the planned expenditure with our desire to maintain the low cost of bowling. To put this statement into perspective, a club within twenty miles of Melton charges £3.70 for two hours bowling.

On the other side of the balance sheet, it is important that we maximise our income wherever we can, and the most effective way of doing this, is by replacing the members that leave each year with new ones. The work of the 650 team is so important in this, and needs and deserves the support of all members to be effective. So please think on, a relatively small number of members are doing their level best to keep the cost of your bowling as low as possible!

However, after much deliberation and consideration of the activities that we would like to undertake over the next twelve months, the Directors have decided that there will be no increase in either Membership Subscription, or Rink Fees before 1st April 2020.

You may not appreciate the scope of works that have been carried out over the past seven or eight years, so I list below some of the highlights

- Additional Insulation to three walls in the bowling area. - £8,000
- Solar Panel Installation. £105,000

- LED Lighting in all areas of the club. - £70,000
- Toilet Refurbishment - £45,000
- New Playing Surface. - £40,000
- Office & Store alongside Rink 1 - £ 5,000
- Electronic Scoreboard. - £30,000
- Lounge Carpet. - £16,000
- New flooring to Bar, Restaurant and Kitchen. - £2,000
- Seating & Lockers for Bowls. - £3,000
- Mods to Rainwater System - £12,000
- Office improvements. - £20,000
- CCTV Improvements. - £4,000
- Outside Lighting replacements - £5,000
- New carpets to changing rooms - £2,000
- Additional furniture. - £3,000
- Additional seating. - £3,000
- Roof-work over main entrance. - £2,000
- Brickwork to Kitchen entrance - £2,000
- Improvements to waste area. - £8,000
- Access door improvements. - £9,000
- Kitchen equipment renewals. - £6,000
- Miscellaneous repairs & renewals over past seven years. - £70,000

This totals more than £450,000 and gives some idea of the success of the business.

Another reason that we continue to spend money improving our facilities, is to limit our exposure to taxation, so our plans for the future, currently include,

- Further automation to the doors to the changing room/toilet area.
- New type of magnetic membership card to avoid replacing them each year.

- Screens between the Lounge & Bowling area.
- Possible further solar panels to reduce still further, our reliance on energy providers.
- There will also be substantial repairs needed to the fabric of the building at some point. The metal cladding forming a large proportion of the building, has a life expectancy of twenty-five years, yet they are now over thirty years old. We need to carefully determine the best solution for this, which may not necessarily be the cheapest option.
- Storage space has always been something of a problem, so we will be looking at the most appropriate way to deal with this.

The one thing that makes any work on the club premises challenging is the fact that because we are open seven days each week, allowing installation work into our programme is difficult, so it may well be that getting some of the project work completed requires that we close the club to allow this to happen.

Obviously we would choose the timing of such a closure at the most suitable time, but we cannot undertake any work that may cause a safety risk to our members, without a proper risk assessment and associated actions.

It is always possible to get work completed outside of normal working hours, but this always costs more, so we have to balance the advantages against the additional cost.

### **A letter from the President**

I recently received this letter from President Pat Wright, requesting that it be included within the pages of the Newsletter

*"I am becoming increasingly dismayed with the amount of complaints I receive regarding the behaviour of members when*

*the change over of rinks take place. I have had sight of this myself, with incoming teams taking over the tables and chairs whilst the previous team are still playing on the rink. This is not proper Club etiquette.*

*To encroach behind their rink, and sometimes move bags and bowls carriers, is generally distracting whilst others are still playing and to me, bad manners.*

*I know that the Club is far busier in the winter months, and short session gaps will and do occur but, if your team is already in the lounge area, why not collect the money and do the team score card first, before going to your rinks.*

*Historically, I know this has always been done rink side, particularly when rinks have been empty, but doing it before and in the lounge will also save the amount of times you have to move behind the rinks whilst play is still going on. This is most noticeable on rinks 6 to 8 when incoming teams are going to lockers, sitting at the tables or milling around whilst waiting to play.*

*Putting woods on the end of the rinks ( on the walkway) is a major safety concern and makes it difficult for players coming off the rinks to collect their carriers and possessions and, if necessary, finish their drinks.*

*I personally cannot change the way members act whilst waiting to play their game of bowls, but I ask you all to please respect the fact that other members are still playing, and please conduct yourselves in an appropriate manner.*

*I thank you for your kind attention.*

*Pat Wright - President"*

### **Serious Incident**

We recently had a serious incident with an elderly visitor who was having lunch with three friends. She began to feel ill and left the Restaurant to visit the toilet.

Unfortunately she collapsed by the door to the Conference Room, banging her head on the metal framework of the Roller Shutter Security Door, and became unconscious. Sue Lemon was the first to attend her and in view of the lady's condition requested that an ambulance be called.

A 999 call was made and Racheal and Kim then both attended to the lady, giving mouth to mouth resuscitation as well as CPR, because the lady was by now not breathing.

Within a few minutes, a First Responder arrived and a few minutes later Paramedics attended and took over responsibility for the lady's care. Shortly afterwards a second air of Paramedics arrived and then an Ambulance crew.

After assessing the lady's condition, the paramedics called for the Air Ambulance to attend, as they would have a Doctor on board. The Helicopter landed on the unused Bowling Green immediately outside the main entrance, and the Doctor immediately took over care for the lady.

It was clear that the condition of the lady was very serious and she was taken to hospital by the Helicopter.

The lady was 82 years old and we understand from her relatives that following three days on a ventilator, she sadly passed away. We send sincere condolences to her family.

When the Helicopter had left the premises, the Paramedics still present congratulated the club and its staff for the way in which they had handled what was a very stressful situation.

It is very gratifying that we have members and staff within the building capable of dealing with a crisis such as this. All our staff have been trained in basic first aid and in particular CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation). We also purchased a Defibrillator for use in such an emergency

some time ago, and again our staff have been trained in its use.

I would like to add my personal congratulations and thanks to the three ladies who assisted in this incident.

One unfortunate thing that happened during this emergency, is that someone from within the club, asked for the Ambulance to be moved, so that they could leave the premises. How insensitive is that?

### **Waste**

The removal of waste from our premises gets more and more difficult. This is not simply because we generate more waste, but the fact that legislation changes, as does the cost of landfill, so we are constantly looking at the best way to collect and dispose of our waste.

We recently terminated our contract with one company because they were a "Waste Management" company rather than a "Waste Handling" company, and since we had no direct contract with the people who collected the waste, any communications or complaints about the service, had to go through the Waste Management company.

This simply didn't work to our advantage and despite many assurances that, "*everything would be alright.*" it wasn't.

We have arranged a new contract with a local Waste Handling company and also changed the way in which we handle waste on site, in an attempt to improve hygiene and the appearance of our waste bins, as well as saving money.

### **Another Literary Talent**

Over the past couple of years, I have published a number of items from our friend and fellow member Walter Reid, and he has now brought to my attention the literary talents of another member, David Armstrong. I am delighted to re-produce this piece by David which is really the

lyrics for a song, but it needs the talents of a musician to produce the music. However, it does just as well as an expressive poem, so I hope that you enjoy it.

### **I've Got Mine**

Someone's sleeping on the sidewalk  
As the winter sun goes down  
Someone's drinking cold champagne  
In another part of town  
And the only thing she thinks about  
As she sips her glass of wine  
It sure feels good sitting here tonight  
Now that I've got mine

Someone's wandering the streets tonight  
No way to warm his hands  
Someone's turning up their fireplace  
She's making travel plans  
Her mind is on some sandy beach  
Where the sun is gonna shine  
She thinks I don't have to hang around  
Now that I've got mine

So she makes a small donation  
What more can she do  
She says she didn't make this world  
She's in it just like you  
She draws perverse comfort on her house  
of cards  
To keep it all in line  
She thinks - I can't take care of everyone  
Now that I've got mine

There's another kind of poverty  
That only rich folk know  
A moral malnutrition  
That starves their very souls  
And they can't be saved with money  
They're all running out of time  
And all the while they're thinking  
It's OK 'Cause I've got mine

### **Obituary Notice**

Sadly, I report the death of Mrs. Jean Johnson, wife of Bob Johnson, who passed away suddenly on 28th December. We send sincere condolences Bob and his family.