



# NEWSLETTER



## Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club Limited

October 2018

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### Winter Season Begins

Once again the winter season is upon us; it only seems like yesterday when the last one ended, and I trust that you enjoyed your summer. What a summer we had this year, with temperatures at almost record highs' but for a record length of time, which is very unusual.

We haven't been idle at the club, with a number of developments taking place. The biggest of these was the installation of a new surface water drainage system on the North-East side of the building.

We have also increased the size and appearance of the waste area, in an attempt to tidy up the entrance to the club from the steps on Bowling Green.

Further projects are planned but the timescales will depend on the availability of useable funds. We maintain a minimum sum in our accounts as a "just in case" fund, for use in the event of an unexpected emergency arising which could be anything up to the replacement of the playing surface.

### Shocking Electricity Prices

I wouldn't normally mention this item just now, but early investigations into the prices of electricity, in readiness for signing a new contract for the supply to our

premises due in August 2019, indicate that the increase is likely to be in the order of 25%. It is also clear that the suppliers are expecting further increases because the five year contract offer is higher than the two year one.

We currently spend £22,600 each year on electricity. In addition, we also get around 43,000 Kwh of free electricity from our solar panels, which is a saving £5,000, so without them we would be paying £27,600.

It is therefore likely that domestic prices will also increase, and whilst it may be a smaller percentage increase, there will certainly be one. I would therefore recommend that you look into the cost of your next home contract for electricity as soon as possible, in order to get the best price. Whatever you do, don't do nothing, as you will be put on the standard variable contract rate which is always the most expensive for all suppliers.

In terms of the club's new contract, we will need to look at the impact of such a sizeable increase, and its effect on revenue. I would remind everyone, that bowling prices at Melton have been held static for six years in the case of membership fee (including three months free last year) and by January next, the Rink Fee will have been static for ten years, a feat that no

other club within the area has been able to achieve. So membership at Melton remains a very good deal.

Sorry about the pun in the title of this article, but it just seemed very apt.

### **Loan Bowls Procedure**

Previous Newsletters advised that it was necessary to introduce a revised procedure for New Members and non-members who wish to try out the game, to loan bowls. From 1 October the key for the bowls lockers will only be accessible to authorised Members and not from the Bar. A list of authorised Members will be posted near the lockers. If none of the authorised members are available then please contact Peter Bailey on 07547 777 258 to make future arrangements.

We apologise if this procedure causes any disappointment but unfortunately the actions of a few had to be effectively addressed.

We have identified one or two non-members who have been using the bowls for many years. The Club would encourage all new Members and non-members to obtain their own bowls. We currently have a few sets of bowls for sale at £20, there are bowls for sale on the notice board and of course charity shops, local papers and e-bay also have economic bowls for sale.

Generally a bowler should be able to purchase a suitable set within a period of 3 months from starting.

### **Melton Town BC Green**

We have received a number of verbal comments from both visitors to, and new bowling members of this club, about the

appearance of the bowling green belonging to Melton Town Bowls Club, which is directly outside the entrance to our premises.

This green had received no maintenance over the summer months and its' appearance was detrimental to the visual impact of both our premises and their's.

The comments were received mainly from people who mistakenly believed that Melton & District IBC owned the green, but we have no direct involvement with the outdoor bowls club next door to us, other than allowing them the use of our carpark, in exchange for their members and visitors using our Bar

As a business, we do have concerns about the green's appearance and the message that it sends out to visitors to both premises, so I have written to them expressing our concern.

I have now received a letter from MTBC, explaining the reasons for the not maintaining the green as they would normally have done, and you will have seen that the grass has now been cut, so I thank them for their quick response, and we sincerely hope that they are able to maintain their membership level, as this has a direct impact on income.

### **Year Book**

The new year book for the 2018/19 season is now available and copies may be collected from the Reception Desk.

It has been found that a number of minor errors have occurred, but as you would expect, the collation of the necessary information and preparation and proof reading is an onerous task, undertaken usually

by people who have other jobs within the club, so please consider this before complaining.

### **Another Gem from Walter**

Our resident Poet, Walter Reid has once again put his pen to good purpose, this time with a strong view about the amount of gambling advertising on television.

Before you read his ditty, I would like to say that I strongly support Walter's view on this issue, because the amount and tone of gambling advertising in this country is becoming unreasonably high. Furthermore, the manner in which the advertising is done, is aimed at that section of the community least able to manage the consequences of their habit.

The offer of free gifts/bets can be irresistible to many, but it is the vast array of gambling companies involved, and the range of the advertising, that is causing many people such hardship.

No matter where one goes these days, whether be to a sporting event, in the street, advertising placards, newspapers and magazines, as well as television and cinema, we are suffering a deluge of gambling promotion.

So well done Walter; we need more people with opinions like yours, and your suggestion to me about starting a campaign would be a great idea, although there would be huge resistance from the gambling companies who are making millions.

### **BAN THE ADVERTISING** - by Walter Reid

Lottery tickets, scratch cards and fruit machines,

Sport, horse racing or 'going to the dogs'.

The lure to gamble is ever present on our screens,

With the derisory, 'Stop when the fun stops in mini blogs'.

Two million gambling junkies in this fair land,

Their families suffering torment, some privation,

As the sickening promoters prey on the addict band,

They eschew all blame, not a hint of compensation.

Those promoters don't fund help the addict needs.

Like drug pushers they wreak havoc in society,

The taxpayer, ultimately is the one who performe heeds,

As clinics and 'socials' battle for sense and propriety,

The casinos, the 'amusement arcades' all sponsors of addiction,

And the betting shops, should be levied for their hellish wreaking,

I'd like to see an outcry for a change of direction,

Stop the parasites living off the addicts craving.

STOP THE ADVERTISING , bring the legislation,

It would the Syrens' and Lorelies and Ray Winstone silence,

With their alluring pandering to gamblers affliction,

MPs could help addicts in their slavish licence.

There are millions of victim families; they are not the choosers,

While though you may see guilt in the addicts eyes,

And they'll have the haunted hunted look of losers,

It won't stop their habit as they bet to their families' cries.

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If you have a view on this issue, we would be pleased to hear from you, so just write down your opinions and put it in the office for my attention. It will be interesting to get a view on what others think about gambling advertising.

### **Well Done Poppy**

Poppy Marriott, one of our casual Bar staff, also works at Birch Wood Special Needs School and I was recently privileged to take a tour of the school. There are 160 young people attending the school from within Leicestershire and Rutland, and they are looked after by 122 staff; such is the level of care required.

As is often the case these days, the provision of equipment for all schools is a challenge, with many of them staging fund raising events. The equipment needed by schools dealing with children with special needs, tends to be very expensive, so it can be a greater challenge fulfilling all their needs.

Poppy and one of her teaching colleagues recently undertook the Peak District "Three Peaks Challenge" in order to raise funds for some special equipment. Following her week of work, and after finishing work on Friday at 5:00pm they undertook the challenge, which is forty-seven mile walk including three peaks, and which has to be completed within a twenty-four hour period.

Poppy's aim was to raise £500, and to help with sponsorship she created a "Just Giving" page, and I can advise that at the time of writing this Newsletter, the total amount raised so far is £820, which will help to provide additional equipment over and above Poppy's original aim.

If you would like to make a donation towards this very worthy cause, you need to go online to the "Just Giving" website, search for Poppy's name which will bring her donations page up and make your donation.

### **Waste Handling**

You will notice that we have undertaken some work to improve the appearance of our waste area. The area now looks much better with more space being allocated for the various types of waste bin.

We currently have four types of waste:- Glass Bottles, Food, Mixed re-cycling, and General waste

We are also changing our waste handling provider, as we feel that the current provider no longer meets our needs, and we are in negotiations with potential suppliers for a new contract which will begin immediately after Christmas.

### **Julie Robertson**

Julie is one of our casual Bar staff, and she recently suffered a stroke shortly after the death of her father Reg. Freeman. She was taken to the LRI initially, and later transferred to Market Harborough Hospital, the specialised Stroke Centre for this area.

Julie is now back at home undergoing a period of re-habilitation, so we send our best wishes to her and all the family at this time and hope for a speedy recovery.