

# NEWSLETTER

**Melton & District Indoor Bowls Club Limited**

**August 2016**

**Editor: David Brown, Tel 01664-566152**

## **New Members Discount Scheme**

The past four years has seen a dramatic change in the Club's membership numbers. During that period the Club has attracted over 300 new members; increasing our current membership to 650. The Board of Directors have recently reviewed this great performance and in particular identified two major contributors to this success.

Firstly the work of Mission 650, enthusiastically backed by the membership, have worked consistently hard, introducing many initiatives and working them through to success. Secondly the new members' discount scheme, introduced by the Board, has proved to be, without doubt, a major contributor in attracting new people to bowls. Some people may consider the scheme to be too generous but with only a few exceptions it has helped to recruit members into the Club for long term enjoyment. Without helping to attract such people the Club, numbers would not have reached its current level and the Board may have had to seriously look at raising Membership and/or Rink fees.

The Board of Directors have therefore concluded that the Mission 650 Team together with the New Members Discount Scheme should continue without change. The Membership battle continues as the Club loses approximately 40 Members each year, for various reasons. These two factors together with many other contributions are vital for the Club's future and continued improvement.

(Comment from Chairman)

The work done by the 650 Team has had enormous impact on the success of the club in the past three years, and it is a fact, that had we not been able to attract over 300 new members, our membership level would by now have dropped to around the 350 mark. That would mean that the cost of bowling to existing members would have to have been increased, of that there is no doubt. So I would ask those members who feel that we are being too generous to new bowlers, to think about the effect of not doing what we have done.

We must also recognise that some members do not wish to play in leagues, and as such we need to accommodate their wishes by building some flexibility into our bowling schedule to allow that to happen. All members have the right to play bowls in the way that they choose.

## **Introduce A Friend Scheme**

A review of the Club's Introduce a Friend Scheme has enabled it to be updated and made easier to manage. Members who use the scheme to introduce a friend to the Club will firstly make a written application (form available from the Office), and attend one of the two Mission 650 coached sessions available each week. The sessions are held on Tuesdays at 16.10 or Wednesdays at 19.00, other times can be arranged by appointment, details on the form. This ensures that the Friend obtains the best possible and consistent help/advice/information as given to all other prospective Members.

The Friend will then be given a Welcome Pack that gives the opportunity of a free temporary membership for one calendar month together with 3 additional 2-hour free rink sessions. There is also additional information that will help the Friend in her/his early Club days.

If the Friend then joins the Club at the discounted first year fee then, as a thank-you, the Office will issue to the Introducing Member four 2-hour rink vouchers, each currently worth £2.50.

### **Summer Activities**

Members will know that the Club's Year Book concentrated on winter fixtures, leagues and competitions. The Club of course is an all year bowls centre and additional information will in future be made available to ensure full summer season opportunities. Apart from sending out e-mails (to those with that facility) the Club will, through the Mission 650 Team, increase in-Club posters, handouts and information stands to keep you all in the picture. The summer leagues and competitions are gradually being better supported, especially by our new members and new initiatives such as one hour bowls sessions and monthly Galas will be available. In addition Club Members are asked for their ideas/suggestions that will help to increase summer month rink usage. All ideas are good until proven unworkable, so let the Mission 650 Team know and you will receive positive action.

The Clubs All Year Round facility is a marvellous community asset that we should all be proud to boast about. A dry, cool, safe resource for all the family, friends and neighbours.

### **Bowls Pushers**

The Bowls Pushers that the Club has provided to help bowlers collect and move bowls have proved to be a great asset. Following initial usage a risk assessment has been made to ensure their safe use. Whenever they are "parked" after use bowlers should ensure that

the open ends of the pushers are pointed against a wall or the wooden rink banks. Turning them round so that the open ends are in the walking area lends them to become a tripping hazard. Some thought has been given to extending the wooden banks so that they provide a 45 degree slope to help pull the parked pushers onto the rink but the expense far outweighs the identified risks and will therefore not happen.

So bowlers are asked to make sure the pushers are parked correctly and safely. If any bowler has difficulties in bringing pushers onto the rinks they should ask for assistance from fellow bowlers or nearby on-lookers.

### **President's Tour 2017**

President Sue would very much like to hear from any member interested in joining the tour to Worthing from 10th to 13th February 2017 to get in touch with her.

Sue has one twin room available to share. The Tour costs of £200 includes all travel and hotel costs, dinner bed and breakfast and evening entertainment.

The tour is based at the Worthing Chatsworth Hotel. Rooms provide Freeview flat screen colour TVs and a radio. Free WIFI internet access throughout the hotel, hairdryer, trouser press and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel also boasts a fully stocked games room with two full size pool tables, table tennis, darts and a 30 foot skittle alley.

Two six rink games of bowls have been arranged at Worthing Pavilion Bowling Club (Saturday) and Arun Indoor Bowling Club (Sunday). The hotel is situated a short distance from the Town Centre, and Beach amenities including the Worthing Bowls Centre Specialist Bowls Shop. The hotel provides evening vocalist entertainment and social bingo.

If you would like to attend this event, please contact Sue directly.

### **Club Shirts**

Following receipt of a letter from a member that was put to the Club A.G.M. last April about the

wearing of Club shirts in leagues as well as competitions, the Bowls Management Committee discussed the matter and passed it to the Board for their views. Accordingly the Board discussed the matter at length and following a proposal that the Club shirt be considered as being predominantly white, a vote was taken, and the proposal was approved. This means that under the club's current rules, the club shirt may be worn in any form of game within the club.

This is a change to current practise, but the decision was agreed by the B.M.C. and therefore takes effect immediately. Any member may therefore purchase a shirt if they wish to wear one within the club, but due to the office refurbishment project, no orders will be taken until the end of September.

A sizing chart will be available within the Office so that members can establish the size of shirt that they require, and it must be said that this may be different from the size that you normally buy, so please check the dimensions before ordering a shirt.

You will need to complete an order form which is available from the office and after completing this, an order will be placed. The lead time for delivery of the shirts is between six and eight weeks.

### **EIBA Fantastic 5's Competition**

Once again the Melton Pork Pies have been successful in reaching the inter-group round which they played at Foxhill IBC on Saturday 20th August, having finished top of their group.

The home club had made quite something of the visit by the Pork Pies, particularly as Les Gillet, our current International player was involved, and they welcomed our members to their club.

The first two games were the Singles and Fours, and from the start our players found the green much slower than Melton's, which proved difficult to get accustomed to.

Les Gillet, playing the singles, found it difficult to adjust and eventually lost 11 shots to 5. In the Fours, skipped by Peter White, going into the last end Melton were three shots down, so the pressure was on. With his last bowl, Peter clipped an opponents bowl which prevented him from making it four shots to Melton, but we managed to tie the game 7 shots each, gaining a single point which would prove to be vital.

By the time that the second round of games began, the Melton players had got the weight of the green sorted out, and managed to win both games, the Pairs by 12 shots to 7 and the Triples by 14 shots to 6, winning the overall match by 5 points to 3

So with another success for our Fantastic 5's players their next game will be the Quarter Final round against Havering Blue, which is likely to be held on a neutral green. This could well be at the City of Ely club as it was last year, so we wish them the best of luck.

### **Advertisement**

#### **Guitar Tuition**

Guitar lessons available for all abilities from complete beginner to the more advanced player whether just for fun or to achieve exam success.

My name is Chris Loach I am a professional guitar player/teacher with a wealth of experience in all styles of music. For many years now I have toured with Jimmy James and the Vagabonds and Clem Curtis and the Foundations to name but a few.

I currently teach at the Icon Music shop in Melton town centre and have some availability for lessons on either a Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday afternoon or a Saturday morning. The lessons are 30mins duration and cost £14.

If you are interested in learning to play or improving your skills please contact me on my mobile 07947226913 or email [chrisloach62@gmail.com](mailto:chrisloach62@gmail.com)

# Sproxtton

Family Fun Day

**4th** SEPTEMBER  
from 10:00am



## The Crown Inn Sproxtton

- Prizes for best in show
- BBQ stalls & raffle
- Motorcycle leather sale

Show entry £5\*

*\*In aid of the Air Ambulance &  
Sproxtton Village Hall*



Vintage Tractors

Classic Cars



and  
Motorcycle Show