



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



Newsletter – September 2021

Moving to a new 'normal'

It is pleasing to see more of you returning as each week passes. Although the number of renewal forms still awaiting collection is causing us some concerns. The leagues and competitions are drawing to a conclusion, despite some fixture problems caused by the condensed timescales of this Covid summer season.

Almost back to Normal

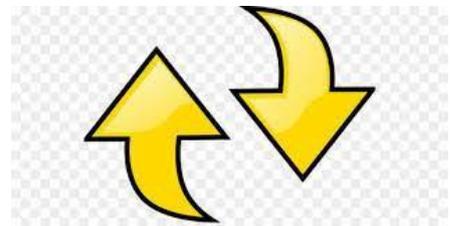
As we said in the last Newsletter, we are taking steps to return play to as near as 'back to normal' as possible for the Winter Season. We will continue with the current Summer session timetable format until 3 October. As promised last month, we have increased the availability of hand sanitiser at both ends of the rinks.

- the bar is open for buying drinks
- We will continue to collect rink fees at Reception, and register your arrival to your rink
- We will remove the restrictions on the locker room for masks and only two Members at a time – although we ask you to be considerate of other Members, and distancing and mask wearing will always be a personal choice.
- The changing rooms will remain closed until 3 October.

From 3 October

These additional changes will come into operation;

- The 'Members Only' rule will be removed
- All game formats will be resumed, e.g. Rinks or Fours
- The daily session schedule will be changed
 - Monday to Saturday
 - 09.30 to 11.30
 - 11.45 to 13.45
 - 14.00 to 16.00
 - 16.15 to 18.15
 - 19.00 to 21.00
 - Sundays have just the first two sessions above
- The Club will be able to entertain visiting teams for friendlies and competitions, including post-match hospitality, although this needs to be finalised.
- It is possible that use of our changing rooms for matches will be limited to visiting teams only, but we will try to fully reopen the changing rooms as soon as possible.
- It will no longer be necessary to book sessions in advance and walk-in social sessions (e.g. New & Improver) will resume.
- It is expected that group social sessions (N&I and galas) will resume their previous, pre-Covid positions in the weekly calendar.



Throughout the next few months we expect to require all Members and visitors to conform to the current requirements on not attending the Club if they believe that they have any Covid symptoms (see 'Help us to stay safe' later in this Newsletter).

Closed for Play

Please remember that you will not be able to play at the Club during two periods in September.

The Club will host the Short Mat Finals between 16-19 September. **This will mean the suspension of normal Club activities and rink availability from the Wednesday night of 15 September, until resuming on the morning of Monday, 20 September. The SMB organisers have to limit numbers attending to players only.** As ever, the Club will have to use a limited number of volunteers to support this event, e.g. as hosts or managing the car park. If you would like to offer your help, please contact David Brown.

The Club will need to stretch the carpet before the start of the Winter season. The Club cannot do this until after the Short Mat Bowls event, and a date to carry out the work has been set for 22 September. **This will mean that the Club will be closed for play on Wednesday, 22 September.** We might be able to re-open for the 18.30 session if all goes well. Watch for notices.

Memberships Renewal 2021/22

Your membership renewal was due 1st September.

Please note – if you want to play in the Leagues in October, you need to renew **NOW**. Do not leave it to the last week.



The key points of the Club's offer are as follows;

Pandemic Discount

1. The "Pandemic Discount" will apply only to current members who paid the full subscription (£60 or £55 with the early payment discount) for the 2020 – 21 season which was from 1 April 2020 to the extended date of 31 August 2021.
2. The Pandemic Discount is 50 % of the current membership subscription of £60, and eligible members will therefore pay £30.
3. The usual early payment discount will **not** apply to anyone this year.
4. All subscriptions become due on 1 September 2021 and must be paid by 30 September, otherwise their membership will be suspended on that date, and they will no longer be able to play bowls, **nor will they receive the Pandemic Discount if they renew after 30 September.**

To make a donation to the Club (of the saving offered, or a larger amount), there is now a box on the membership renewal form for that purpose. If you are a tax payer, you can help still further by agreeing to "Gift Aid", which is an additional 25% on top of your donation.

Message to Our Returning Outdoor Bowlers

It has been noticed that some of our Members who play outdoors during the Summer have been returning to play indoors, and are using their 'outdoor' bowls shoes – both on entering the Club and on the rinks. **This must stop. You are required to use only shoes designed for indoor bowling, i.e. with flat soles with no grip pattern, on our rinks.** In order to protect the rinks, the shoes worn in the Club must not be used outside the premises, other than at other indoor bowling facilities. We realise that rules for outdoor games were changed and have allowed the use of ordinary trainers on outdoor greens – **this does not apply to Indoor Bowls Clubs.**



Please remember, stick chalk should no longer be used to mark touchers at the Club. And licking your chalk is definitely something we do not want to see. Use spray chalk! (Available from the bar.)



Tokens

Please remember that we are asking you to buy and use rink tokens for League and competition matches – and they can be used for any session payment. The Bar is now able to sell the rink tokens in packs of five for £15.

Bring a Friend

This is a scheme to reward our Members who bring a friend or relative to the Club, who then go on to join as a full member. The friend or relative may be an experienced bowler or somebody new-to-bowls. It is recommended that, whatever the skill level of the 'friend', a short, initial meeting is arranged with either a Club Coach or a member of the Mission 650 Team so that we can give them the necessary H&S briefings and answer any questions they may have about getting more involved in our Club's activities. For those new-to-bowls, we will explain the further offer made by Mission 650 to give them 3 free coaching sessions and a month's free temporary membership whilst they decide whether to progress to full membership. If the 'friend' does join MDIBC as a full member then, as a thankyou to the existing member who made the introduction, the Office will issue them with four rink tokens.



Club Competitions

A reminder - Whites must be worn for Finals, including in the Novice competitions. If nothing else, it warns other players that you are in a competitive match and do not want to be distracted. **All Finals are full Games**, and rinks will be booked by the Competitions Secretary as soon as he is notified that all participants have agreed a date and time. No rink fees charged.



Despite the low number of entries, the BMEC has decided that the rule promoting the winners of Novice competitions should still stand. Winners of Summer 2021 competitions will be unable to take part in Novice competitions in the future.

A short message from the Competitions Secretary

Many thanks to all of you who have taken part in this Summer's competitions, you have all contributed to keeping the club afloat financially. I know it can be a bit nerve-racking the first time you play in a competition, but I hope you enjoyed the experience and want to have another go next season. There won't be a Presentation Evening this Summer, but the Winners & Runners-Ups names will be engraved on the trophies. Give me a couple of weeks after the end of the Competitions on the 12th September to get the trophies engraved and all the trophies will be in the Summer Competition Trophy Cabinet which is the right hand one of the two in the lounge area. If you wish to handle the trophy with your name on then contact me on mick.rawle@ntlworld.com, or speak to me in the club and we will arrange a time for you to do so. Mick Rawle, Competition Secretary

Winter Leagues

The BMEC decided to delay the start of the Winter League season by one week to 3 October. This was necessary to allow for the absences of a large number of players in late September, and to allow more time to integrate some of our new friends from Rushcliffe. Teams requiring additional players are referred to the availability lists on the League Noticeboard. Entry of new teams is no longer possible – the deadline was 8 September.

Summer Galas

The third Summer Gala – with an Aussie Pairs theme - was held on 4 September, and the event was enjoyed by all 32 Members who attended.

The not-so-serious part of the afternoon got under way with the Spider, won by Mick Rawle on the first delivery with his new bowls. The afternoon was won by Dave Pick and Jenny Dewick, after a very close finish with two other Pairs. The afternoon raised nearly £130 for the Club.

The Mal Williams Trophy Event

The date of **Sunday, 17 October** has been set for this event. Mal was a well loved and valued member of our bowls community until his untimely death in February. He was an accomplished player at both Club and County levels. He was a great believer in helping to bring on our Junior and novice players, and was one of the first of our experienced bowlers to take part in the Aurora League (designed to encourage lesser experienced players into League games).

We were unable to celebrate his happy times with us, and it was proposed that we should hold an event as soon as we were able to return to competitive play. Joan Williams has kindly donated a new trophy to the Club for the winner of what is hoped to be a



fitting tribute to Mal. Joan and other members of the family will attend the event and present the trophy. The Club has proposed the theme of "**The Best in Wales**" and encourages players to wear the colours of the Welsh flag.

Mal loved the enjoyment and challenge of the competitive game. In his memory, we are going to have a 2-wood Triples tournament format to meet these expectations.

In mid-September, the poster and participant list will go up on the Gala noticeboard by Rink 1, and **we are asking for 48 names to make the event a real success**. We want a good turn out from both those that played with Mal in leagues and in our representative, Inter-Club teams - and also from those of us who just enjoyed his smile and friendship over a pint. **All Men's Sunday leagues matches have been cancelled that day to allow everyone to play**. See the Gala Noticeboard for details.

Congratulations

News from the Junior Section, the following players have received EIBA Youth Awards in recent weeks;

Bronze - Bonnie Wright

Silver - Zac Stephenson-Wheeler, Tyler King and Grace Wade



Falling on sad times

Our Club was asked by the EIBA to offer Rushcliffe bowlers the chance to join us at Melton so that they can continue to enjoy this wonderful game. We had several conversations with representatives of their membership, and are pleased to welcome all of their players that have decided to come to Melton. Please all do your utmost to bring these players into our community, teams and friendship.

Help us to stay safe and open.

If you are asked to take a Covid Test, please remember that you should not mix socially until you have received a negative result. **You should not enter the Club before you have been notified that your test was negative.**

Despite the recent relaxation announcements, we will continue to advise you to stick to the three simple routines when visiting the Club. We believe that distancing is easy to achieve both on the rinks and around the Club premises. **It is your decision whether to continue to bring and use your masks particularly when finding crowded times at the toilets and locker room.**



If you feel that the rinks are becoming 'stuffy' please report your concerns to the member of Bar Staff on duty as we try to maintain good air movement in all areas.

Do not travel to or enter the Club if -

- You or any member of your household have had any COVID-19 symptoms in the last 24 hours (with or without positive test).
- You have been abroad to a "quarantine required" country within previous 14 days
- You have visited a UK area in "Local Lockdown" within the previous 14 days
- You are a known contact of a person who has activated "Test, Track & Trace"

A Captain Volunteer still required



The Club is pleased to announce that Pauline Wells has agreed to take the role of **Publicity Officer** for the Club for a year's trial. Pauline will be trying to improve our exposure outside the Club in the local community.

There is still a post to be filled on the BMEC - the **Captains Representative**. Any Club Captain or Selector may apply for this role. It is so difficult to believe that we can survive without this role being filled for the Winter season. **SO PLEASE, could one of you just volunteer!** Or do we have to threaten withdrawing teams from competitions again.

Pat Wright will be able to supply a job description for the role to any interested members.

Sad News

Since the last newsletter we have been informed of the death of Robin (Rob) Thornton on 24 August. He was one of our long serving members of the Club. Our thoughts are with his wife Margaret and his family at this sad time.

Interesting News

You may know that you can get your bowls re-registered by taking them to Pershore Bowls Centre, Pershore, WR10 2DD. Did you know that they can now also re-grip your bowls – including giving them the new Drakes Pride PRO-50 style deep grip?

Future Friendly Matches – watch the Noticeboards for details

24 October – away – Barwell
31 October – home – Lincolnshire VPs
7 November – home - Charnwood

When you need to buy new bowls equipment – remember to use the deal on Club discounts by showing your membership Card at your local bowls shop.



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If you know of a Club Member who does not have access to the internet, please ring them and tell them about the items in this Newsletter.