



# MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD



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

## Newsletter – August 2021

### Moving to a new 'normal'

It was too much to hope that everything went smoothly in the first weeks of the Leagues, but thankfully the problems were small, although some necessitated a slight delay to the proposed implementation dates. This was partly due to the fact that we were unable to tell you about the changes and requirements in advance. The July Newsletter issue was delayed for a week when, unfortunately, staff sickness prevented us from doing a 'global' e-mail. By the time that it was released some dates had already been compromised.

As each of the changes was phased in, we were caught out by a few equipment failures. Most notably, the electronic scoreboards decided to have a hissy fit and refused to play on the first Monday, and our card readers do still like to have the odd glitch on start-up which has delayed Reception service on some mornings.

It was good to see how many of you remembered how to cast a jack, and still tried to maintain some distancing when moving about the rinks. Before the various Pandemic lockdowns, the Club was already seriously considering a ban on stick chalk for marking touchers. The hygiene and additional Covid surface contamination precautions have shown the wisdom of such a ban, and there have been recent complaints of and to players still using stick chalk. **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.)**

### The Next Big Steps to Normality

At the August Board of Directors Meeting the following scheduled relaxations were approved.

#### From 16 August

The following changes will be made to the way we operate;

- We will continue to carry out 'misting' of rink-side furniture first thing each day.
- We will continue with the current session timetable format until 3 October.
- We will remove the lounge pathway chains and one-way system, and extra tables will be put into the bar lounge.
- We will re-introduce the use of pushers on the rinks
- Although rink-side table service will still be offered, the bar will be open for buying drinks
- We will continue to collect rink fees at Reception, and collect T&T data for a transition period over the next few weeks
- 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.

- We will increase the availability of hand sanitiser at both ends of the rinks
- We will no longer clean mats and jacks between sessions
- The changing rooms will remain closed
- A one-hour roll-up session will be available from 17.00 (Monday-Friday, until 3 October) – bookable by phone or person in advance (not offered on-line) by contacting the bar staff. (Charge for the session is £1.50 paid on arrival.)
- Coaches will be able to accept bookings for taster sessions from prospective new members.

### 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.
- It is possible that use of our changing rooms for matches will be limited to visiting teams only.
- 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 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 Maintenance

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 for the morning sessions on Wednesday, 22 September.** We should be able to re-open for the 12.00 session.

The extra 1 metre (red) spots will be removed during the remarking of the carpet.

## Memberships Renewal 2021/22

**Your Renewal Forms are in envelopes on the desk near the clean mats/jacks at the end of Rink 6. Please collect your envelopes as soon as possible. Thankyou.**

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

### Pandemic Discount

1. This "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, 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.



### 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.

## Club Competitions

The draw took place on 18 July for all but four of the competitions. To allow more time for entries to be received for these remaining competitions Mick Rawle extended the closing date to the end of July. Eventually enough entries were received. The full draw is now available on the website and on the Competition Board by the locker room. (Please note that the software didn't cope well with the reduced entry numbers and some competitions look rather strange on the website – for full information on those draws, please refer to the noticeboard.)

Ensure that if you are the challenger, i.e. the first player on the list, that you challenge your opponent within one week of the round beginning. This is so that you don't hold up the following round. The rules state that if this doesn't happen teams will (and have been) banned from the following round for not complying. It is especially important this year as the time between rounds has been shortened.



Whilst on the rules. Please remember our Dress Code rules (Byelaw 21), **you are required to wear white tops and grey bottoms for all Competition rounds matches (and Leagues matches) and 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.

As the Pandemic has had a marked effect on this season and has not allowed 'normal rules' competitions to run, the following relaxation has been allowed. **For this Summer season only, all Competition Semi-Finals will be played as timed, 2 hour matches, so there is no need to book a double session.** (Novice Semi-Finals were always 2 hour matches and remain unchanged.) **All Finals will be 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.

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.

## Winter Leagues

Chuck Kershaw has generated the entry forms for the 21/22 Winter season and thank you to those who collected their envelopes promptly. Efforts will be made to get the remaining envelopes sent to the remainder asap. Captains are asked to get their team entries confirmed as soon as possible – **at the moment the latest date for entries is 23 August.**



Isn't it funny that when you come back to play, after only a few months away, you can't remember what to do. Even the 'experts' seem to be unsure. Well, here are a couple of questions raised in the first weeks of the leagues.

**Q. What happens when one of our players fails to arrive for a match?** Assuming that the Skip has tried to ascertain whether the player is not just late arriving, in which case the teams can agree to wait a few minutes. (The team short of a player awards one shot per 3 minutes of delay to the opponents up to 15 minutes, after which the game must start.) Or the Skips can decide to start the game on time (**but only once the depleted team has paid the missing rink fee**);

In Fours, if Team A is short of a player the Lead and No3 (i.e. no No2) play three bowls each and the Skip plays two bowls. Team B plays their normal game. The final score of Team A will be deducted by 25% by the League Secretary when the result is entered. If the player arrives after the game has started, that player will not be allowed to join the game.

In Triples, if Team A is short of a player, both players play with four bowls each. Meanwhile Team B plays 3-3-2 (Lead-No2-Skip). The final score of Team A will be deducted by 33% by the League Secretary when the result is entered. If the player arrives after the game has started, that player will not be allowed to join the game.

**N.B.** Just before the first lockdown there was a proposal to change the format of Team B's play to 2-2-4, as it was thought that the Skip of Team B was being unduly penalised. This proposal was not adopted for the Summer season, but may be approved for the Winter.

**Q. What happens when a player is taken ill during a game?** Now here we are talking about internal Club league games only, and once the game has started. If a short break, say 10 minutes, is thought to be appropriate then the Skips can agree to allow time for the player to recover. If the sick player is thought unlikely to recover and the game is at an early stage, then Rule 4.5 comes into play.

*Rule 4.5. If in the course of a match a game has to be abandoned, a score card must be submitted giving the reason for abandonment. Providing 10 ends have been completed then the result will stand. Fewer than 10 ends, the match will be replayed.*

So in the recent incident, the Skips were advised correctly and able to agree to abandon the game to be replayed at a later date (please note that in this Summer season there will be only a very short period at the end of the season to catch up postponed games.) Rink fees cannot be refunded for the abandoned game, and the re-play date will incur further rink fees to be paid. N.B. The re-played fixture does not have to be played with the same team members – substitutes are allowed.

**Q. Can shorts be worn in League matches?** Yes. Our Dress Code (Byelaw 21) specifies that League and (internal) early round Competition requirements are for white tops and grey bottoms. It also specifies that shorts worn on the rinks should be knee length, tailored and of a single colour. So, add these requirements together and **grey shorts are acceptable**. This Newsletter is too short to get into the discussion of the various possible shades of grey available, from charcoal to taupe !

## Summer Galas

The second Summer Gala – with a Summer Dress theme - was held on 7 August and the event was enjoyed by all 28 members who attended. (I believe that a football match clashed with our event.)



The afternoon started with a presentation of a cheque for £300 by Pat Wright to our President, Suzanne Hughes, for donation to the Club from McCarthy & Stone.

The not-so-serious part of the afternoon got under way with the Spider, won by Sue Pelos. The game format for this gala was “Snakes & Ladders” and was won at the last moment by Helen Walters & Neil Hughes. Not so lucky, and almost back to the first square, were Pauline Wells & Alan Hickin. Better luck next time! The afternoon raised £107 for the Club.



The next Gala will be on **Saturday, 4 September** at 14.00, and the format will be Aussie Pairs. Tea and biscuits will be served at half time. There will be a raffle, and all contributions to the prizes will be gratefully received. The list to collect signatures of willing players is on the Gala noticeboard by Rink 1 – get your names added quickly!

## Falling on sad times

You may already be aware that Rushcliffe Indoor Bowls Club are fighting a last-ditch campaign for survival. They have been told that their landlords, the Conservative-run local authority, made the decision to close the bowls hall on Tuesday, 13 July, and intend to convert the space into a place that serves ‘a wider demographic of users’.

The Rushcliffe Indoor Bowls Club have played at Rushcliffe Arena since the early 1990s when membership stood at more than 1,000. The Council said a dwindling total of club members – there are around 170 currently – meant the space was not being used to its full advantage for over a quarter of the year. The Council intends to pump £60,000 into the hall to convert it into a space for other sporting activities and exercise classes, including short mat bowls, as well as non-sporting events such as elections.

Our Club has been 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 have prepared an information pack to be shared with their members and are looking at the opportunity to have some sort of ‘open session’ for them to sample the benefits of our Club.

We are hearing that possibly two other local clubs with Local Council landlords seem destined to suffer similar fates.

## Help us to stay safe and open.

Whatever your age over 18, we would ask you to protect us all by having at least one of your vaccinations before returning to the Club.

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.** Do not add to the crowd if you can afford to wait. Use the hand sanitiser if you need to touch shared items – such as using the



pushers, lifting bowls from the ditch or casting the jack. 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"

## Volunteers still required



We are pleased to announce that, at last, we received a late nomination for Junior Vice President for this year. Given no other nominations after some three months of advertising the post, the BMEC has co-opted Carol Pick as the 2021-22 Junior Vice President. Carol will become the Senior Vice President at the Club AGM in 2022. We thank her for taking on this role at this time.

The Club is still searching for somebody who might be willing to take on the role of **Publicity Officer** for the Club.

There is still a post to be filled on the BMEC - the **Captains Representative**. Any Club Captain or Selector may apply for this role. **SOON PLEASE, or you could be volunteered!** It is important to have a Captains Representative attending the BMEC.

Pat Wright will be able to supply job descriptions for all the roles to any interested members.

## Short Mat Finals

It has been confirmed that we will host the Short Mat Finals in September, and then again in April 2022. The Club will host the 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. Members are asked not to come in and watch this year as we 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.

## Get well Soon



Yvonne Poulton has been in the wars recently with issues of an irregular heart, and has recently suffered a second fall breaking her ankle. We wish her a speedy recovery. We are not so sure that John's cooking skills are going to help in that respect!!

**Please follow the guidance, and keep safe.**

**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.**



**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.**



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**Editors Note: It is always a challenge to be accurate in times when things are so fluid. We do try our best to be correct at the time of publication, but occasionally we find that we have published a day too early!!!**