

Rink Fees

As a business, we have made every effort over the past few years to keep the level of our charges to members as low as possible. As an example, the last time that Rink Fees were increased was in September 2009, but due to the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with the rate of inflation over the ensuing period, the time has come when we need to look carefully at these.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on our business, and even whilst we were closed during the first lock-down from 23rd March until 27th July, certain of our regular costs still had to be met. Fortunately we were able to obtain a government grant of £25,000, which mitigated the impact and covered most of our costs during that time. However, since re-opening, our income has been severely curtailed, and we have been losing around eight thousand pounds each month. We cannot allow that level of loss to continue, as the future of the club would be in serious jeopardy if we did.

We had anticipated that the starting of the league programme, which was planned for Sunday 1st November, would bring in more revenue, but recent local Covid issues and now the government announcement of a second national lock-down, has put an end to that.

It is therefore with some sadness that I announce a fifty-pence increase in the cost of a standard two-hour bowling session, to three pounds, effective from 1st January 2021. A revised list of charges will be posted in due course.

A number of members have purchased rink fee tokens, as this idea was introduced to reduce the handling of cash by members of staff. Altogether, over four hundred and thirty tokens have been sold at the current rate of £2:50 (four tokens for £10). We had anticipated that many of these would have been used to pay the rink fee between 1st November and 31st December, but that may now not happen. We have therefore decided to allow the tokens sold so far to be used to pay the rink fee after the increase to £3:00 per session. This will have negative effect on our income of some £216, but we recognize that members purchased these in good faith, and we feel that it would be somewhat mean spirited to demand the additional 50p. No further tokens will be sold until further notice.

It is clear that once we get the all clear to re-open, we need to maintain our current standards relating to government guidelines for operating safely, and we also need to encourage our members to return and play bowls. Since re-opening, we have seen no cases of Covid-19 within the club, so our systems and procedures are clearly working well and we will be working hard to maintain the current standard for as long as it is necessary. The safety of our members is our most important criteria.

David Brown
Chairman
3rd November 2020