



# MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



## Newsletter – October 2021

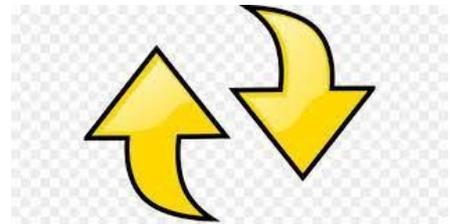
### The Next Step

The Summer season has closed. The inter-season maintenance is complete. The carpet has been stretched so will take a little time to settle. Members who have been sunning themselves are returning, but as yet we are still missing about 80 of our old friends. Each week the number returning indoors grows. We are now seeing our new friends from Rushcliffe arriving to play. The Club is starting to get busier. **Remember to bring your Membership card and rink tokens – it makes checking in so much easier.**

### From 3 October

These additional changes have come into operation;

- The 'Members Only' rule has been removed.
- All game formats are allowed, e.g. including Rinks or Fours
- The daily session schedule is now;
  - 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 has booked visiting teams for friendlies and competitions, including post-match hospitality.
- **Our changing rooms are fully open, but we ask you to wear face masks due to their size and limited ventilation.**
- Walk-in social sessions (e.g. New & Improver) resume in their normal Winter season slots.



Throughout the next few months, we expect 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).

### National Short Mat Finals

The Club hosted the 2020 (yes, delayed) Short Mat Finals between 16-19 September, and they were a great success for both this Club and their players. The Short Mat Organisers had done a wonderful job of setting out the playing hall, and informing all of the requirements on their players to continue with tough Covid precautions. On the Saturday we had 184 players attending and did not have any issues to report. Their Organisers gave us a generous vote of thanks for the help given by our staff and volunteers, and stated that we were their venue of choice for the future.

## Memberships Renewal 2021/22

If you are reading this, thank you for renewing your subscription. If your friends are complaining that they are not getting the Newsletter, then there is a good chance that they haven't renewed and their Membership has been terminated. They will not be able to play at the Club – social or competitive – until they come in and pay their £60 subscription.

## Message to Our Returning Outdoor Bowlers

**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.



**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.)**

## Winter Leagues

The BMEC decided to delay the start of the Winter League season by one week to 3 October. Some Leagues have been so depleted that it has only been possible to format part of the season. Please bear with us as we try to formulate what is possible for the second half of the season. Please remember that some of our new friends from Rushcliffe are looking to join existing teams. We encourage Captains to make use of this new talent.

It is with some disappointment that we have had to postpone the start of the Winter Aurora League. It was difficult to find a slot in the weekly programme which attracted sufficient takers. The Aurora has been our chance to encourage newer players into league play by offering them the chance to play alongside supportive, more experienced players whilst playing against players of similar experience as their own. One effect of Covid has been the lack of inexperienced, new bowlers, and when you add the increased pressure on the recent 'graduates' to increase their other league appearances as team strengths have fallen, we could not fill more than three teams for the Aurora. It is hoped to run a short season at some time in the Winter season.

As for the other leagues, brush up your memory cells. Swipe in with your **membership card** on arrival at the bar lounge screen, have **your tokens** ready to put in the rink collection box and make sure the completed score cards are put in the correct box after the game.



### Tokens

**We are asking you to buy and use rink tokens for all League and competition matches – and they can be used for any session payment. The Bar sells the rink tokens in packs of five for £15.**

## The Mal Williams Trophy Event

The date of **Sunday, 17 October** has been set for this event. The signing-up sheet is on the Gala Board at the side of Rink 1. We want to have 16 teams of Triples, i.e. 48 players, on the day. However, if there is sufficient interest, we are prepared to make it 16 Rinks teams – a fitting tribute to Mal's popularity. It will add a little time to the event, but we will try to get you home in plenty of time for your evening meal.

The proposed format was 2-bowl Triples (or we hope will be 2-Bowls Fours), played in 4 rounds of 5-end games. Joan Williams has donated a new Trophy for the competition. Joan is also providing a buffet at the end of play.



**We are asking players to arrive by 12.00** so that we can get play under way by 12.30. For those of you that may have missed your lunch, the restaurant will provide 'Roast in a Roll' for £3.50 (Veggie option to be confirmed), ordered as you arrive to play and served at the end of Round 1 (approx.. 13.30). Tea & biscuits will be served at mid-afternoon. Mal's family will stay with us all afternoon and will present the Trophy and other prizes at the end of the matches.

The Club has proposed the theme of "**The Best in Wales**" and encourages players to wear shirts in the colours of the Welsh flag – red, white and green. Mal loved the enjoyment and challenge of the competitive game – we hope that we can do him proud.

**All Men's Sunday leagues matches have been cancelled that day to allow everyone to play.** See the Gala Noticeboard for details.

## 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. **Please continue to bring and use your masks particularly when finding crowded times at the toilets, changing rooms 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"

## Ladies' Coaching

Back by popular demand, there will be another season of coaching for Ladies of all abilities. These will be led by Erica and Mark Warrington, and are designed to brush up your skills and deal with any delivery problems you may think you have. The first session will be on Wednesday, 21 October – see the Ladies noticeboard for details. Sign up and enjoy.

## Volunteers still required



Jenny McConnell has been our Fixtures Secretary for a lifetime. She is looking for somebody to train to take over this important role within the Club. Without a Fixtures Secretary we will not be able to put any teams into the County and National competitions. Do you have an eye for detail, have decent computer skills and are happy to talk to people? Please step forward.

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.

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

## Future Friendly Matches – watch the Gala Noticeboard for details

The signing-up sheets for the following Friendlies (N.B. each with following meals) will be going up on the Gala noticeboard in mid-October onwards;

**24 October – away – 6 Rinks Triples - Barwell - Greys**

**31 October – home – 6 Rinks - Lincolnshire VPs - Whites**

**7 November – home – 6 Rinks (Triples) – Charnwood – Greys**

## Junior Section Report

Sunday, 26 September saw the start of the new season with the Leicestershire U18 County squad travelling to Malvern IBC for a pre-National Finals friendly match against an U18 squad from Bristol IBC.

Alongside players from Leicester, Barwell and Church Gresley were Isabelle Pymm, Max Magee, Alex Warrington and Grace Wade from Melton. Also from Melton, was Zac Stevenson-Wheeler who was making his debut into the County squad.

Zac settled in well after some early nerves producing some excellent drawing shots throughout the game enabling himself and his team mates Mitch Allen (Leics.) and Alex (Melton) to a 39-9 victory.

Similar victories were achieved on the other rinks with Josh Chambers (Leics.), Grace (Melton) and Fynn Kyser (Barwell) scoring 48-9. Alice Atkin (CG), Max (Melton) and Kat Bowman (Leics.) scoring 26 -8. Likewise Isabelle (Melton), Ellie Hamblett and Kieran Chambers both of Barwell scoring 31-8.

Finals Score Leicestershire 144 Bristol 34

Isabelle, Alex and Max along with other their County teammates Alice, Ellie, Kieran and Josh (res.) will be competing on Sunday, 3 October in the postponed National finals event being held at Nottingham hoping to go one step higher than in the previous competition year by claiming the Title.

## Other National Competition News

Beginning on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October will see Peter White, Mark Warrington and John Robinson who will be hoping to come home with the National O'50's Triples title if all goes well. We'll try to keep you informed.

## Selling Bowls

The coaches are being asked whether we have any Indoor bowls for sale. We do have some but not many. We know that many of you have sets that you are thinking of selling. At the moment, the coaches can only sell bowls donated to the Club. If you want to receive the payment yourselves then you will have to ask the Office to have an advert card put up on the lobby noticeboard. We have at least six people waiting for second-hand bowls, Drakes Pride Professionals, Blaze, Vectors, Tigers and Aces never take long to sell. Please specify size, type, price and your contact details on any advert. Outdoor bowls (Classics, Greenmasters etc.) and anything bigger than Size 4 are not selling – even at £10 per set.

## Some late sad news

It is with great regret that I advise you that Ian (Chalky) White passed away suddenly on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September following an aneurism.

Ian had been involved with the club since 1984 and was part of the committee set up to investigate the possibility of creating an indoor bowls club in the town, which went on to develop a plan, locate and purchase the site and formulate a business plan. He was one of the first group of Directors when the company was formed and represented the club regularly in bowling events at all levels. He was a regular member of the Leicestershire County Indoor and outdoor Bowling teams for many years. We will miss him greatly.

We send sincere condolences to Janice, Carl and Nicola and their family.

Regards

David Brown  
Chair of the Board of Directors

**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.**