



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



Newsletter – June 2021

Nice to see you.....

It was with some relief that we were able to re-open on 17 May. In the last few days before opening the COVID figures for Melton had just moved in the wrong direction, and on the day of opening Melton had entered the Top 40 in England's worst infection rates. Oh dear.

The first morning wasn't without a few hiccups, and thank you to those of you who had their tokens with them and could pay for their rinks whilst the contactless system was rectified. It is always difficult to turn people away from the Club, but we did have Members turn up to play who did not have rinks booked, and others that turned up for a drink at lunchtime despite the warnings given that the bar would not be open on Mondays.

Please be aware that until we return to full opening, there will be no bar service or restaurant on Mondays and effectively the Club will be closed from 13.00 on Mondays. There is one coffee machine operating in the bar lounge – bring your change.

The first week showed us that best plans don't always work out the way you want, and it was necessary to quickly alter the rink session times to alleviate the workload on the bar staff at lunchtimes. Apologies to all that were caught out by the time changes made – and yes, our communication to existing bookers was not everything it might have been. Sorry.

You will have noticed that the rink times are now;

- Mondays for just one session at **09.30**.
- Tuesdays to Saturdays we will have three sessions; **09.30, 12.00 and 18.30**.
- Sundays just two sessions at **09.30 and 12.00**.
- **The organised Social group sessions (New & Improvers, All Welcome, Come One-Come All and the Evening Galas) will also run, but you do have to book a place by ringing the bar before the day.** Only 18 places available in each session.
- **If there are no bookings for the 09.30 session on the Sunday by 16.00 on the preceding Friday, then the session will be made unavailable for booking.**

The Board of Directors will continue to review the advice from the Government and the EIBA, and will ensure the Club will open as long as it is safe and financially viable to do so. We have to remember that even now the 21 June date proposed for the lifting of restrictions is considered as 'conditional', and could be delayed, or even rescinded, should the nastier, so-called 'Indian' Delta variant, continue to spread faster through the UK population.

Lockers

The Board has approved that we can now use the lockers. The EIBA advice is that we are required to maintain 2metre spacing at all times in locker rooms. The design of our area makes this requirement difficult to achieve or control, so



we are asking that you wear your **face mask**, initially have **only 2 people at a time** in the locker room and all **use the hand sanitiser** provided after touching the lockers.

Getting to the Club

Who knows just what is causing the increase in traffic through the Town centre at the moment, but we do know that the temporary traffic lights on the Leicester Road just beyond the B&Q roundabout are causing a long queues on both sides of the Club particularly at peak times. Please allow yourself a little bit of extra time to get to the Club for your session.

Volunteers still required



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

The Bowls Management Executive Committee is pleased to announce that Stella Warren has agreed to continue to act as a caretaker Ladies Captain for 2021/22.

The News that three gentlemen had stepped up in the last month to be Men's Captains for their teams in external competitions was also good news. That just leaves the post below to be filled by one of our Captains!

There is still a post to be filled on the BMEC - the **Captains Representative**. This post holder both coordinates the activities of, and then represents, both Men's and Ladies Captains and Selectors on the BMEC. (This includes all of the various Club and weekly Team Captains and Team Selectors.) Any Club Captain or Selector may apply for this role. **PLEASE.**



Can we also remind our lady Members that we are still looking for a lady to take on the role of **Junior Vice President** from the next AGM onwards. This post normally leads to the position of Club President after two years.

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

Tokens

The Bar is now able to sell the rink tokens in packs of five for £15. Please note that all League games will require payment by tokens. **The tokens can be used for any rink session payment**, and to be quite honest make things a lot quicker and easier for the staff to complete the process of logging you onto the rinks. Cash payment will continue to be an issue until things are back to pre-Covid conditions as it is not possible to have a float at Reception. If you do not have tokens, please have a contactless payment card with you.



Summer Leagues

All Summer Leagues Team Captains should have by now completed their entry forms and paid the entry fees. Chuck Kershaw cannot complete and publish the Summer league fixtures until he has the forms for **ALL** teams being entered. Whether we get to start Leagues on 21 June is still up in the air, but that is the date we are preparing for. Captains please be watchful for the schedule sheets being issued very soon.

Club Competition Forms

Competition entry forms and rule books are in the rack behind the reception desk. If none there, ask in the office. Round Completion dates are as follows;

Round 1	25 July
Quarter Finals	15 August
Semi Finals	29 August
Finals	12 September

Get your entries paid to the bar by the 3 July, and the draw will take place on the 4 July. The draw will be available on the web and on the Competition Board by the locker room.

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.



Winter Leagues

All fees paid for Winter 20/21 league team entries are to be refunded. The forms for the team entries for the Winter 21/22 leagues are to be delayed until after June is over. Once again, there will have to be a fairly prompt deadline set for entry closures.

Dress Code

Some of you have been asking about members wearing casual clothing on the rinks. The Club Byelaw governing the required dress code was changed just before the first lockdown in March 2020. (Byelaw 21, January 2020.) The change was announced in Reception handouts in the first days of the Covid restrictions. In simple terms, grey-and-whites are still a requirement for competitive games in the Club – leagues, competitions and representative matches. Whites are required for Club competition finals and some inter-Club matches (it is the job of the team Captains to ensure the dress code is enforced).

Individually booked roll-ups and organised social group sessions can now be in smart, casual clothing – if the member so wishes. Work clothes, football replica shirts, shirts bearing rude or offensive messages and ripped jeans are still not allowed. Single colour, tailored, knee-length shorts are allowed (N.B. that



only certain types of shorts are allowed in representative matches – please check beforehand).

The update of Byelaw 21 is still quite clear on footwear ;

FOOTWEAR (MANDATORY) Only shoes designed for indoor bowling use may be used on the rinks. In order to protect the rinks, these shoes must not be used outdoors (whether on greens or for general use), and be reserved for use at this and other indoor bowling facilities. The gripped soles, recently approved for outdoor rinks, must not be worn. Shoe colour is not specified – but some external competition events require white shoes to be worn.

Summer Galas



It has been proposed that a series of social galas is to be arranged for the first Saturday afternoon in each month during the Summer. Please watch the A-frames at Reception and the 'Weekend' noticeboard by Rink 1 for details, and the list to grab a place. During **the first gala on 3 July** we will take a moment to remember those members lost during the recent months. It will not be possible to arrange meals to follow these galas, but tea and biscuits will be served at half time.

Arrangements are being finalised for a Memorial Trophy competition gala in memory of Mal Williams to be held on a Saturday in October.

Donated Bowls



The Club would like to thank the families of both Peter and Doreen Bishop and Ron Wilkinson for the donation of their parents' bowls for use by future Club members. The smaller set of bowls will be used to supplement those used in coaching, whilst the larger sets will be offered for sale to members.

Please note that although we are able to sell bowls **donated** to the Club, we do have some problems when trying to help you sell bowls when you require to receive the proceeds. Please do not just leave bags of bowls or shoes with prices and contact details at Reception. Whilst Covid restrictions apply, any coach should be able to lock your items temporarily in our secure storeroom and make sure that they are properly labelled.

Once things are back to normal, and we can re-open the foyer noticeboards, you will then be able to ask the Office to advertise bowls for sale directly using postcard adverts. **We will continue to sell any donated bowls through the Coaching Store racks.**

Help us stay safe.

If you are offered the vaccine, please take up the chance to reduce the future risks to yourself and your contacts at the Club. The risk of catching Covid hasn't gone away!

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.**



We will continue to ask you to stick to these three simple routines – **and** it should be remembered that significant immunity is not gained until some three weeks after the first of the two jabs. The new variants now threaten an Autumn round of boosters for us all, and so the need to take precautions and restrictions are likely to be with us for the rest of the year. **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”

Calling All Grandparents

Do your grandchildren live locally? Are they aged between 7 and 11 years old? If so, would they like to do something challenging and fun on Saturday mornings? Our Junior Section has places available, why not bring them along and introduce them to something fun that you could do together.



The Better News

Since the last Newsletter, we have been informed no further deaths amongst our members past and present.

Apologies are again sent to Roy Hill for getting his surname wrong in last month’s Newsletter. A case of “send three and fourpence”.

Please keep the Office informed if you hear of Members no longer with us.

Please follow the guidance, and keep safe.

When it is time to get ready to play again – remember to use the new deal on Club discounts 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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