



MELTON & DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB LTD

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



Newsletter – May 2021 Issue 2

We are set to re-open on 17 May.

The Rink booking system is now open for pre-booked social bowling on seven days a week from Monday, 17th May as follows (**Please note these have been changed since 17 May**);

- 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**. (* see below)
- **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. [**Note:** some of these sessions may not be able to run in the first week that we are open. Please check the website or phone in.]

A quick survey to gauge the number of Members wanting to return immediately has been carried out, and there was a good level of interest in playing Summer leagues or competitions. There will be a short season of leagues and competitions in the Summer. Although the number of teams may be reduced, we should be able to find you a team if your normal team isn't entered. There will be a reduced programme of competitions too. The lower levels of entries expected will mean that it has been decided that the Club will not be able to afford the normal winner's prizes monies. Entry fees will be used to offset some of the trophy costs and other losses being experienced during the limited Summer sessions.

* To minimise those losses, the Board of Directors will limit opening hours (either by day, or sessions per day) in the first months to ensure we open only when there is a demand, but will add extra rinks and sessions as demand grows. This applies particularly to the first session on Sundays. If there are no bookings for the 10.00 session on the Sunday by 16.00 on the preceding Friday, then the session will be made unavailable for booking.

We ask that your payment of the new £3 rink fees (£6 for non-members) is made using either contactless card or tokens, as cash for change may not be immediately available. **Remember to bring your Club membership card as we still need to swipe you into the session for our Track & Trace compliance.**

A re-opening regime of distancing guidelines similar to those of last September will have to remain in place. It would appear that distancing, mat cleaning and two jacks are likely to be with us until the end of the year. We will continue to operate a 'rule of six' on each rink.

Limited mixing of households indoors will continue to be a key restriction to be watched (here the Government Roadmap has yet to change). Even then, **our own personal compliance** with the mixing and distancing rules will be essential to avoid lockdowns and any permissions to stay open.

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 all dates proposed for the lifting of restrictions are at this time to be considered as 'conditional' and could be delayed should nastier variants appear.

What should we expect on arrival?

At the time this is being written, the rules will be the same as we had at the start of the last lockdown. The latest Government and EIBA advice is yet to be confirmed. The Club asks that you follow these rules when arriving at the Club;

- You will need to wear a mask on entering the building and until you get to your rink, or are sitting at the lounge tables with a drink.
- Please follow the one-way systems. The main doors are for entry only and the Exit is the fire-door by Rink1. You will need to use your mask when visiting the toilets.
- You will be asked to pay your rink fees by token or contactless card transaction, and "swipe" in to the track & Trace using your Membership card, at the Reception Desk. You will be given a scorecard as the electronic scoreboards will not be used.
- Each rink will be issued two mats and two jacks (no casting the jack). One of each for each end of the rink. Members are asked to use the hand sanitiser available, both on entry (in the lobby) and after touching any of the shared equipment. Please do not touch the bowls of other players with your hands, and use your feet to gather bowls once the end is complete.
- Use the red spots (not the 'T') for the minimum mat position at the start of an end. **N.B.** Jacks may still be placed on the 'T', and mats may be placed forward of the red spot.
- Maintain distancing when on the rink or moving between ends. 2 metres, or "1 metre plus" if not facing your neighbouring player.
- Do not move the chairs provided at each rink or lounge table. For example, you must not cluster them closer for your mid-session drinks.
- At the end of the session, please return the mats and jacks to the "Dirty table" collection point by the Exit Fire doors.
- It is expected that the coffee machine in the bar lounge will be operational. Please note that there will be no bar service for the 10.00 sessions on Mondays – you will need to bring your own drinking bottles.

Volunteers 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 Jenny McConnell has agreed to continue as a caretaker Club Fixtures Secretary for 2021/22. It is essential that **all arrangements** for match, or planned social event dates, are checked with Jenny, and that no alterations are offered to other Clubs or our Members before Jenny has confirmed that those new dates and times are available. In the longer time frame, we are still looking for somebody to work alongside Jenny with a view to taking over the role.

We are concerned that some of our existing Captains have indicated that they are thinking of 'retiring'. This will leave a big hole in the Club's ability to take part in many of the County and National team competitions and leagues. If you have enjoyed playing for the Club, now is your time to step up and help with the organisation of the teams, **otherwise we may be forced to withdraw our teams from those competitions.**



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.

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.

Summer Leagues

It is important that all Summer Leagues Team Captains ensure that their teams are registered, and entry fees paid, as soon as possible. **Captains can now pick up their entry forms from the Reception desk.** Chuck Kershaw cannot complete the Summer league fixtures until he is sure of the number of teams being entered. He is asking for all team entries to be completed by Monday, 31st May. This will then allow sufficient time for him to block book the rinks needed for the start of league matches w/s 21st June.

N.B. 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 will be issued shortly after 1st June. Once again, there will have to be a fairly prompt deadline set for entry closures.

We have moved the lockers



When you get back to the Club you will notice that the lockers will have been moved to a new location to the side of Rink 1. This was necessary because the narrow pathway at the side of Rink 8 had caused us to have problems for some time, and also made the banning of locker use inevitable during the Covid restrictions. By moving the staging from below the noticeboards along the side of Rink 1, we have created a less disruptive and safer passage to the lockers whilst keeping Covid-safe spacing. At this moment in time, we cannot allow the use of the lockers – perhaps after 21 June we will be able to bring them back into use.

Club Competition Forms

Mick Rawle is producing the Summer Competition Entry Forms and is planning to send them out in a mass Email once we return. This season will see a shortened list of competitions and it is expected that fewer rounds will be played than usual. Please note the closing date for entries is 3rd July - only two playing weeks after Leagues start.

There will have to be the normal entry fee, even though the decision has been taken that this season it will not be possible to give any prize money for the Winners, partly because we will still incur trophy Engraving Costs. (In normal years this amounts to around £200 in the Summer and around £300 in the Winter.)

Warm-up Exercises

The BMEC and Mission 650 Committees had been looking into the possibility of arranging a short session of warm-up exercises on the rinks before the first sessions of the day – particularly in the first weeks that we re-open. Just 10-15 minutes of gentle stretching to ease those muscles back into life. So far, the response to the idea has been “poor”. Keep your eye on the A-frames at the Reception desk and on the website Home page for updates.



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 from the beginning of June, why not bring them along and introduce them to something fun that you could do together. Teenagers are equally welcome (but we understand that they often find that their Saturday mornings are already booked).



The following questions are amongst those that have been asked in the last 2 months. Any answer given now may need to be reviewed in line with any further changes to Government or EIBA restrictions.

Can I use my locker yet, and will I get a refunded locker fee for this year? As soon as the EIBA confirm their relaxation of their previous advice on locker use, we will allow you to bring your bowls and kit back to the lockers. The Board have decided that they cannot afford to refund locker fees for 2020/21, nor offer discounts for 2021/22. Our fees are very low, and the lockers do affect our insurance premiums for the building.

I have tokens bought at £2.50 each. Will I have to pay the additional 50p to meet the new £3 rink fee? No. The Club will honour any tokens bought in 2020 as being equivalent to the raised rink fee of £3. New tokens, of a different design, will be sold at the new price of £3 each. We continue to ask you to pay rinks fees by token or card rather than by cash.

Should I have paid my membership fees at 1 April 2021? No. Your 2020 Membership payment expires on 31 August 2021. You will be sent a renewal reminder by e-mail in August. If the Club does not have your up-to-date e-mail address, or you do not have the internet, your envelopes should be at the Reception desk for collection from mid-August. The Board has agreed that they will make a consideration of the rather strange year just suffered by fully paid-up Members in the charge to be made for 2021/22 – watch next month's Newsletter for more details.

When will the AGM be held this year? The Board has decided to hold the two AGMs – Company and Club – in September.

Will the bar lounge be a Members Only area? Yes. The bar lounge will re-open as Club Members only. Restaurant customers will not be able to use the lounge as a waiting area unless they are also Club Members.

When will we be able to hold weekend social Galas again? It is proposed to hold monthly, social galas from the start of July – the first Saturday of each month and held at 2pm (no meal - tea and biscuits only). This is very much dependent on further lifting of restrictions. The first gala in July will be a special Remembrance event for those lost during Covid.

Help us have a safe opening.

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!

It has to be remembered that vaccination does not mean that you cannot catch the virus. It just means that you will not be as seriously ill. You may show no symptoms, and still be able to pass it on to another Club Member (although the vaccination makes this less likely). Many of our under-40's will not be fully protected before mid-August.



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”

The Sad News

Since the last Newsletter, we have been informed of three further deaths amongst our members past and present.

Paul Dewick died a month ago, and our deepest sympathies go to his wife Jenny and the rest of the family.

Just as this newsletter was about to be published, we have been informed of the death of **Hazel Wright**. Hazel was a member, and was the sister of Geoff Wright who was our President back in 2005 and a generous benefactor of the Club. Again, our deepest sympathies go to her family.

Finally, we are sad to hear of the death of **Ron Wilkinson**. Ron's wife Kath, his daughter Lyn Henderson and son-in-law Cliff are well known faces around the Club. Our sympathies are extended to the whole family.

One of our Syston members has been seriously ill, and we hear that **Roy Hill** is now confined to a wheelchair. We will be happy to see Roy visit us at the Club again, whenever he recovers sufficiently to travel.

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. We have heard that a number of our older Members have felt quite isolated from the Club in the last six months.