

## Newsletter 10 – September 2020

# All systems go?? go ??

As at the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020

With just a couple of days to go before we officially re-open, we have a few minutes to reflect how much we have achieved to get to this point.

Our main achievement has been the installation of our new playing surface but did that go smoothly? In preparation for the new carpet, we needed to assess the condition of the side and back boards. The car park side boards were seen to be rotten, mainly because water has been getting under the foundations for probably years. They all had to be replaced. Then we looked at the back boards and many of them were smashed probably due to Paco's (and others') overzealous firing. Again these were replaced by our own A-Team of volunteers at minimal expense.

Greengauge arrived on the 17<sup>th</sup> August to start the installation. Up came the old carpet and underlay. The concrete underfloor was passed fit for purpose which was a great relief and the fitters commenced installation. Only when we noticed them scratching their heads did we have an inkling that there might be a tiny problem! **"Err, seems the err, carpet is a tad narrow."** **"How much of a tad?"** **"Err, one and a half metres to be precise!"** At this point, Bob was taken off to the Priory with a panic attack. A few 'polite' telephone calls to Greengauge's MD were made after which he booked a bed next to Bob's in the hospital. Greengauge had 'c\*&%ed up big time and we were all left with £23K's worth of useless carpet. In their defence, they pulled out all the stops. Carpet and underlay, which is usually on a 5 to 7 week back order, arrived at Ilford on the 10<sup>th</sup> September. That is just over 3 weeks from re-order. It should have arrived on the 9<sup>th</sup> September but the van broke down enroute! The fitters decided to spend the night at Toddington Service Station only to find that someone had broken into the van overnight. Fortunately there is not much call for bowls carpet and underlay unless you actually have a bowls club so nothing was taken. You couldn't make this up. All this apart, the carpet was finished on the 11<sup>th</sup> September and it looks superb. It is certainly one of the best playing surfaces in the country. When you do get to play on it, you will notice slight differences. There is not quite so much turn and I thought the green was quite slow, not that I know anything about bowls! I am assured that when the carpet is re-stretched on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, it will run more normally as it needs to settle in.

Carpet down, the push to prepare the club for reopening started in earnest. Full details of some of the things we have done are detailed below. All I can say is that we all owe a great vote of gratitude to a few regular

volunteers who worked tirelessly for no financial reward, carrying out all sorts of manual jobs which would otherwise have cost the club thousands of pounds. Without them our membership fees would have needed to rise **significantly**. So in no particular order, our thanks go to Tony Seago, Eric Brown, Steve Simpson, Ken Spicer, Bob Kane, Darrell Witek, Lou Dightmaker and above all our fantastic Club Manager Bob (Idris) Hayter who not only could be seen digging and sweeping and drilling but also co-ordinated all the work. Bob spent upwards of 400 hours at the club over and above his contracted time and that is loyalty beyond expectation. If I have missed anyone who also helped, I apologise now.

I try to be positive about these things but as a member's club we only have 3 paid employees so almost all of the work is done by this small band of voluntary helpers. It is therefore very disappointing when we ask for assistance but get little or no response. We do not ask for much, just the occasional bit of gardening or repair work or even just a tidying up party. Maybe as little as a couple of hours a season? This small band of regulars will not be around for ever so we need you to give us just a bit of support when we need it. If you are unable to devote your time, and we appreciate that not everyone can, then consider trying to help us financially in some small way. That can be by buying a £10 entry in our Handbook or supporting our lottery or when events resume, supporting them and giving to the raffle. At this point, I must mention that our new mats and jacks were donated by a member at a cost of over £500 and another member donated in total well over £300 towards different projects. We also took on 2 life members last season who have paid £1000 each for the privilege of being a member of our great club. Any donation to the club is most welcome and helps us to provide the best facilities available. So please support us in some small way if you possibly can.

This year is going to be extremely difficult. Covid 19 is still with us and the numbers are rising exponentially, particularly in Redbridge. The Government can and will close us down at a moment's notice. The financial implications of that could be catastrophic. Even if they don't, bowls under the new guidelines is going to be very different and our bar takings expectations will be greatly reduced. Please do your best to buy a drink or a snack when you are at the club. Every little helps. You can now pay for virtually everything by credit or debit card including your green fee and membership fee. In fact this is our preferred method of payment. There is also no guarantee that the school will use our hall for exams next year and that could cost us another £8,000.

I have already sent out numerous emails about the new Social Distancing Rules and Track and Trace. Copies of these documents can be given to you at the club on request. I just want to summarise a few of the most important points again:-

1. **You must not visit the club if you or any member of your bubble/family have any Covid symptoms**
2. **You must wear a mask whilst in the club BUT you do not have to wear one whilst actually bowling.**
3. **You must telephone the club in advance if you want to participate in a roll up. Pre-booking is NOT required for league matches.**
4. **You must keep the required 2 metre distance at all times.**
5. **You should come dressed to bowl EXCEPT for bowls shoes which should not be worn outside the club.**
6. **The changing rooms will be open for up to 4 people at a time to allow you to change shoes and hang your coats but must be vacated quickly to allow others safe access.**
7. **You must sign in and out on every visit to the club or use the new EvePass QR bar code system.**
8. **Please leave the club through the kitchen area, following the white arrows.**

9. **Please pay for your roll-ups before your game and bar purchases preferably by credit or debit card at the bar. A tab can be set up for you at the bar, to be settled before you leave the club.**

As draconian as some of the new rules are, we cannot take the chance or responsibility of spreading the virus from IIBC. You have a duty to comply with these new rules as closely as possible because if you don't, you risk your own health and that of your fellow bowlers and the club can be closed down by the authorities. We will be reviewing the arrangements constantly and may make changes if needed. Of course we will also relax the rules if we get the clearance from the powers above. Please bear with us and encourage your friends and colleagues to obey the guidelines.

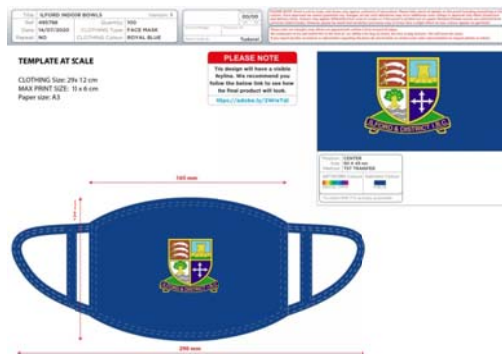
**So come back soon and let's get back to normal as soon we can.**

## Handbooks

The Handbooks are ready for collection from the Club on your next visit. Thanks again to all the contributors and advertisers who funded these handbooks. Another great cost saving for the club. Thanks too to Bob for all his hard work in preparing these books. It was like shooting at a moving target.

## Masks

The Club still has a limited number of very popular reusable face masks and these will be available to members on a first come first served basis at £5 each PLUS VAT = **£6.00**. Call, WhatsApp or email Bob or Alan with your order. **If you forget your mask, basic disposable masks are available at the club for £1 each.**



## CLUB SHIRTS

We also have a limited stock of IIBC Club shirts in most sizes. These are priced from £26.00 up to 2XL, larger sizes £28.50. Why not start the new season with a fresh new 'virus free' Club shirt?

## Leagues and Matches Update

Because of the fluidity of the situation, it was not possible to put the league fixtures in the Handbook. Instead these are available from Bob Hayter at the club or can be emailed to you by request. Further information on the competitions and leagues can be found below.

All 2019/20 competition semi-finals and finals must be played as soon as possible, particularly the singles competition which must be completed by the 16<sup>th</sup> October for the winner to be included in the Champion of Champions Competition.

All ladies County and National competitions have been cancelled until further notice. There was nothing to report on the Men's County and National competitions.

Several arranged interclub and County games have been cancelled or rearranged. Please keep an eye on the fixtures board for match information.

**The new league season will begin on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, emergencies and Covid 19 excepted.**

# News from the Boardroom

## Social Distancing

Much of the Management Meeting was taken up with discussions about Social Distancing and how this will operate in practice. Full details of our new Social Distancing regulations have been emailed to members and will be available to read at the club. We cannot be responsible if members cannot or do not read these rules. Members have a duty of care to comply.

We have ordered a Fogging machine which is due for delivery this week and will be used to sanitise the building on a daily basis. All chemicals used have been approved by Health & Safety.

Social Distancing signs have now been put up around the club and members are required to follow the instructions carefully and adhere to the 2 metre rule.

The 4 doors at each corner of the playing hall are emergency **exit** doors and not fire doors. Fire doors have to be kept closed whereas emergency exit doors can be opened for ventilation if necessary.

Our existing ventilation system (Ilford's best kept secret) has been cleaned and serviced and is now in working order. Used with the ceiling fans, emergency exit doors and windows, the ventilation complies with EIBA requirements and has been approved by Peter Thompson, the EIBA President.

The EIBA have also given us permission for limited use of the changing rooms. Details were given above. Only 4 people at a time please and vacate as soon as possible to allow others to access. Only 1 person at a time in the toilet areas.

Track and trace instructions were also mentioned above and have been well documented.

## Finance and related matters

There has been a lot of maintenance and Covid related expense over the last few weeks and as such, our bank balance dropped significantly. A large decrease from the previous balance. However, we are still in a good financial position but we have to hope that we do not get closed down again.

There were no major Grant or Funding developments or applications as many grants are conditional on encouraging the less fortunate members of society and as we are not ready to do this yet, there was no point in applying. I am always looking for new sources of funding and will follow this up if I find something suitable.

We now have a new till and iZettle card system in place and payment by credit or debit card is preferred as it alleviates the need to handle cash and ensures that not too much money is left on the premises at any one time. Members/visitors can pay for bar purchases, green fees, donations and membership fees using this system and the system is capable of determining and reporting the different rates of VAT.

There is an urgent need to upgrade our outdated computer system. Talks are underway with AEON to install a cloud based system with Office 365 software and all running on Windows 10 instead of Windows 7 as at the moment. For our security, this system will have backups held in different off-site centres.

This is going to be a difficult year financially as events are cancelled and access to the bar restricted. Please support the club as much as possible during these difficult times.

## Membership Report

We have lost several members to ill health or bereavement but we have also attracted a number of potential new members. We welcome them to our club and we ask you to extend the hand of friendship to make these new members feel welcome.

Several members have expressed concern about returning to the club and may not return until next year and we must respect their concerns. We do not want to 'bully' anyone into coming back if they are not 100% sure about their personal safety. We feel that we have done everything we can to comply with the new Covid 19 recommendations.

Our Captain Jim Fennessy has resigned as men's Captain for personal reasons and the Management Team thank him for his years of loyal service to the club. Jim will remain a member and will return to bowls at Ilford when he sees fit.

Ken Spicer has agreed to stand in as acting Captain whilst the search for a new men's Captain continues. If interested in this very prestigious position, please speak to Bob, Sandy or Alan and we will explain what is required.

We have (had) an informal open day for 13 prospective members on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Our thanks to Janet Lee and Chris Dennis, two of our Coach Bowls instructors who are helping out or helped out on the day.

We are obliged under the terms of our Grant Agreement with Sport England, to encourage disabled, minority groups, BAME communities and the lonely and bereaved to use our facilities and or join the club. However, it has been agreed with our business advisors Sported that the time is not right whilst Covid restrictions are in place. We will review this situation on a regular basis.

If you know of any local social or sports clubs that we can approach with a view to seeing if there is any interest in exploring some sort of mutual club arrangement, please let us know.

## **We are still considering other sorts of membership -**

Corporate Membership - Offering Corporate Membership to larger companies. The company would pay a fee of £600 per year for up to 10 people. They would still have to pay the normal **visitors** fee (£4.00). The full details would need to be worked out and agreed in advance of any approach being made to local or National companies. Further discussion will be necessary at a future meeting.

## **Welfare**

Sandra reported that our former Membership Secretary Rick Watson is still in hospital following the amputation of his other leg. She will contact him when he returns home.

Condolences have been sent to Denis Myers' wife and family.

Messages or cards have been sent to John King and other members who have been suffering from ill health.

The safeguarding course Sandra had booked was cancelled by Redbridge Council and will be rearranged in due course.

**Sandra repeated her request that if anyone hears of any member or former member who is in poor health or has sadly passed or indeed any good news, she must be informed so that a suitable message of support can be sent out.**

**As usual please help the Club, PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.  
Not everyone has access to emails or is a Facebook user!!!**

## **Events Update - All subject to Covid 19 Restrictions**

It is almost impossible to plan anything in advance. Who was to know the virus would take this long to control?

The Grand Re-opening and Public Open Day event has been cancelled until at least October 2021, subject to the virus pandemic. All the dignitaries have been advised.

At the moment, **the Gala Day on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 is still going ahead.** However, the situation will be reviewed at the next meeting. The Gala will kindly be sponsored by Hills of Woodford. Bob will contact last year's teams to offer priority spaces.

There has been some interest in hiring our lounge even in these dark times. Oak Park School are considering having their Christmas Party at ours. A member has expressed interest to have a private party. However Hainault have cancelled their planned meeting at the club, as have Seven Kings.

There will be no quizzes until further notice.

The Club lottery will re-commence in 2 to 3 weeks. **Cash payments for this are required.**

No other events have been planned because of the uncertainty.

## **Flyers & Notices**

We still have some attractive laminated notices which promote the club and which we would like you to distribute to your doctor, dentist or medical health centre. Please ask Bob for a copy and ask your doctor if they can pin them to their community notice boards..

## Marketing, publicity, grants and sponsorship

Wall advertising space is still available at a reduced cost of £150 for 1 year and £400 for a 3 year deal. We would also place a half page advert in our handbook for a 1 year deal and a full page ad for a 3 year deal, at no additional cost.

Bob has been in talks with Oak Park School about them setting up and running our website. No response yet. He has also been speaking to AEON about this and this is a more likely route for us to take as they supply our Broadband and Wi-Fi system.

A new batch of leaflets has been delivered to King George Hospital but we do not know if these have been put on display? If any member is visiting the hospital, can they look out for these advertising leaflets/hospital plans and let us know the hospital's response. A further batch is supposed to be delivered to the club. I will chase this.

Darrell Witek very kindly had some car window stickers printed at his own expense. Unfortunately, they have already started to fade so are basically unfit for purpose. I feel sure Darrell will take this up with his printer.

If you have any other ideas on how to raise much needed funds, please let us know.

## Maintenance and Gardens

Following on from above, these are **some** of the jobs our magnificent volunteers have carried out in the closed season:-

- Re-lining the car park.
- Filling in and making good the holes around the club house, the source of serious water ingress and the reason for the rotting side boards.
- Filling some of the pot holes in the car park.
- Painting and varnishing large areas of the bar and club surrounds.
- Creating a ramp for the school to bring and take the floor boards in and out and for disabled use at a later date.
- Hanging signs and pictures.
- The Club Car Park lighting with PIR detectors has been renewed.
- Heating and PAT testing has been completed.
- New electrical sockets have been fitted around the club so that members can safely charge their phones or tablet devices.
- The club has been professionally deep cleaned.
- All the upholstery has been deep cleaned and sanitised.
- New sanitizer stations and equipment have been installed around the club to make us Covid 19 compliant.
- Screens have been placed around the bar for everyone's security.
- The vinyl flooring in several areas of the club has been replaced.
- We have purchased a new bar refrigerator.
- Weeding and gardening.
- Numerous other jobs and cleaning operations.

## Security, Alarms and Camera System, Health & Safety Updates

It appears that the problems with camera 4 have been resolved. A **seriously big spider** is looking for a

new home!

There were no other reported issues.

With the sanitizer solutions checked and approved, there were no other Health and Safety issues.

We will be using plastic glasses and cardboard cups at the bar until further notice for the safety of our staff and visitors. Just as well, as Bob advised that the Glass Washing machine is on its last legs and will need replacing in due course.

The proposed defibrillation re-training has been carried forward until Covid restrictions are relaxed

## Archives and Filing

The attic has now been cleared of most of the files and redundant items. Thanks here go to Bob, Ken and Sandy.

Sandy and Bob will now address the office paper filing in the near future. This is a very time consuming job. Files to be kept will be scanned and electronically filed over a period of time.

## Staff Vacancies

Our former Director Iris Townsend, our very own Betty Turpin, has announced her retirement from bar duties. On behalf of the club, we wish to thank her for many years of loyal service and help. She will be sorely missed behind the bar. This means that at present we have no-one covering the bar at weekends. If anyone is interested in taking over this role, please contact Bob urgently. The hours vary according to matches arranged but generally are:-

- Saturday 1pm until 5pm
- Sunday 11am until 4pm

The replacement bar person will be entitled to free membership at the Treasurers discretion.

Bob, Ilford' s answer to Idris Elba, ably assisted by his significant other half, Sandra Kate Winslett Hayter, has prepared a short video about the club which can be seen for a limited time by opening the following link:-

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MqxF-OlpCWchxNeyX4wAkBTgRU4HY-3O/view?usp=sharing>







Our sincere thanks to *Gerry Gillan* for photographically diarising the installation of our new green.

## YOUR CLUB STILL NEEDS YOU!

### Communication with members

We have nearly 50 members who do not have email addresses or who are not interested in buying a computer and we understand that. Unfortunately, in this age of technology, emails and social media are the quickest and cheapest method of keeping in touch with you all and this means that those without access to email are likely to miss out on important developments and information.

In the playing season we can print off items like fixture sheets, Newsletters and AGM Meeting agendas and such and leave these documents in your pigeon hole at the club. However, in the closed season, the only way we can communicate is by post and that is working out to be very expensive. As an example, we sent out the AGM Meeting pack by post in March. This cost the Club over £300 in printing, stationery and postage costs and this did not take into account the enormous amount of time spent by myself and other officers of the Club in preparing the items ready for posting out. Postage alone was £1.64 per item. The Club cannot sustain this level of expenditure when other alternatives are available.

It is therefore with regret that we will no longer send out communications by post. If you do not have an email address, perhaps you have a nearby relative, friend or neighbour who does and who would agree to printing off these communications and handing them to you? If so or if you are withholding your email address for whatever reason, PLEASE let us have an email address that we can use it to communicate with you.

You are no less important to us than any member with the finest and fastest computer but I trust you will appreciate the financial dilemma we are in, particularly in these difficult times when every penny counts.

Send an email from your selected email address to [Bob.hayter@ilfordindoorbowlsclub.co.uk](mailto:Bob.hayter@ilfordindoorbowlsclub.co.uk) or call him on 0208 597 6040 and we will add you to our database. All information you send to us will be treated in strict confidence and in accordance with GDPR Regulations on privacy.

*If you know of any member who is not receiving this Newsletter and you can deliver a copy to them without endangering yourself, please let us know.*

# The Coronavirus is still lurking so be alert, wash your hands regularly, stay safe and socially distance wherever you can.

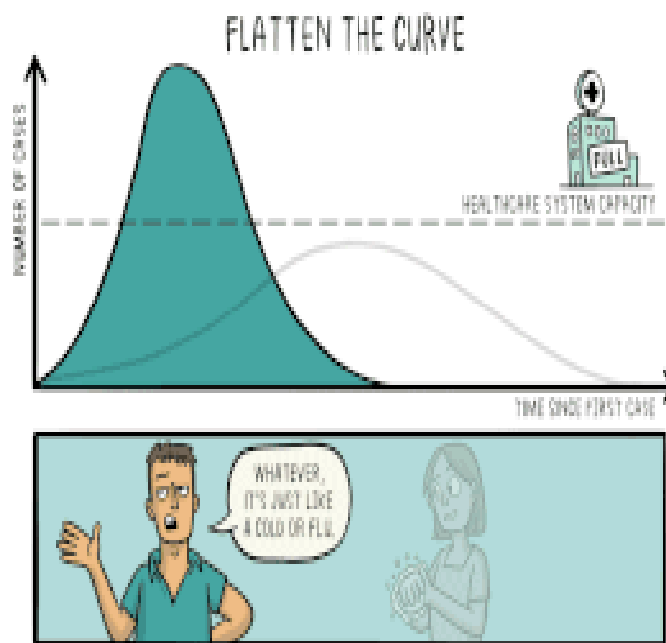


**Protect**  
yourself and others against  
**COVID-19**

- Cover your coughs or sneezes with tissues or your elbow
- Put your used tissue in the rubbish bin or in a plastic bag
- Wash and dry your hands often, especially after coughing or sneezing - use soap or hand sanitiser
- Stay away from others if you're unwell

COVID-19 HEALTH ADVICE  
0800 358 9453

health.govt.nz/COVID-19  
Protect your family/whānau from COVID-19 (coronavirus)



## Important Numbers

**Club Telephone Number - 020 8597 6040**

**Club Email address - [info@ilfordindoorbowlsclub.co.uk](mailto:info@ilfordindoorbowlsclub.co.uk)**

**Club President and Ladies Section Secretary - Pat Brown - 01708 556148**

**Club Chairman & Membership Secretary - Sandy Dron - 01708 347492**

**Club Manager, Treasurer, Competitions Secretary and League Secretary -  
Bob Hayter - 07505 171682**

**Maintenance Director - Steve Simpson - 07904 126623**

**Maintenance Director - Eric Brown - 07850 825583**

**Welfare Director and Ladies Captain - Sandra Dupuy - 07545 544966**

**Health & Safety & Security Director -  
Louis Dightmaker - 07944 274205**

**General Secretary and Men's Section Secretary -  
Alan Jaye - 07722 240237**

**Men's Captain - Position Vacant**



**SPORT  
ENGLAND**