

Newsletter 9 – August 2020

Catastophe?

After months of hard work trying to get the club ready to reopen in September and after several setbacks, we thought that we had at last turned the corner. Our new playing surface and underlay turned up in dribs and drabs a couple of weeks ago and Greengauge started to lay the new surface last week. Up came the old carpet. We had already spotted and replaced some rotten and shattered ditch boards. The under-floor was examined and found to be in good shape so all systems go? Greengauge started to lay the new surface. **Oh dear**, just a slight problem, the underlay and carpet **were 1.5 metres short**. Bob rushed himself off to Goodmayes hospital suffering from apoplexy and panic attacks. The fitters disappeared to their van in sheer panic and for fear of lynching and anyone left at the club stood there scratching their heads in sheer disbelief.

As you might imagine, there were a few, **interesting** and colourful calls between IIBC and Greengauge. As things stand, completely new materials **SHOULD** be delivered to Ilford by the 8th September and Greengauge have promised that the new surface will be completed by the 11th September. All this is subject to confirmation but we are 'confident' that Greengauge will not let us down again. If these promises are kept, the club will reopen as planned on the 21st September and the new league season will begin on the 28th September. All members will be kept informed by email or Facebook.

As we said in the last Newsletter, when the Club reopens, you will notice that there will be some very important changes to the way we operate and indeed bowl and it is essential that every member plays their part to ensure that we are able to operate under strict social distancing measures. There will be **rules** and you must follow them for your own safety and for that of your fellow bowlers. We will be providing hand sanitizers and soap dispensers at great cost to the Club. They are there for your use so please use them regularly but please do **NOT** remove them. Please adhere to the advice and instructions from the Social Distancing Committee. Come to the Club ready to bowl and for now, leave the club by the agreed exit route as soon as your game has finished. We will open the bar as soon as we possibly can but more will be said about that nearer to the time.

As draconian as some of these rules might appear, we are still under threat from this awful virus. We have to learn to live with it for now and until they develop a working vaccine. All we can do as a Club is to give you a safe area to bowl in and the facilities to keep yourself and your fellow bowlers as safe as we possibly can. We really hope you will soon be back to bowling normally as further restrictions are lifted.

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

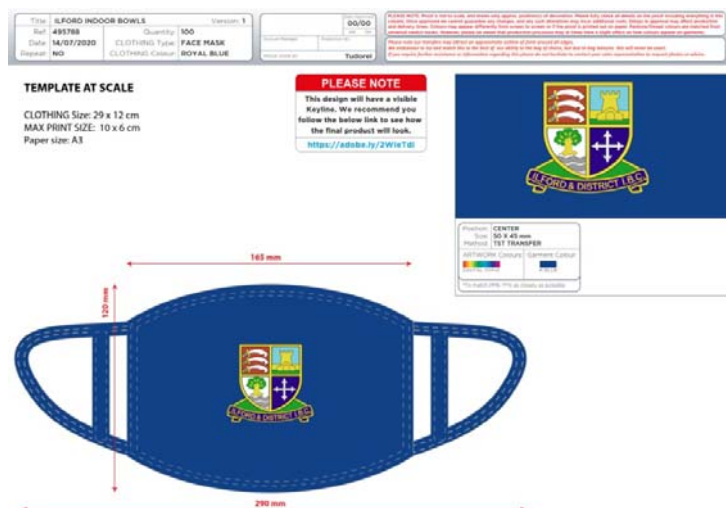
We are still waiting to hear if we will have to play in masks. We know this will be unpopular but unless you have a good medical reason not to, it will be a small price to pay for your safety and that of your fellow bowlers.

STOP PRESS NEWS 26th August 2020- The latest directive from the Government received today states that all visitors to indoor sports clubs **WILL** be required to wear masks **EXCEPT** when actually exercising. As such you **WILL** be permitted to **PLAY** without a mask but must wear a mask at all other times whilst in the Club.

Handbooks

Preparing the handbooks for publication this year has been a nightmare and even now we do not have a definitive date for opening mainly because of Covid 19 restrictions but also because of the delay in laying our new green. This year's handbook will therefore be reduced in size and the league program will be excluded because of the uncertainty. Instead, league schedules are available for collection from the Club but please contact Bob to find out when he will be on site or to arrange to have the list emailed to the team captain. He will also post the list at the Club at least a week in advance for all members to see. It is still up to the individual team captains to advise and organise their teams and the usual penalties for non appearance will regrettably, still apply. The handbooks should be ready for collection from the club by the 14th September.

The Club still have 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.



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

For those of you who have not already seen my previous Newsletters, We advised in **Newsletter 7** that the league season for 2019/2020 would be decided as follows:-

Of the 15 leagues, 7 had already been decided as the top teams could not be overtaken. The positions of the remaining 8 leagues have been decided as follows:-

The league positions will be taken back to a point when all the teams have played an equal number of opponents. That will become the final standing of that league and trophies will be allocated accordingly. Here are the final league positions.

The new league season will begin on the 28th September, emergencies and Covid 19 accepted.

The semi-finals and finals of the Club competitions will be played when the club reopens but dates will be allocated by the Competitions Secretary and matches must be completed within the given timescales.

What else has been going on?

Finance and related matters

Financial situation is stable at moment with a healthy balance at bank and this despite the loss of income from the school in the closed season. The balance includes Grant money from Sport England (£6800) and Redbridge CEF (£1000) which will be used towards Covid related expenses.

We have applied for further small Grants from the Post Code lottery and Co-operative Community Fund. We will not know if our applications have been successful until at least November.

We are delighted to advise you that we have installed a new till and credit card system. We will still take cash but members will be encouraged to pay by card. This should help to reduce bank charges and is safer than taking and handling cash at the till.

Membership Report

We currently have 250 Full Members and 27 Social Members. However, we will not know if any members have left or will leave until the club reopens. **We encourage all members to return in September to see for themselves exactly what we have done to protect them against Covid 19.**

We will still allow visitors to bowl subject to strict Covid distancing and green availability.

It has been agreed with Spotted that efforts to attract members from Disability and BAME groups should be delayed until playing conditions return to near normal. We are also looking at ways to attract recently bereaved or lonely members to the club as this is a way we can help the community in difficult times.

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.

We will look to approach the NHS with a proposal for corporate membership.

We need to contact local social and sports clubs to see if there is any interest in exploring some sort of mutual club arrangement?

All of these ideas have been put on the back burner for now as we strive to get the club ready to reopen but we will address them later on when the situation improves.

Business Plan

We now have a new 5 year business plan in place which will help the club focus on attracting new members but more importantly, will show prospective investors that we are a stable organisation with a good business and risk strategy. If anyone is interested in seeing this plan, please let me know and I will email a copy to you.

Welfare

Sandra reported that our member Ray Allen had passed away and that condolences had been sent to his family.

There were no other reports of illnesses.

Please let Sandra know if you hear of any member in distress or of any illnesses, births, deaths and marriages etc. It's just as important to have good news as well as bad so please share it with us.

Sandra also advised that she was about to re-book her safeguarding course now that she is recovering from eye surgery.

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

New Charity

Just quick reminders that our efforts to raise money for NHS Charities Together are still ongoing so please donate something if you can. Our Just Giving page is still open to donations and we hope now to raise £1,000 by the end of this season.

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. A copy of the flyer will be sent out with this Newsletter.

Memorandum and Articles of Association

Changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association have now been approved by our lawyers and now by our Directors. They will be put to the membership at an EGM for final approval and ratification, at a date to be decided. Copies are available on request.

Events Update

Grand Re-opening and Public Open Day - Sunday 11th October 2020

It was reluctantly agreed to postpone the Grand Reopening and public open day until October 2021 due to the uncertainty of the Coronavirus situation. This was no easy decision but there are too many risks and obstacles stopping us going ahead at this time. Any member who booked a place at the event will be given priority when the new date is agreed.

The next Gala is planned to go ahead on the 13th February 2021

The next Gala is still planned to be on the 13th February 2021 but a decision on whether this can go ahead will be taken nearer to the time.

No other events have been planned due to the uncertainty. This will be reviewed at each MT meeting.

Marketing, publicity, grants and sponsorship

We had four positive handbook adverts, and we thank those contributors for supporting the club in these difficult times.

I can also advise that thanks to the generosity of some members, membership insertions on the members page of the handbook have now raised £580.

Special thanks to Darrell Witek for his generous donation to the members page. Special thanks too to Gerry Gillan who generously donated new mats and jacks to the club. These gents are true supporters of our Club and without them and other benefactors; our very survival would be in question.

We remain aware and concerned that our Web-site is not fit for purpose. Bob has been in contact with Oak

Park school with a view to setting up an IT project whereby some A Level students will be tasked with setting up and running the Club's web-site. Bob will chase this up in September when the school reopens. If anyone wishes to take on the task of running the web-site, please let us know.

The King George Hospital advertisement in collaboration with outdoor clubs has been completed and can be seen at 20 different locations within the hospital. However, it was reported by Lou Dightmaker that there was no sign of the leaflets. I have been chasing this up with the advertising agent and a further 5000 leaflets have been printed and sent to the hospital as the originals seem to have gone astray. If anyone is visiting King George Hospital, please keep an eye out for these leaflets and let us know if they are not readily available.

Darrell Witek has had a limited number of car window stickers in the Club's name, printed. Please contact Darrell or the Club if you would like one of these to display in your car. Darrell has kindly donated these to the Club and once again, we thank him for his generosity.

Health & Safety Update

There were no reported Health and Safety issues.

All sanitizer and chemicals employed at the club have been checked out by Lou Dightmaker, our H&S Director with the assistance of Professor David Edwards, and were deemed safe to use.

We will arrange defibrillation arrange re-training when conditions allow.

We understand that Club Captain Jim Fennessy's daughter, who is a senior nurse, has offered to carry out this training for us if required and after Covid clearance.

For those concerned about 'DO NOT RESUCITATE' instructions. Lou Dightmaker will be contacting CMC to obtain leaflets which can be circulated to the members or placed near the bar with advice on what to do.

The Social Distancing Committee is tasked with putting together a workable Covid Secure Plan and guidance for members, visitors and staff alike. They are due to meet soon to finalise opening and playing arrangements. Once completed, this will be distributed to the members by email and on Facebook and copies will be available at the club.

Members will be expected to abide by the new and hopefully temporary rules so as to ensure that the club is fully Covid compliant and safe for everyone. However, anyone who is unwilling or unable to comply will not be allowed to bowl for fear of infecting other players.

A summary of the equipment installed and sanitizing measures at the club to date, is attached to this Newsletter.

Any one showing ANY signs of Coronavirus must not come to the club. Please stay at home and contact 111 for medical advice.

There will be a new electronic and manual track and trace system in place and every member will be required to sign in and out on each visit no matter how long they are on site.

The electronic version is called **EvePass**. Members with smart phones will be able to register with EvePass after which they can use their phone camera's or a QR Code reader to scan the QR Code at the club to log their attendance. They will automatically be logged out after 3 hours. It takes a few minutes to register and set up but just seconds to scan the code on each visit thus avoiding the need to queue. There will still be a manual register for members and visitors who do not have a smart phone. Staff will be on hand to explain how to download the EvePass or QR apps.

Data will only be held for 21 days as per GDPR rules.

Maintenance and Gardens

Our Maintenance Director Steve Simpson, gave us a summary of the considerable work that has been carried out at the club both inside and out. The work includes, repairs to the car par surface, re-lining, replacing the boards around the green, weeding, fence repairs, painting and more. Some of these repairs and renewals are very evident but if you look around you will see and appreciate the considerable work that a small band of willing volunteers have carried out in the closed season.

We know that not everyone can devote time to the club for a multitude of reasons. We are very fortunate to have a small number of volunteers who carry out numerous jobs at the club for no financial reward as do the Management Team. Without these willing women and men, the Club's expenditure would at least double. Fees would rise dramatically and everyone would be affected. We try to supplement our income by asking for donations from time to time and we appreciate that this can be annoying. At the moment we are still the cheapest indoor club in the area and we do our best to keep fees down as best possible.

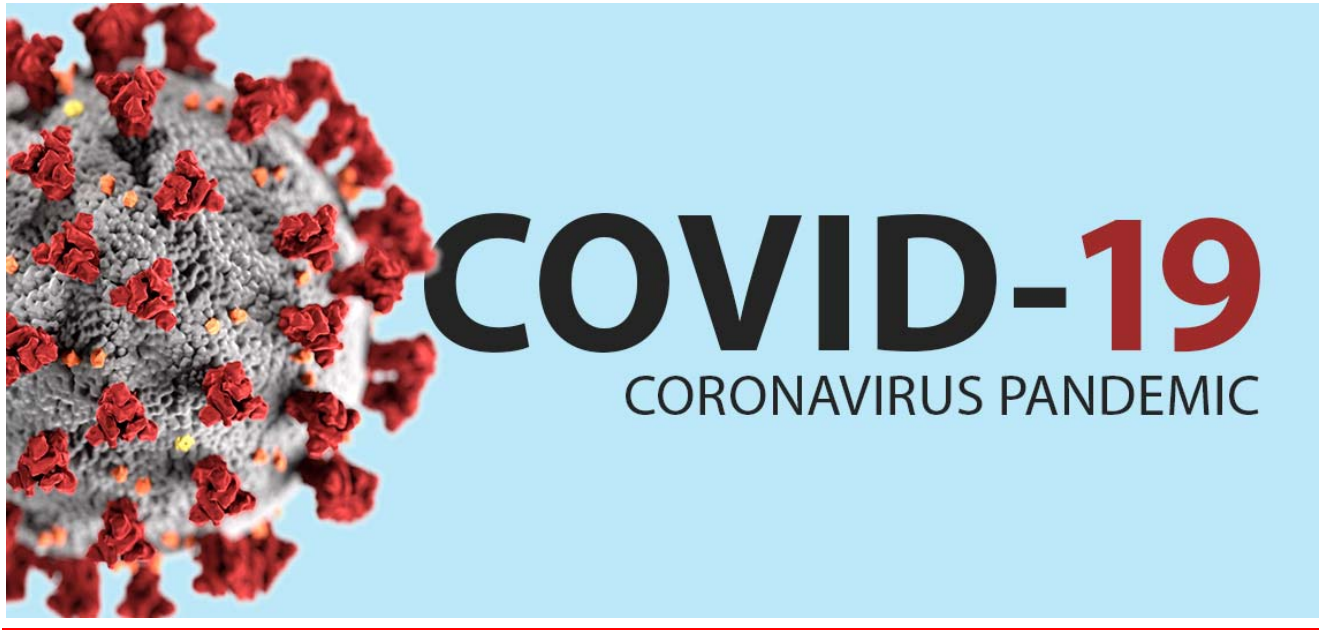
Some members think that we have a secret stash of money in the bank. As stated above, we are fairly secure at the moment BUT none of us know what our income will be once the club reopens? Will the bar reopen? Will bar and green fee income be effected? Will the leagues program go ahead? So many ifs and buts. That is why it is so important that **EVERYONE** supports the Club in some way. If you have any spare time or wish to get involved in helping to run the club, PLEASE step forward and offer your services. This is YOUR club and we want it to be around for in years to come. Burying your head in the sand and taking the attitude 'oh someone else will do that' is not the answer because eventually the people who do contribute will not be around and then what happens?

YOUR CLUB STILL NEEDS YOU!



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.



Important Numbers

Club Telephone Number - 020 8597 6040

Club Email address - 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 - Jim Fennessy - 07810-847886

