



Ilford & District Indoor Bowls Club Ltd

Centre of excellence for indoor lawn bowls serving the
people of Redbridge and surrounding areas



Newsletter 19 – November 2021

As at the 16th November 2021

Welcome to this abbreviated Newsletter 19.

There is no Board Room Report in this issue. The Management meeting scheduled for November was cancelled mainly due to my illness and has yet to be rescheduled.

I apologise in advance if you find this Newsletter uncomfortable reading.

As many of you will know, I fell victim to Covid 19 whilst on a UK holiday in October. I was on holiday with Howard Brenner and Stuart and Marilyn Nieman and they too contracted Covid. In fact seven out of the eight of us tested positive. I am pleased to say that they are also recovering and have or will be returning to bowls later this month.

However, due to underlying health problems, I succumbed to hospital treatment and spent just over 2 weeks in Whipps Cross Hospital. These were probably the scariest two weeks of my life and there really were times I thought I would not make it. Talking to fellow patients one minute and the next, seeing them fighting for every breath and being cared for by the amazing NHS staff. Big strong men, some (but not all) who had whom had refused vaccinations, wearing nappies and being cleaned and fed by the nurses.

Having to listen time and time again to the ICU doctors giving these desperately ill men (and women) the choice of being put on a ventilator and the likelihood of them surviving this ordeal and that they would probably need constant care if they did survive. These patients were already receiving the maximum oxygen they could have and had little or no choice.

I was one of the fortunate ones. I am back home now and recovering slowly. Not everyone I met in hospital was so fortunate and some will never be going home. If anyone thinks this Covid Pandemic is over, THINK AGAIN. There are still over 40,000 people catching Covid in the UK EVERY DAY and over 200 are dying.



So on a personal note, and on behalf of the Brenner's and the Nieman's thank you all for your messages, telephone calls, WhatsApp's and emails enquiring about our progress and wishing us well. I am sorry that I have been unable to answer you all individually but I am getting better and my aim is to return to bowls by the New Year.

The Club has a duty of care to its members to provide a safe and Covid free playing environment and as such, we still provide hand sanitisers, we still provide sanitising cloths to enable you to wipe down hand rails, jacks and mats and the club is 'fogged' at least three times a week. We ask every member to sign in using the NHS or EvePass apps or the manual register. Please do not forget to do this.

Please socially distance as much as possible and try to move around the green in a clockwise direction thus avoiding contact with other players. Wear your masks when you are not bowling, eating or drinking. These are basic requirements in addition to personal hygiene such as washing your hands regularly.

Ventilation in the playing area has always been a problem but we have now installed CO² monitors that alert us to any air quality issues. If the readings show that the air quality is poor, we will open the fire escape doors and windows to allow fresh air in. Please ensure that you dress appropriately and wear layers so that if you are hot you can remove an item or if cold put on a cardigan or jumper. Please do not moan to the Management because these measures are to protect EVERYONE in the club.

The law says that we cannot insist that members are vaccinated or that they wear masks. Nor can we insist that they take a lateral flow test when asked. However, we are an INDOOR facility and in the interests of ALL our members we will do our best to enforce simple precautions. I urge you to get vaccinated if you are offered this. I did and it contributed to saving my life. If not to protect yourself, do this for your friends and playing colleagues. You do not know if they have underlying health problems. Do you really want to be responsible for killing them?

If you have any Covid symptoms PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE CLUB. If you are unsure, we do have a supply of Lateral Flow Tests. Quietly and discreetly, ask Bob to test you and in the event you test positive, leave the club immediately and arrange a PCR test with your local testing centre. Better to be safe than sorry.

Enough about Covid. On the positive side we would like to welcome the 51 new and returning members who have joined the club since September. We are delighted that you have chosen Ilford for indoor bowls and we will do what we can to help you to develop and improve your bowls techniques so that you can join our numerous leagues and weekend matches. It was also great to hear that a good proportion of our new members are women and we hope you will support the ladies leagues and competitions held

throughout the season. If you want any advice or information, please speak to our Ladies Captain Sandra Dupuy or Club President, Pat Brown and don't feel worried or embarrassed to get involved.

To help ALL members improve, the Club holds regular roll up sessions throughout the week. We can also arrange coaching given sufficient notice.

Please note that the club is open for these roll ups (practice sessions) most week days at 12:30 and usually at 4:30 pm. However, please consult your handbook to ensure that there are no pre-booked games or league fixtures as these take preference at all times.

Rinks might also be available for roll ups at other times of the day on a first come basis, even when matches or leagues are already booked in. There could be a spare rink for you to use.

Please enter your name on the Roll Up Booking sheet when you arrive at the club to avoid disappointment. There is no need to telephone ahead as you have to be at the club to book in. All players must be present at the club when you sign in. It is not acceptable for you to sign in another member who might be on route as this prevents players who are at the club, from playing.

Gala Day - Saturday 12th February 2021

We have now started planning our first major event for two years. This is our 'Annual' GALA Day which has always been the favourite and most lucrative day in our calendar. It is usually contested by 16 local indoor and outdoor teams who play for cash prizes and the ethos connected with winning a major competition. Invitations will be going out very soon and we are expecting it to be a sell out. However, the day is not just an external bowls competition, there will be our usual White Elephant Table and fabulous raffle which is open to all. We hope to have a bowls equipment supplier attending so this is a good chance to buy the new bowls you promised yourself in 2020.

We are hoping that the event will be attended by the MP for Ilford North, Wes Streeting and the Mayor of Ilford, Councillor Roy Emmett but these invitations are still to be confirmed. A light lunch will be served at a cost of £5.00 per person and the bar will be open for drinks and snacks as usual. If you wish to participate in the lunch, please send an email to bob.hayter@iibc.uk or telephone him on 020 8597 6040 with your lunch requirements. Places limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

We are always looking for good quality raffle prizes so if you are able to offer the club something really substantial, it will make the raffle so much more successful.

This years Gala Day should be sponsored by Hills of Woodford. We are currently ironing out the terms and conditions. If our negotiations are successful, they will bring a range of new cars and they will be at your disposal to help you decide on a new or quality used Toyota car at exceptionally keen prices. Further details to be announced nearer to the time.

Please support the club and come and join in the fun, also support your summer club and see some excellent top level bowls.

The club extends a message of thanks to Steve Simpson who not only carries out much of the maintenance work at the club but also mans the bar on certain evenings and weekends. After years of dedicated service, Steve has decided to stand down at the end of the year and whilst he will still bowl and visit the club regularly, he will give up his maintenance and bar duties. I am delighted to announce that his place behind the bar will be taken over by Tony Seago and Brian Powell who will be undergoing training in the next few weeks so that the handover of responsibility should be seamless. We also extend, a big thank you to Gary Cook who does an amazing job keeping our bar pipes clean so we all get a great pint.

Finally, the Club and I personally extend an enormous vote of thanks to our Club Manager and Treasurer, Bob Hayter. We at Ilford are so lucky to have such a dedicated hard working and talented manager at our disposal. Bob is contracted to work 20 hrs a week but in reality spends at least twice that amount of time at the Club. This is far in excess of our expectations and frankly, we should worship the ground he walks on! Normally, Bob and I work together on most projects but with me being in hospital and still recovering from Covid, I have not been giving him the support he really needs. He does have a life outside of bowls so please try to give him some encouragement and the space to do the job he loves.

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

In this day of spiralling costs, it is becoming much more difficult to stay in touch with all our members. We have chosen to do this by **EMAIL** rather than by post as it now costs almost £2 (including stationery and printing costs) just to send one letter. PLEASE ensure that we have your latest email address so that you do not miss out on any of our communications. If you do not have access to your own email, maybe you have a family member or friend who can take emails on your behalf and pass the details on to 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.

Notice Board

Renewal forms for 2022 will be sent out by email in the next few weeks. Members without email addresses will be sent the necessary form or these can be collected from the club by request on or after the 1st December 2021.

Your fees for 2022 must be received by the 31st December 2021.

Our preferred payment method is by card, which can be made at the bar.

XXXXXX

If you are not already in a league team and want to join, speak to Bob and register your interest.

XXXXXX

If you have anything interesting or important you would like published in future Newsletters, please send details to Alan

XXXXXX

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

CALL 020 8597 6040 or 07505 171682 or email

Bob.Hayter@iibc.uk

Important Numbers

Club Telephone Number - 020 8597 6040

Club Email address - info@iibc.uk

Website - www.iibc.uk

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IIfordIBC/>

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, Bar Manager
- Bob Hayter - 07505 171682 - Bob.Hayter@iibc.uk

Maintenance Team - Eric Brown, Melvyn Cohen, Tony Seago, Steve Simpson

Welfare Director and Ladies Captain - Sandra Dupuy - 07545 544966

Ladies Vice-Captain - Sonia McDonald - 020 8491 9566

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

General Secretary and Men's Section Secretary -
Alan Jaye - 07722 240237 - Alan.Jaye@iibc.uk

Men's Captain - Ken Spicer - 07989 309114

Men's Vice-Captain - Brian Powell - 07782 636363

Club address - IIford & District Indoor Bowls Club Ltd
Perrymans Farm Road, Newbury Park, IIford, Essex, IG2 7LX

