



Ilford & District Indoor Bowls Club Ltd

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



Newsletter 27 - 6th March 2023

As at the 15 March 2023

It's been a very busy month for the club and of course this is the time of the year when the Gents and Ladies Section meetings take place and we prepare for the AGM on the 2nd April. As such, this newsletter might be a bit shorter than usual. Thank G_d I hear you say!

This year's AGM could be very interesting. There are several proposed changes to how the Club operates and these COULD affect every member. In particular, proposed changes to the existing two tier sections and the question of substitutes in internal league matches has reared it 'ugly head' again and several members have expressed concern about how these rules operate and how they are open to abuse. You will have already received a **Revised** Notice of AGM with the new proposals listed. These changes affect YOU so if you are not at the meeting, you cannot object to any changes approved at the AGM. Whatever changes are proposed, although it might not seem like it, they are done in the best interests of the Club and ALL its membership. Organisations such as Essex Indoor Bowls Association have already amalgamated the ladies with the men's section and County League games next season will include both genders. So why not here at Ilford? I know it will be contentious but we have to move with the times. Please come to the AGM on the 2nd April and vote for your preferences.

Race Night

Last Saturday, we held a very successful race night and this was attended by 100 people who were treated to an evening of good fun and fish and chips. After a slow start selling at the club, we eventually sold all the owners and jockeys and we want to thank everyone who bought horses and helped make this event a real success. Special thanks go to our volunteer tote bookies on the night who stepped in when we needed them most and of course to Bob who did a sterling job selling the Jockeys and Owners. Could we have done better? of course but it is a learning curve and if we do it again, we will learn from our mistakes (if any).

Class of 21/21 and Newbies Competitions

We introduced a Newbies Competition last season and it was extremely successful. Completely sold out and enjoyed by everyone who took part. We intended to run it again this year for this year's new members. Then we were asked if last year's entrants could have a competition of their own or join the Newbies. On the strength of that we introduced a Class of 21-22 competition thus the Class of 21-22 will be played on Wednesday 15th March for last year's members and the Newbies for this year's new members will be held on Wednesday 22nd March.

Disappointingly, we have struggled to fill all the places and we have had last minute drop outs. The competitions will still go ahead but we have swapped a few things around and some of the matches will be triples rather than full rink.

Such a lot of work goes into all our competitions so we have to consider whether it is worth us running them at all when they are not fully supported.

Gala Day

This is traditionally our most successful fundraising event of the season and true to say, it was well supported and most had a really good time. That is not to say things could not have been better. The way the food was served was better than last year but still needs improvement. The raffle, tombola and white elephant sales were down by about £300 as were the overall profits on the day. We do know that times are tough but we rely on these events to bolster our turnover which in turn helps us to keep the fees down. Bowls at Ilford is still the cheapest in the area and we hope to keep it that way but everyone needs to support the club at these events and help out physically and financially if they can.

Internal Leagues

I said this in the last issue and am repeating it here, our internal league program is dependent on our members turning up for matches at the correct times and on the correct days. Unfortunately, recently, quite a few members have failed to turn up at the given time. This is very disappointing and frustrating for the opposition who do turn up only to find that the game has been postponed. **It is the Team Captain's responsibility** to contact their players just before each match to remind them that they are playing. If this situation does not improve, we will have to reintroduce the rule that the Team Captain, skip or team on the day make up the green fee shortfall. If only three players turn up for full rink games, non-playing members can be asked to stand in as long as they are not playing against their own team. **THIS MIGHT CHANGE AFTER THE AGM AS THERE ARE PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE RULES ON SUBSTITUTIONS.** The team can also play with three players in full rink matches but 25% of their score will be deducted from the offending team's final score tally. Final note on this subject is that the Skip on the day must ensure that the final score is correct (including the final end) and that the score card is signed by both teams and placed in the correct match collection box.

Bowls Etiquette, safeguarding and bullying

We are still being told that the etiquette on the green is still not good.. Please be mindful that there are other games going on whilst you are playing. Please walk swiftly from end to end, keeping in the middle of your own rink and not stopping for a chat about the grandchildren half way up. Keep banter friendly and not offensive. Think before you speak. Do not walk about behind the players particularly when they are about to bowl. Please remain in the lounge until the bell goes. Players should leave the green quickly when their game ends and use the changing room for changing, not the seats behind the green.

If you have a specific problem with a bowler's etiquette, dress or attitude, rather than confront that player in question, please have a discreet word with Bob or Alan and we will try to handle it in what we hope will be a slightly more diplomatic way. Your concerns will not be ignored.

Dress Code

There have been more complaints that some members are still not complying with the Club's dress code. There have been several emails about this so Members are again reminded that we do have a dress code here at Ilford so please adhere to it. If you do not know what it is, please speak to Bob Hayter or the Club Officers who will explain or refer to the last Newsletter.

Club and Garden Maintenance

We do not have a team of people sitting around tidying up after you. If we had to employ such a team, you would not be able to afford our fees. If you order a coffee or a drink, please return your empties to the bar and dispose of any litter in the bins provided. Please do not leave everything on the tables for everyone else to clear up after you and if you see someone doing that, please ask them politely to clear up after themselves.

If you are playing in matches where food or snacks are provided, you still have a duty to clear up and wash and dry up used plates and crockery etc. If you use the dishwasher, please ensure you empty it at the end of the cycle and if you cannot wait that long, don't use the dishwasher at all. Wash the stuff up manually, in the sink.

Ian Treleaven has asked that members be encouraged to pick up any rubbish from the car park and gardens and place in the bins provided. It is not fair to leave this to Bob and the bar staff. Every member has a duty of care to keep the Club safe and clean.

General Points

It has been brought to our attention that some of the vehicles leaving the club seem to have faulty break lights. Please check to see if this is applicable to your vehicle and take steps to rectify the fault if appropriate.

STOP PRESS

Heartiest congratulations to Ilford's **Karl Bunyan** who won his Essex Un-badged singles semi-final at Falcon BC this week. Good luck to him in the final.

Also good luck to **Paul Whellams** and **Colin Foster** who will be representing Essex in the National Over 60's Pairs competition being held in Nottingham.

Keep your eyes on our notice boards to see how they all get on.

If you know of any member who does not have access to emails, please let us know who they are and we will place a copy of this newsletter in their pigeon hole/mail box situated adjacent to the entrance to the lounge.

Members are also reminded to check to see if there are any communications from the Club, their Team Captain or another member, awaiting for them in their mail box.

Leagues for the 23/24 Season

Anyone wishing to play in a league next season or change teams, please complete the form at the bar and we will put you in touch with a Team Captain.

Please do not ask Bob. He has enough to do.

Green Fee Vouchers

Buy 20 vouchers get 1 free - Buy 40 vouchers get 2 free

Buy 50 vouchers get 3 free

Vouchers are not valid for weekend games.

Vouchers are not valid for County games.

Vouchers cannot be used to purchase food and/or drink.

Vouchers cannot be used to offset fees

News from the Board Room



3 BOARD ROOM PERSPECTIVE
NOT TO SCALE

Membership Reports

Bob Hayter reported that we now have 69 women members, 196 men and 21 Social members totalling 286 in all.

There is further interest from one new prospective members but he will probably not join until September 2023.

29 members have not re-joined from last year. 5 have not been contactable.

Financial and Staffing Reports

We still have excess funds in our current account. Arguments were put forward for and against moving these into Barclays Business Investment Account or an alternative supplier who pays better interest.

It was agreed NOT to use outside financial consultants such as GDA as the fees could outweigh the interest we receive.

It was agreed that we could invest up to £60,000

Bob Hayter is to consult with Barclays about their best accounts and AJ will look for alternative investment accounts paying better interest.

It was agreed that any account opened should be instant access in case we have a major emergency and need to withdraw money quickly.

A proposal from AJ, seconded by Bob Hayter at the last meeting suggested that with the prospect of increased running costs and probable expected major expenditure that the fees be increased as below:-

Green fees for Full Members - £3.50

Green fees for Social Members - £4.50

Green fees for County League matches home and away, £5.00 which includes travel subsidy and food.

Green fees for Ladies and Weekend Friendly matches - £4.50

Buy 20 £3.50 vouchers and get 1 free

Buy 40 £3.50 vouchers and get 2 free

Buy 50 £3.50 vouchers and get 3 free

After much discussion it was agreed to keep the existing green fees as they are for the 23/24 season but seek approval from the membership at the next AGM that should the running costs and/or the cost of inflation spiral and the club management deem fit so to do, the Board of Directors and Management team have the right to increase fees without the need to call for an EGM

Building and Contents Insurance

Bob Hayter advised that the value of the building and its contents had been increased to £1.3 million.

This resulted in a slight increase in premium of 3% which is well below the current rate of inflation.

Staffing report from Bob Hayter

Bob Hayter reminded all present that whilst we can cover the bar at most times, other members **MUST** step up to help, particularly at weekends. He advised that Alan Bayliss had agreed to assist with bar duties from September 2023 and would be trained accordingly.

More help with the bar and with opening and closing the club in the evenings and at weekends would be needed when Eric completes his move away from the area.

Other ideas on key holding would be appreciated.

Bob Hayter to put a notice up on the notice board to encourage helpers and AJ to publicise in next Newsletter.

Congratulations to Sandra Dupuy who has passed her Level 1 Coaching Course and is now certified to coach bowls.

Events, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Publicity and Charity

Gala Day 2023

Over all, the profit from the Gala Day was approximately £900 plus bar takings.

All raffle prizes have now been collected.

Profit from Raffle, Tombola and White Elephant was down by £400 on last year

Whilst there is no question that Pat and the Raffle Team worked hard to set things up and run the raffle, AJ suggested that more tickets could have been sold on the day if the people selling tickets had gone round the club selling rather than waiting for people to come to them.

This was reported by one helper that sold nearly £200's worth of tickets on her own by walking round and approaching guests and if others had done this as well, ticket sales could have been higher.

It was also noted that at least 2 people who went to buy tickets were turned away because "sales had closed". The selling could have ended later and not before an announcement had been made and a final sales push had taken place.

We should look at ways of improving ticket sales before the next Gala.

These points were intended as constructive criticism and not to offend Pat or the people who worked so hard to make the raffle, tombola and white elephant a success.

Catering

Food at the Gala was plentiful and adequate but improvements in the type of food and the way it is served still needs work. Things to consider before next year include:-

The hard working bar staff were not offered food.

Should we provide a sit down meal rather than buffet? This would be dependent on budget.

If not, how do we ensure that guests sitting furthest from the kitchen get enough hot food served to them.

Should we have paper plates and/or paper table cloths?

Some people were not aware that there would be sittings and had other arrangements in the afternoon. People are not prepared to wait until 2:00pm to be served food so maybe we should

look at the timings for each sitting and sell guests tickets according to which sitting they want to eat at?

Maybe charge more for 1:00pm sittings than at 2:00pm?

It was a shame that no one reminded Glen Stephens to bring along trays of donuts although we did have ice cream as a backup.

Guest appearance

Our Guest of Honour, Mark Lazarus had a wonderful time and thanked us all for the Orient Shirt we gave him and the opportunity to open the bowling.

Sponsorship and prizes from sponsors

Thanks to all those who donated prizes to the raffle and special thanks to Steve Klein for getting three restaurant vouchers and for a personal donation to the event.

Thanks also to Louis Dightmaker for generously donating vouchers (which unfortunately Bob Hayter, left in the safe on the day) and which will be used at a furryre event.

Thanks were sent to Lexus Woodford who sponsored this year's event. Do we know if they sold any cars?

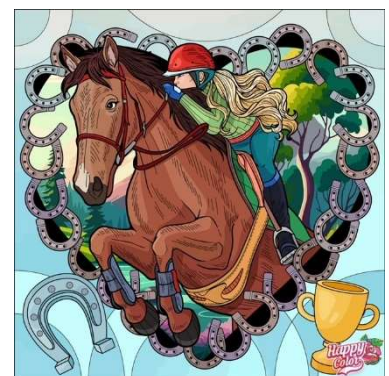
Bowls Direct were in attendance and bowls wear and bowls were on sale at the event.

Thanks to Gerry Gillan for taking the photos on the day.

Race Night - 11th March 2023 at 7:00pm

The race night was completely sold out within 2 weeks of announcement. 100 tickets were sold.

No other events have been planned for this season although Bob Hayter says if time permits, he might organise a Target Bowls Competition before the end of the season.



Leagues and Match Reports

Bob Hayter reminded members that the Finals will be played from the 11th April 2023 as the 10th is Easter Monday, with finals day on the 14th April 2023.

Report on teams in the leagues

Most leagues are running quite well but AJ to remind each team captain they are responsible for ensuring a full turnout at every match as several games have been cancelled due to team members not turning up.

Over 60's Teams report

Alan Jaye advised that the Over 60's A Team report had been received and that copies were available from him on request.

Paul Whellams has resigned as A Team Manager.

Ken Spicer reported that the O60's B team are doing OK.

Bob Hayter to print out league tables.

Players must be prepared to play at home or away.

Next year the over 60's competitions will be mixed.

Ladies Leagues

The Ladies Section Meeting was held on the 5th March and it was agreed by those present at that meeting that gents would not be allowed to join any of the Ladies league teams despite this being contrary to the Club's policy of having open leagues.

It was questioned whether this vote was constitutional and could be upheld. Sandy Dron to review the Articles of Association and Memorandum and the decision could be brought up at the AGM so that all members could have their say.

Friendly matches report

Sonia McDonald reported that the turn out for friendly weekend matches has been good and some new participants have been encouraged to play.

Harry Musaphia asked that some of the women approach other outdoor teams as he is struggling to fulfil friendly fixtures.

Members **MUST** check the Notice Boards to see if they have been selected for any matches, friendlies, County Leagues etc.

Ken Spicer thanked Sonia for all her hard work and apologised for not being quite as active as normal with arranging the matches due to outside commitments.

Thanks were given to Sonia, Ken and indeed all the Bowls Team for their efforts in choosing the squads and arranging the games.

Internal Leagues

Application forms for the 23/24 Leagues are available in the lounge. Team Captains must complete these and pay by the **21st March 2023**.

Inside Outside League

Running well but some teams have indicated that they will not be entering next season. Bob Hayter to approach other outside clubs to attract entrants.

If you belong to an outdoor club who is not already represented, please give detail to Bob Hayter so that he can approach them.

Newbies Competition for 2022/23 - 22/3/23

This will be held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 and is open to all new members who have joined the club since it reopened in September 2022.

Reminders have gone out to all new members who qualify and AJ will follow up.

Bob Hayter asked that more experienced bowlers are available on the day to help some of the newer players on how to play in various playing positions.

New Class of 21-22 Competition 2023 - 15/3/23

This will be held on Wednesday 15th March 2023 and is open to members who joined the club from September 2021 until August 2022 or who took part in last year's Newbies competition. We are still about 5 players short. Reminders have gone out to all the members who qualify and AJ will follow up.

Bob Hayter will ask more experienced bowlers to be available on the day to help some of the less experienced players on how to play in various playing positions.

Newbies League

It was suggested that maybe the newer members could form a New Members League on a Sunday? This way they will get a 2.5 hour session for the price of 2 hours and the club will benefit from more weekend income.

AJ to find out if there would be any interest.

Brian Yershon's proposed Bowls Football Supporters Competition

Bob Hayter is struggling to find a date this season for this competition. The idea to be put on back-burner and promoted next season.

Bob Hayter suggested that maybe it could be held on a Sunday?

Bob Hayter to speak to Brian Yershon about this.

Health, Safety and Security (including Covid)

AJ advised that progress to update our existing Health & Safety Policy was slow and little progress has been made despite the best efforts of Bob Kane.

Health and Safety is a minefield of laws and regulations and the Directors and Officers of the Club have a legal responsibility to ensure that we comply. The members also have a duty of care to adhere to the policy and report any items of concern.

As previously advised, AJ reminded those present that due to the complexity and legalities of the job in hand, he was not qualified nor able to write a satisfactory policy nor had the time or expertise to monitor and run it.

He had asked for volunteers to help but only Bob Kane and Darrell Witek had shown any interest and now action had to be taken to ensure the club complies with the law.

To employ a Health and Safety Officer would cost the Club a minimum of £20,000 per annum. This is just not affordable.

As such AJ and Bob Hayter have spoken to outside H&S Consultants and have agreed terms of a 4 year H&S Contract which will cost the club £140.87 per month.

The appointed consultants, Croners will re-write our existing policy install specialised computer software, write and carry out the necessary risk assessments and monitor the clubs policy with regular visits to ensure all is working well and we comply with the law.

The Club still have to act on any findings and the Health & Safety Committee including Alan Jaye, Bob Hayter, Bob Kane and Darrell Witek will jointly be responsible for running it.

Croners offer a 365/7 day help line should any problems arise.

This was agreed by the MT team by majority and a contract will be put in place as soon as practical.

Safeguarding

This is another area the club have to take seriously. We have a legal obligation to ensure we have trained Safeguarding Officers available to protect the safety and welfare of all our members and visitors.

Sandra Dupuy who is our Safeguarding Director has suggested she may have to stand down from this role as she is now involved in coaching. If she does this, another member will need to step up to take over responsibility for Safeguarding and if no one steps forward, this might also have to be outsourced.

More expense equates to higher fees to cover this important area of expenditure and hence our request above for fees to be raised in line with inflation.

Ken Spicer has been looking at Safeguarding documents as part of his role at Wanstead Central and will forward these to AJ.

Bob Hayter advised that the fire alarm system would be upgrade in the closed season, subject to agreeing the costs.

Maintenance reports

No major work carried out since last meeting but the toilets have been repaired by Eric and Tony.

Tony has repaired the damaged bank on green 4.

The installation of monitors in the playing area is ongoing and yet to be resolved.

Gardens and car park. - Report by Ian Treleaven

As Ian was unable to attend the meeting, no report was received but Ian has asked that members are encouraged to pick up any rubbish from the car park and gardens and place in the bins provided. It is not fair to leave this to Bob and the bar staff. Every member has a duty of care to keep the Club safe and clean.

It was suggested that maybe we could lay artificial grass but this idea was turned down.

Phil Fagelson expressed concern about the car park lighting but it was explained that to solve the problem completely, we would have to lay new cables and that would be costly.

Bob Hayter advised that estimates to replace our fire alarm system have been received and the work will be carried out in the summer at a cost of approximately £9.5k.

Tannoy system

Has been installed and seems to be working well. Need to adjust volumes to avoid feedback.

Estimate to be obtained to install speakers at far end of playing area.

The advertising computer was replaced but the replacement is now dead too. Colin Foster is looking at replacing the existing system with an internet system which can be operated remotely from the club or home.

Karl Bunyan has started work on the Club's website. Further reports to follow.

Sandy Dron expressed thanks again to all the maintenance team who continue to save the club hundreds of £££'s every year.

Welfare

Report from SANDRA DUPUY on welfare matters.

Sandra Dupuy advised that since the last meeting Ricky Watson our former Membership Secretary and Barbara Swillman had passed away. Condolences have been sent to their families.

Bob Hayter advised that Ricky's family collected almost £300 for the club and that the club will provide The Ricky Watson Pairs League Cup in his honour.

AJ advised that Marion Bond was due to go into hospital later this month for further surgery.

Alex MacGowan had another serious fall at the club this week and the Club have, in Alex's own interests and that of all the members, taken the difficult decision to suspend his membership until at least September after which the situation will be reviewed

If anyone does hear that there has been a bereavement, illness, birth, marriage, barmitzvahs, anniversary etc., please let SANDRA DUPUY know.

Bob Hayter is to arrange for Carol Tresadern to sign a Director's resignation form so that she can be taken off of the Companies House register.

Alan Jaye advised that as mentioned at the Gents Section meeting which only 16 men turned up for, 2023-2024 reluctantly would probably be his last year as Secretary of the Club. He puts this down to increasing unresolved personal health problems and a general lack of support from the members who are not coming forward to help the Club. The work carried out by Bob, some of the Management Team and himself is increasing daily and becoming untenable. Unless there is a significant increase in help with administration, bar duties, bowls section duties and at events, he fears for the future of the club. The club does not run itself nor can it afford to employ a team of people to do the work.

AJ is prepared to train up anyone who would like to be considered for the job and will support that person as required. He will, if elected at the AGM in April, continue act as a Director and work with the new Secretary and support them and the club.

Any other Business

Please add your chosen charity to the list on the Club Notice Board. A vote will be taken at the AGM on the 2nd April and the charity selected will be supported by the club in the 2023/2024 season.

Please put your name down on the list on the Club's notice board if you wish to be considered as a Director of the Club. The Constitution demands that we need 12 Directors, we have only 8.

Notice Board



**Our chosen Charity this year
London & Essex Air Ambulance**

Please give generously to this fantastic cause.



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

**Our preferred payment method for fees, food and beverages
and even green fees, is by card.
Card payments can be made at the bar.**

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME
CALL 020 8597 6040 or 07505 171682 or
email Bob.Hayter@iibc.uk

Free coaching will be available by arrangement

**If you have any bowls or bowls equipment for sale, please draft out an
advert and we will try to place this on one of the notice boards. A
donation to our chosen charity would be expected on completion of a
successful sale.**

The club is run mainly by volunteers. However, the burden of work rests on the shoulders of just four or five members who will not carry on doing this work unaided, for ever.

If you can help run the club in any way, please let Alan or Bob know ASAP.

There is no point in complaining about how things are run if you are not prepared to devote a couple of hours of your own time to help make improvements.

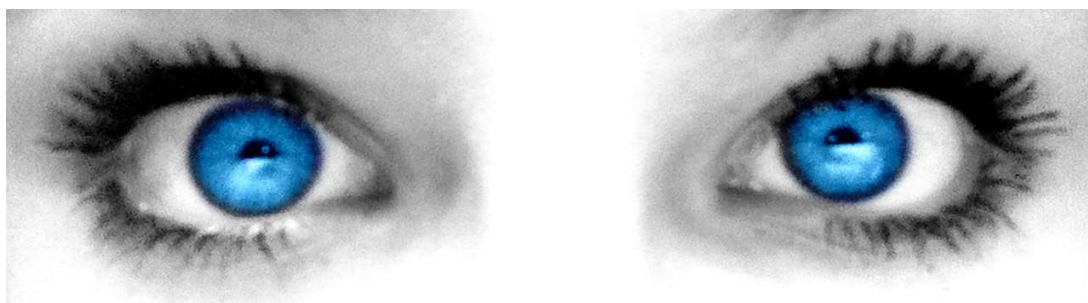
If you notice any hazards or dangerous objects or areas of the club, please report it to the office immediately. Every member has a duty of care to comply with our Health & Safety Policy for their own safety and for the good of the Club and all its members.

With the unfortunate resignation of Carol Tresadern, we are looking to appoint a new Club Director at the next AGM in April. It is a requirement of the Club's constitution that we have a given number of directors at any one time. A list will be put up on the notice boards in the near future requesting nominations. The future of the Club in your hands

We encourage you to contribute to the newsletters. This is your chance to voice your opinions, have your say in running and improving the club and suggest fundraising ideas. You might have some constructive ideas or just some articles of general interest. Please send your articles in PDF or Word Format

to Secretary@iibc.uk

Please keep an eye



on the notice boards for details of forthcoming events or competitions and do not be afraid of entering our weekend friendly matches.

Also remember to check your Pigeon Hole/Mail Box to see if you have any mail from other members or the Club.

Also look at the scrolling TV screen in the lounge next to the bar, (when we eventually get it working properly).

Important messages are regularly updated with information and advice from the Club Management.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Club Telephone Number - 020 8597 6040 (only during the playing season)

Club Email address - info@iibc.uk Website - www.iibc.uk

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

Club President and County League Secretary - Pat Brown - 01708 556148

Club Chairman & Membership Secretary - Sandy Dron - 01708 347492

**Club Manager, Treasurer, Competitions Secretary, League Secretary and Bar Manager
- Bob Hayter - 07505 171682 - Bob.Hayter@iibc.uk**

**Maintenance Team - Eric Brown, Darrell Witek, Melvyn Cohen, Tony Seago, Ian
Treleven**

**Director of Publicity & Sponsorship - Steven Klein - 07771 720620
srk48klein@gmail.com**

**Director of Membership Development - Jack Matthews - 07971 748372
jackmatthews99@gmail.com**

Press & Communications Officer - Gerry Gillan - 07572 616868

**Welfare Director, Ladies Secretary and Ladies County League Delegate -
Sandra Dupuy - 07545 544966**

Ladies Captain - Sonia McDonald - 020 8491 9566

Ladies Vice-Captain - Bernice Gilbert - 07581 236011

Acting Health & Safety & Security Advisor - Alan Jaye - 07722 240237

**Bar staff - Mo Leung, Tony Seago, Mark Newman, Eric Brown, Steve Simpson, Alan
Bayliss**

**Hon. 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 - Mark Newman - 07984 085826

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