

Ilford & District Indoor Bowls Club Ltd

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



Newsletter 11 - November 2020

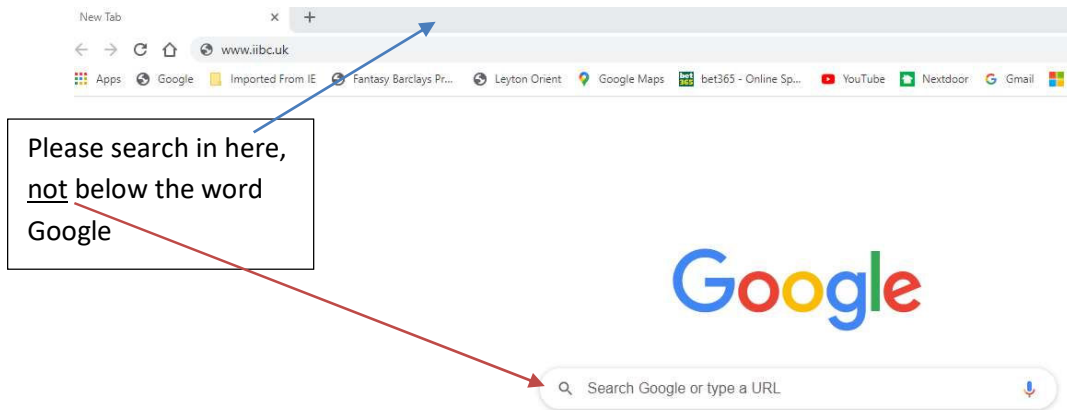
**8 months on and
we are back to square 1**

As at the 6th November 2020

After a spring and summer fighting to get the Club ready to reopen, here we are in November, back to square one again! Of course we are not alone. Indoor bowls nationwide has been suspended until at least the 2nd December. All we can do now is to sit and wait for the OK from the EIBA to allow us to open and be ready when it happens.

It is such a shame because we made such a positive start to the season. Whilst some members did not feel comfortable returning to the club, we still managed to sign up 27 new members. You have to spare a thought for these new ladies and gents who were just getting to grips with the game of indoor bowls only to be stopped in their tracks by a microscopic invisible organism. We can assure you and our established members that we will reopen as soon as we possibly can and hopefully you will all be back and bowling before the end of the year.

We have taken the opportunity to do quite a lot of behind the scenes work. Thanks to our amazing maintenance team of Tony, Eric, Steve and Ken we have painted, polished, repaired, replaced and enhanced, everything in sight. In the office, we have upgraded our ageing computer system and server and we now have a state of the art hosted system which secures our records and documents off site. We have also changed our main email addresses so we no longer have to type in 'xxx@ilfordindoorbowlsclub.co.uk' every time we send out a message. The new contact addresses are on the last page of this newsletter and yes, the email addresses **do end .UK** and NOT .co.uk as is more common. Our next task is to get our web-site up and running and Bob has been working with AEON on this. Still a lot of work to do but if you type **IIBC.uk** into the **URL bar** in Google (**not the search bar**), you will see the results of Bob's efforts so far. If you type this in the search bar you will be taken to the International Indoor Bowls Council site.



We are very fortunate to have secured the IIBC.uk domain name and if the Council want to buy the name off of us for a couple of million squids, we might consider the offer! For anyone who does not have a computer, this is probably all double Dutch but believe us, these are important changes to the way we operate. Thanks too to our Chairman Sandy who has worked his way through the attic and office archives and files and has shredded bags full of historical records, files and paperwork. A boring and tedious task well done.

When bowls resumes, we will all have to get to grips with the Social Distancing measures which unfortunately will be with us for some time to come. At the moment the compliance is just not good enough. Most players do their best to follow the enforced rules but sometimes just forget. It is easy to do this as all we really want to do is have an enjoyable game of bowls. We will revise and redistribute a new set of instructions when we reopen and we would ask EVERY member to really try their best to follow the guidelines whether you believe in Coronavirus or not. These instructions are for your safety because the virus has not gone away and people of our age groups are the most vulnerable. If you see one of your fellow players straying off line, please have a quiet word with them and remind them of what they are supposed to do. In short, if we all move in a clockwise direction and keep 2 metres from one another, we should be ok. If anyone is still unsure, please ask Bob or any committee member for clarification.

There have been incidents with members refusing to wear masks and refusing to sign in and out despite being politely asked. We will be introducing a traffic light system for these members. **Green light - polite verbal warning.** **Amber light - not so polite written warning.** **Red light - temporary or even permanent suspension from the club.** We do not want this to happen to any of our members so PLEASE follow the guidelines and even if you are a disbeliever, wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds, cover your nose and mouth with a mask when you are not actually bowling or eating/drinking and stay 2 metres away from anyone else. Failure to do this could result in the club being fined up to £10,000 and/or closed down (when we eventually reopen) and you too could face a hefty fine.

As another reminder: -

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 or NHS QR bar code systems.**
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.**

So come back when the club reopens and let's get back to normal as soon we can.

Competitions, Leagues and Matches Updates

Some of the club competitions for last season were completed in the nick of time with David Baxter narrowly beating Paco Rodrigues in a repeat of last year's singles final and Bob Hayter and Colin Green beating Gerry Gillan and David Baxter in the pairs league. Congratulations to all concerned. If the club opens in December we will try and complete some of the other competitions. Next year's competitions SHOULD start in the new year and the sheets will be going up when the club reopens.

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.

Whilst our internal leagues started in September, they too have been suspended. Assuming we can recommence in the new year, we will try to rearrange the fixtures and if teams have 6 players or more, we may ask them to put out two teams on the day to cover any backlog. Another idea is to play matches on different days or times?

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

All fixtures now depend on Covid restrictions so let us pray they will be relaxed before Christmas and the new year.

News from the Boardroom

Social Distancing

I have already mentioned Social Distancing in the foreword above so I will not spend too much time explaining the rules again.

We did ask for members to come forward to act as 'Covid Wardens' in addition to Darrel Witek. However, there has been little or no response so again I would ask all members to police this in a sensible and non-confrontational way. All members have a duty of care to correct any player who is not complying with the social distancing measures. Any member willing to help as a Covid Warden can collect a lanyard and badge from the office.

The new Fogging Machine is now in use and the carpet will be sprayed 2 or 3 times a week in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. The concourse, lounge, bar and changing rooms will be sprayed daily when the club reopens. The cleaners have been instructed on what is necessary.

Masks must be worn at all times in the club except when bowling or eating and drinking in the lounge/bar. If you are just chatting, please wear you mask.

When bowls recommences, members will be reminded that unfortunately they will not be able to spend hours at the club but the bar will be open and available for drinks and light snacks and members should be encouraged to use these facilities before and after each game.

All Members are reminded that roll up sessions **MUST** be booked in advance by telephoning the club on 0208 597 6040 **between 10:00 am and 16:00 pm Monday to Friday only**. If you do not pre-book a roll up, you may not be allowed to bowl.

The existing Social Distancing rules and regulations and Returning to Bowls at Ilford document and posters will be slightly tweaked and updated and will be redistributed or posted up in the club.

Masks, visors and shirts are still for sale at club when it reopens.

NOTE: - The shirt supplier has gone into liquidation and we are trying to contact the liquidator to recover our badge logo and any stock relating to our club.

Heating, ventilation and fire escape doors, are still causing problems and members are still complaining it's too hot or cold. This is a very difficult situation to monitor or resolve as you will never get a perfect balance between hot and cold. The heating will be set at the recommended temperature of 21° and should not be altered except by a committee member. There will always be a margin of plus or minus 2°. You are permitted to briefly open a fire escape door if too hot and encouraged to wear warmer clothing if too cold. Please be tolerant of the needs of other players and PLEASE do not get into arguments over this. We are looking at funding for possible solutions to this, but Grants are in short supply and not easy to secure. See note below in Grants section.

Finance, staffing and related matters

Our treasurer, Bob Hayter, illustrated the serious effects the enforced closure is having on the club finances. Green fees down £1500, Bar £3400, League fees £6000, Vending Machines £150, Shirts, masks and accessories £500, School rent £7000, league subs £100, competition fees £150, when compared with last year. Total losses to date = £18800. This is offset in the main by a number of grants received which should help us to survive for at least until the end of the season.

It is hoped that we will be able to keep the club open until the end of April 2021 so that we can try to complete the league and competition program. This could be possible because it looks as if the School exams will be delayed by 3 weeks. This should not affect the outdoor season which doesn't start properly until May.

Grants and Funding update. Alan advised that our application to the Cooperative Community fund had been turned down. The competition for grants is really fierce and all we can do is to keep trying. Many grants come with a range of conditions so not all are suitable. Not many give out survival money. There is still one small grant application in progress with the Post Code Community Trust for £1000. **I have just heard today that this too has been declined!**

There are opportunities for funds available and in particular, grants for building improvements. Alan is concerned about 3 major areas of expenditure. The outside of the building and probably the roof badly needs repainting, the flat roof needs major repairs or replacing and we could take the opportunity to install a better air handling/ventilation system to improve air-flow. We are talking BIG money here. We will need estimates for the necessary work before he can make any application for a Grant.

This evoked a sharp reaction from one member who said there was no point in replacing the existing air handling system with another. Air conditioning was out of the question because of the cost. Installing 4 new fans would have the desired effect. Alan promised to liaise with this Director to decide what if any system would benefit the club. However, all is dependent on whether we get a grant or if we can find a wealthy benefactor!

Bob explained that the iZettle credit card system was in place and that 50% of our takings are now paid for in that way. This is better for the club and safer as we do not hold large amounts of cash on the premises and do not have to handle cash which could carry Coronavirus.

AEON are in the process of updating the club's computer so that all club documents are and will be stored in the cloud. AEON will also be working with Bob to develop our website and initial steps have been taken in this respect.

We now have new club email addresses: -

Info@iibc.uk
Secretary@iibc.uk
Bob.Hayter@iibc.uk
Alan.Jaye@iibc.uk

Bar duties - As yet we have not found a replacement for Iris Townsend although there is one possible candidate who has shown interest in helping out. Bob will pursue this when the club reopens and gets back to some sort of normality. If Bob receives no feedback, he will need to actively recruit to ensure we have bar cover at the weekends. The replacement bar person could be entitled to free membership at the Treasurers discretion.

The times to be covered are: - Saturday 1pm until 5pm and Sunday 11am until 4pm.

Bob advised that he had put Mo Leung and the cleaner on furlough and that he too will go on part time furlough. This should save the club around £2,000 a month but it also means that he will not be at the club on a daily basis.

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 visit the club and use our facilities. However, it has been agreed with Sported that the time is not right whilst Covid restrictions are in place. This item to be carried forward.

Membership Report

We recruited 27 new members from September and Bob has received several other enquiries even whilst closed. These will be followed up when we reopen. We now have 206 full men members, 68 full lady members and 26 social members. A total of 300 across all categories.

Alan expressed concern about keeping new members interested in playing and has been contacting them by email from time to time to encourage them to return to the club as soon as it reopens.

There was a lively debate about fees for 2021. Membership fees are the lifeblood of the club. No fees no, no members and no club! We are very aware that playing opportunities have been curtailed by the pandemic and we have to make a decision on whether we can reduce fees for 2021 to offset members' losses. As things stand, we will be asking members to pay the full fee of £75 for 2021 as agreed at the last AGM. The Management team are looking at incentives to encourage members to pay this amount. We (the MT) have all been asked to put forward ideas and if there is a viable financial incentive, this will be put to the members when the renewals go out early in December. Our fees at Ilford are considerably cheaper than Barking or Chigwell so £75 is not really too much to ask assuming we can reopen as soon as possible. No member should be penalised for not being able to afford to pay their fees but equally the club cannot survive without them.

Welfare Update

Sandra updated the MT about the condition of the following members: -

Ruth Barber who has to go back into hospital.
David Hoffman who had a pacemaker fitted.

Pam Mason who is recovering from complications brought on by the flu jab.

She also advised that Ricky Watson is now home and by all accounts is taking part in some bowls administration activities but not at Ilford.

She has completed a Safeguarding Course and course notes and guidance are available to any member on request. She will continue to monitor the policy on behalf of the club, when it reopens.

It was mentioned at the course that there might be a requirement for club coaches to apply for CRB checks if they wish to coach at our club (and any other by all accounts). No action on this to be taken at the moment.

Please let Sandra know if you hear of anyone who is unwell or struggling in this pandemic. If you hear of anyone who has passed away, we need to be informed and likewise good news is also welcomed.

**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

The Grand Re-opening and Public Open Day postponed to Sunday 10th October 2021.

At the moment, the Gala Day will still go ahead on the 13th February 2021. Bob will invite teams as before on the basis that if the event has to be cancelled, all monies will be returned. A final decision on whether to go ahead with this event will have to be made by the end of the year.

It is almost impossible to plan anything in advance. Who was to know the virus would take this long to control? There are no other events planned at the moment.

Health & Safety, Security, Alarms and Camera System

Lou Dightmaker reported that the cameras were not working at the moment and this is for the 3rd time this week. Bob to contact Bassons. The 'seriously big spider' seems to have returned to wreak havoc with camera 4.

He also queried the need to play with two mats at each end? Bob explained that this was an EIBA recommendation to stop any cross contamination and players had now got used to using a yellow jack with a yellow mat and white jack with a blue mat. The MT felt there was no benefit in changing this rule until restrictions are relaxed.

Defibrillator training - To be carried forward

All other Health and Safety issues were covered above.

Club Maintenance and Gardens

There was no time to discuss the following 3 matters so in brief: -

The roof leak above main hall was in the process of being repaired by Mark Newman and his company. Repairs are planned for Tuesday 10th November 2020. Tony Seago has agreed to attend site on that day.

Other leaks in the office and toilets had been identified and will need attention.

Thanks go to Steve, Eric, Ken and Tony for their continued and ongoing hard work to maintain the club in pristine condition.

The next carpet stretching date will be on 5th January 2021.

Our alarm security company ESS will be carrying out their annual service on the 5th December 2020.

Archives and Filing

The archiving and filing was virtually complete and any important documents will be scanned to the new cloud based computer system. Our thanks to Sandy Dron for his hard work in this respect.

Communication with members

We still 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.

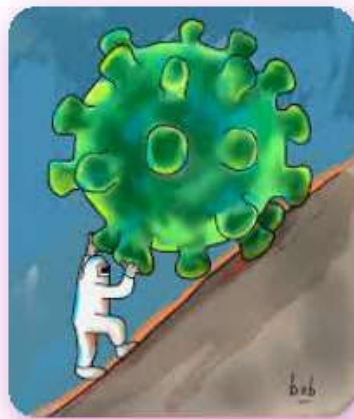
In the playing season we can print off items like fixture sheets, Newsletters and AGM Meeting agendas and such and leave these documents in your pigeon hole at the club. However, in the closed season, the only way we can communicate is by post and that is working out to be very expensive. It is therefore 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 so 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@iibc.uk or call him on 07505 171682 (office hours only please) 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.



Important Numbers

Club Telephone Number - 020 8597 6040

Club Email address - info@iibc.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 - Bob.Hayter@iibc.uk**

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 - Alan.Jaye@iibc.uk**

Acting Men's Captain - Ken Spicer - 07989 309114

