

Newsletter 12 - December 2020

Is anyone getting fed up with this virus thingy? I know, Let's talk about Brexit instead!!

As at the 19th December 2020



Once again, the coronavirus has done its best to destroy bowls at Ilford despite such a promising start in September and October. We were hoping that when we came out of full lockdown on the 2nd December, we would be able to resume bowls with at least 6 players per rink. Unfortunately we came out of the fireplace and into the fire and we found ourselves in tier 2. If that were not bad enough, with Covid cases rising exponentially (don't you just love that word?) we now find ourselves in Tier 3 with nowhere to go and no one to see!

When we went into Tier 2, many members pointed out that we could actually open for singles play and they were correct. After taking into account, the financial impact of opening at a 75% reduced capacity, we decided to run a trial to see what support we would get if we did open. The response was excellent and many players were keen to return. This was helped by Brian Yershon and Steve Klein running a singles league competition and booking out a good number of the available sessions.

We sent an email to all members setting out the details of the trial which saw the club open on weekdays from 10:15 to 16:45, Monday to Friday inclusive and until Wednesday 23rd December 2020.

As popular as this trial was, we were only filling about two thirds of all available sessions and that meant that we were running a very fine line between profit or loss. We have to be able to fill 80% - 90% or more of the 60 sessions in a full week and we were not achieving that figure. We have to have more support from you, our members, if we are to reintroduce the trial when we are eventually allowed to open again. We really understand that many of you do not feel safe enough to return to the club yet and all we can do is to assure you that we have done all we can to make the club as Covid secure as possible. Also, as you will only be playing with one other player, your social distancing should be easy to achieve. So if you feel you are ready to take the risk when the club re-opens, please book your roll up with Bob Hayter on 07505 171682 between 10:00 and 16:00 Monday to Friday only and please give 48 hours' notice if you want to play. If you need a further copy of the email I sent out with the full details of the trial, email me at alan.jaye@iibc.uk.

You should also have received your Membership Renewal Pack which was sent out to all members by email and posted to those members who do not have email addresses. You will see that we have made some generous concessions to members who have not been able to play for up to 11 weeks this year. These concessions will cost the club £4100 at a time when we are struggling to keep our heads above the water. As such we asked members for a voluntary donation to help bridge the gap. Once again we are amazed by your generosity and we sincerely thank you for supporting the club at this difficult time.

 If you have not already paid your fees, there are certain days (**see below**) when you can pay at the club by cash, cheque or credit card (preferred method) , or if this is not convenient, you can post or pay by bank transfer. The details are all in your Membership Pack and if you cannot find this in your messages, please email me at alan.jaye@iibc.uk. Please bear in mind that fees are due by the 31st December 2020. The Articles of Association do give members a two week leeway so you have until the 14th January 2021. Anyone wishing to rejoin after this date will have to pay the full fee for 2021, £75 Full Membership and £35 for current Social Members. 

If posting, please send to either

Mr Bob Hayter, 14 The Granary, Stanstead Abbots, Ware, Herts, SG12 8XH

Mr Alan Jaye 87 Boleyn Court, Epping New Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, IG9 7UF

With the year end approaching, I wanted to pay special thanks to all members who have voluntarily helped out at the club during this difficult year carrying out a multitude of different jobs including painting and decorating, roof repairs, maintenance, gardening, white lining, administration, cleaning, sanitising, health and safety, bar duties, coaching and numerous other jobs which would otherwise have cost the club dearly. These women and gents have devoted hours of their time to help keep the club in pristine condition and ready to re-open at short notice. We are most fortunate to have these members on our team and they deserve all the accolades we can throw at them.

I also want to thank my fellow Directors and the Management Team who likewise devote their time for the good of the club and help to maintain our position as THE centre of excellence for indoor lawn bowls in the Redbridge and surrounding areas.

Finally, I will mention just one person by name without whom, this club would struggle to function. ~~I am a very modest person and I do not usually ... oops sorry wrong person~~ that person being our Club manager and treasurer, Bob Hayter. This is a man who devotes sometimes 40 hours a week to the club, then goes home, and starts again. He is a true gem and a gentleman and this club owes him a debt of gratitude, which can never be repaid. ~~Have I spelt this paragraph right Bob? Your writing was a bit difficult to understand.~~

In conclusion, I think we will all be pleased to see the back of 2020 particularly those of you who have lost loved ones or friends or have suffered from Coronavirus physically or mentally. Our love and best wishes go to all our members and we sincerely hope that with a vaccine now in production, 2021 will be a much better year for us all.

On behalf of the Board and Management Team, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Take care, keep safe and we look forward to seeing you all back on our new green, in the very near future.



News from the Boardroom

Membership and Fees for 2021

The fees were set and the full membership fee for 2021 is £75 (**Social Membership - £35.00**) as agreed at the last AGM. However, as stated above, the Management Team agreed to reduce the fees for 2021 to £60 per full member and to £30 for social members. This is conditional on fees being paid by the 14th January 2021 after which time, the full fee will become due.

Members will be asked to help support the club through these difficult times by adding a voluntary donation of at least £15 to help reduce the shortfall. As a thank you for paying the extra donation, there will be a **thank you draw** at the next AGM and members paying £75 (**£35**) or more will be entered automatically. The prize(s) will be a year's free membership, either full or social, in 2022.

New members report

Bob Hayter reported that even with current restrictions, three new members have been signed up for 2021.

Members not re-joining.

Several members have advised that they will not be re-joining for a variety of reasons. Letters of thanks have been sent to Monica Balham, Christine Bartle, Elizabeth Batchelor, Sue Meredith, Betty Kaye, Val Robertson and Salvatore Bruno.

Fee progress and donations report by Bob Hayter

39% of members have already paid their fees for 2021. Of 118 responses, 94 members have donated a minimum of £15 (**£5**) in addition to the £60 (**£30**) annual fee. Our thanks go out to all members for their continues support

In monetary terms, fees paid = £6645, donations circa £2000 which is an average payment of £74.62 per member across the board.

Re-opening arrangements (subject to restrictions)

The club found a way to reopen but for singles play only. We should not lose our grant as we have had to ADAPT the way we operate and as such, we should be covered.

Only single play was allowed, reducing our playing capacity to just 25%.

The bar was open for tea, coffee and light snacks only. No alcohol.

Thanks to Brian Yershon and Steve Yershon who set up and administered a singles play league at short notice, bringing in income of £350.

A good percentage of the available rinks were taken up which meant the club just about broke even but should we reintroduce this trial in 2021, we need to fill more of the slots.

Bowls committee members are encouraged to follow suit and arrange their own mini leagues through Bob Hayter or ask their team members to organise events on these lines.

The club was forced to close again when the LB Redbridge was placed in Tier 3 on the 16th December.

There will be regular government reviews and any changes will be relayed to the MT and the members as soon as details are known.

Revised Playing Arrangements - When the club re-opens,

As things stood in Tier 2, the playing arrangements were as follows:

Roll ups were by appointment only giving 48 hours' notice.

Bookings had to be made through Bob but only between 10:00 and 16:00 Monday to Friday.

The club was only be open between 10:15 and 16:45.

There were 3 sessions per day on all four rinks, Monday to Friday only.

*Only single play or family bubbles was allowed.
Strict social distancing had to be observed at all times.
It was essential that everyone booked in and out on each visit.*

However, these arrangements will be reviewed once we know how many people are allowed to play at any one time as we have to maximise the playing numbers to ensure opening the club is viable.

Masks must be worn at all times except when actually bowling, eating, or drinking in the lounge.

When the club re-opens, Bob Hayter to review the Social distancing rules.

Masks, visors and shields still available for sale at the club.

Finance, Staffing and related matters

Bob Hayter advised that the balance at bank was still quite healthy at the moment, bolstered by the Government Grants and early receipt of fees for 2021. However, the financial impact on club has been very serious and it is only because of fantastic financial control by our Treasurer, the grant monies received and the generosity of the members that our bank balance is as good as it is. This money and any money received for membership is all we can realistically rely on to carry us through the year. We cannot rely on the school hiring the playing area until a decision is made about exams in 2021.

Bob Hayter has sold off some of the beer stock at cost as this product goes off.

Extra revenue has been raised by renting car park space to a local Taxi Company at £5 per cab per week, generating £150 a month.

Bob Hayter will update the budget for next 6 months at the end of the financial year.

Alan Jaye advised that two applications for small grants had been turned down. He is always on the lookout for grant opportunities but grants now come with so many conditions that it is almost impossible to find something suitable without strings attached.

Alan Jaye is in contact with Camdon with a view to getting a grant to improve our ventilation. This would only proceed if we could get a substantial contribution towards the costs.

All our staff are on furlough or part time furlough and Government Furlough and Restricted Operations Grants are now being received.

Bar staffing at the club will be reviewed when the club re-opens.

Computers, Network, Social Media and Website

The new hosted computer installation is now almost complete and seems to be working well.

The Club's new club website is taking shape nicely and can be viewed by logging on to [HTTPS://iibc.uk](https://iibc.uk)

If any member wants to add anything to the site, please advise Bob Hayter and he will make the amendments/additions for you.

Events

It was with regret that a decision was made to cancel the Gala Day in February 2021.

A decision on whether to hold the Grand Reopening Event in October 2021 will be delayed until the end of the playing season in April 2021.

Alan Jaye asked Bob Hayter if it might be possible to arrange one of his famous quizzes to be held by Zoom? Bob advised he would look into this but there could not be any prizes, it would have to be a fun event only.

Welfare Update

Sandra Dupuy advised that our member Jim Stone had sadly passed away. Condolences have been sent to his family by Bob Hayter.

Ruth Barber is making good progress and her scans are now clear. She is still undergoing chemotherapy.

Sandra Dupuy herself and her family have all tested positive for Covid and we wish her well.

Steve Simpson advised that Lou Dightmaker had a heart attack recently and is to have a heart operation/procedure at Bart's next week. The MT wish him a speedy recovery.

The MT send Darrell Witek their best wishes, as he has been unwell over the past few weeks.

There were reports, as yet unconfirmed, that our member Jeff Abrahams has had a leg amputated. Bob Hayter to confirm.

Colin Bond reported that Marion Bond is making good progress and is slowly getting back to full fitness. We all wish her well.

League and Fixtures Update

Friendly matches will be cancelled as necessary or if the visiting club advise us that they cannot fulfil the fixtures. Harry Musaphia and Pat Brown to advise Bob Hayter of all cancellations.

Pat Brown advised that all ladies friendlies had already been cancelled.

Bowls committee reps need to be thinking of ideas to regenerate interest in the leagues and matches as soon as restrictions are eased. New forms of competitions, friendly matches, singles leagues, different formats etc.

Health & Safety, Social Distancing and security

Lou Dightmaker was unavailable due to poor health but sent the following remarks to Steve Simpson

"When bowls resumes, players should be advised not to lick their fingers after touching bowls or playing equipment. There is a definite risk of catching the virus if they continue to do this. Players should be reminded to move around the rinks in a clockwise direction and should always try to keep a 2 metre distance from any other players."

Camera 4 is still overworking. Bob Hayter advised that this camera is particularly sensitive but that it would be costly to replace. Better it is too sensitive than not sensitive enough.

Lou Dightmaker asked do we need two mats and four jacks? Sandy Dron advised that this is an EIBA requirement and is not, at the moment, negotiable.

Bob Hayter to consider revising and strengthening the Social Distancing Rules after restrictions eased.

It was reported that some of the hand sanitisers were not working properly. Steve Simpson advised that some had been turned off during the lockdown and others had become clogged due to lack of use. All will be 'serviced' when the club re-opens.

Temperature taking at entrance and registration. This must be enforced when the club re-opens. How to enforce this is the problem.

Club Maintenance & Gardening

Steve Simpson advised that estimates had been received to paint the exterior paintwork on the school side. Three quotes were obtained and a company has been offered the contract at a cost of £1500. Work will start in the spring of 2021.

Eric Brown added that further estimates had been obtained to paint the remainder of the exterior cladding. Alan Jaye had indicated that he might be able to obtain a grant to cover these costs but that there were too many conditions attached. It was agreed that we should see how the initial work goes and consider the other sides of the building when the pandemic is over and we start to return to normal.

Bob Hayter advised that Tony Seago had painted several areas in the club. All the doors have been glossed, the back wall painted and the changing rooms touched up. Two leaks in the roof have been identified and Eric Brown and Tony Seago are working to seal the two holes found. After testing, the damaged ceiling tiles will be replaced.

Bob Hayter advised that Tony Seago had purchased a very strong weed killer and that this seemed to be the most effective solution to our ongoing weed problem.

Carpet stretching date is still on for 5/1/21.

Our President, Pat Brown along with the entire MT expressed thanks to ALL the officers and members who had helped throughout the year and worked tirelessly to keep the club running and in pristine condition through these difficult and darkest of times. In particular, Bob Hayter, Eric Brown, Steve Simpson, Tony Seago, Alan Jaye and Ken Spicer.

Any other business

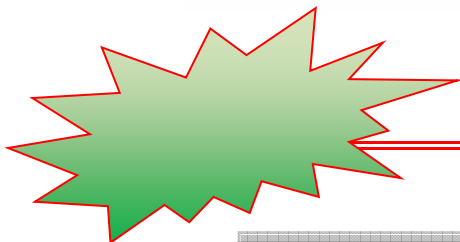
Steve Simpson advised that the old benches had now been removed.

Christmas and New Year's greetings were exchanged and Sandy Dron closed the meeting at 9:00 pm

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

**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 now even more dangerous so be
alert, wash your hands regularly, stay safe and socially
distance wherever you can.



Let us all pray that the vaccine lives up
to all our expectations and that the end
of this nightmare is in sight!

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

