



Newsletter 13 - January 2021



As at the 31st January 2021

So a month into 2021 and we still have no idea as to when we might be allowed to open again. With the case numbers and deaths still extremely high in London and the home counties the outlook for indoor bowls is depressingly bleak. However, the Management Team continue to tread water in the background and should the OK be given, we will be ready to re-open at a day or two's notice. What the playing formats will be or what new restrictions the Government might impose are yet to be seen.

We (the Management Team) want to thank you all for supporting the club in these difficult times. We want you all to return to bowls as soon as we are open and you feel safe enough to venture out. We really appreciate that you might not feel ready just yet and that you are reluctant to pay fees up front with no immediate chance of bowling. If you do decide to wait, we will welcome you back to the club later in the year when things hopefully get back to normal. I have to express special thanks to the 68% of members who have offered financial support and have renewed their membership and to those members who have added a voluntary donation in addition to the fees. This means such a lot to the future of the club and gives us every hope of surviving the financial impact and in fact coming through this nightmare with all flags flying. If you are still undecided, you still have until the 14th February 2021 to pay your subscription and benefit from the 2021 discount. You will also be entitled to a substantial discount off of 2022 fees and could be included in a thank you draw in April if you top up your membership fee by £15. For those who are still not convinced, we still want to see you back and the fees for joining later in the year are set out later in this Newsletter.

Having been in the throes of this pandemic for almost a year now, we have to offer a word or two of support for any members who has been effected in any way by the Coronavirus or indeed have lost dear ones from this or other illnesses. Our condolences go to you all and if the club can support you in any way, please do not hesitate to ask, even if it is just for a friendly chat. Sandra, our Welfare Director, Bob and I are at the end of a telephone and we are recruiting to the Management Team, members who we hope will take a more active role in contacting our members and ensuring that they are well looked after. Contact numbers are at the end of this Newsletter.

It is not all doom and gloom. This Government has at last done something right and our vaccination program is one of the best in the world. If you are eligible and have not had your vaccine already, PLEASE do not delay. Get yours as soon as possible and if you do not know what to do, please dial 119. The vaccine is not a magic cure but it will afford us some immunity which means it could stop us getting seriously ill and dying from this plague.

Bob Hayter will be contacting all Team Captains within the next few weeks to ask them to set up their teams for the 21/22 season starting in September. The good news is that there will be no league fees in 2021/22 and even new teams will not have to pay an entrance fee. Team Captains should bear in mind that they cannot name any player in their team who has not renewed their membership by the 14th February so please make sure that your team members are still members of the club when completing your application. You will be allowed to add players later in the season if they re-join.

We have had an amazing response from members who want to join our Management Team. I will be discussing this with the Directors and I hope we will be able to harness all interested parties and give them a role on which they can focus, for the benefit of the club. I will be in touch with those members in the near future.

News from the Boardroom

Membership and Fees for 2021 and 2022

Annual fee payment cut-off date for 2021 has been extended to the 14th February 2021.

Members not paying their fees by the 14th February, and assuming that the club is open for bowls, will have to pay £15 a month or part month, up to a maximum of £75, **but they will not be eligible for any discount in 2022.**

It was agreed that the fees for 2022 be discounted by a **significant** amount in 2022 for any member who paid their 2021 fees by the 14th February 2021. The actual figures cannot be calculated until we are out of lockdown.

Lapsed Social Members will unfortunately not be allowed to re-join as Social Members later in the year. This class of membership was abolished for new members in 2019. They of course are welcome to upgrade to Full Membership.

It was agreed that we should still have a thank you draw in April. 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.

The subject of incentives for new members was discussed and a free coaching suggestion was agreed. The MT should also focus on ideas to encourage new members to return such as a "Newbies' League" or competition.

Bob Hayter advised that as of the 29/1/21 there were 24 members who have told us they will not be re-joining yet and a further 66 who have not responded to our appeals. 46 men, 10 women and 10 social members.

A proposal by AJ, seconded by AD to raise full fees for 2022 to £80, (£40 social), from the 1st January 2022. This was approved and will be included in the Notice of AGM.

It was agreed that we should have a general Memorial Page in the next Handbook in memory of all those members and their families who have passed away from any cause during 2020/21.

Further to a suggestion from EB, it was agreed to try to introduce summer bowls for 2021. Several suggestions were made as to how this could be done. Bob Hayter will review the costs and work on some ideas with EB and AJ and a formal proposal will be put forward at the next MT Meeting. If summer bowls goes ahead, it was agreed that we would not charge extra membership fees but the green fee might rise to £4/£5 for the summer period only. The amount to be agreed at next meeting.

Finance, Staffing and related matters

Bob Hayter advised that the current bank balance remained healthy thanks to membership fees and donations received to date, further grants, furlough money and a VAT refund received. Bob Hayter explained that whilst this was healthy balance, there would be no significant income into the club until at least September 2021. He went on to present a revised budget forecast to the members illustrating the areas where we are suffering most and where savings have been made. Copies of this forecast could be made available to MT members on request. Overall, we are set to make a loss of between £25k and £30k in 2021 and much will depend on when we are allowed to reopen.

It is highly unlikely that the school will hire our facilities in 2021. Bob Hayter pointed out that the school have a 10-year rolling agreement to hire our hall in the summer.

Alan Jaye explained that he searches for Grant opportunities on a weekly basis but nearly all grants come with a caveat and are usually linked to what we can provide for the less fortunate in

the community. He has not found anything that would cover day-to-day running costs but is looking at opportunities to cover major expenditure and repairs, so far without success.

Bob Hayter advised that we are receiving money from the Government's Furlough and Restricted Operations Grant schemes.

We continue to receive some income from the taxis parked in car park.

Events for 2021 and 2022

It was agreed to postpone the Gala Day until 2022. Exact date to be agreed later.

The sponsorship arrangement with Toyota Woodford will be carried forward until the Gala day in 2022.

It was agreed to postpone the Grand Re-opening until September 2022. Exact date to be agreed later.

It was suggested that maybe we could have a Memorial Day event for the victims of Covid or a NHS Charity Day Event, when the club reopens or in 2022. This was agreed in principle and will be carried forward to future meetings.

We need everyone to come up with suggestions for functions and events for when we are allowed to re-open.

Charity and Fundraising

It was agreed that we should continue to support NHS Charities Together as our charity for the 2021/22 season, subject to membership approval at the next AGM.

It was explained that any member who renews before the 14th February 2021 and donates at least £15 would automatically be included on the Members' page in the next Handbook. Other members can place an entry at a cost per entry of £15.

Commercial sponsors who contributed towards the 2020/2021 Handbook will get automatic inclusion in the next handbook at no additional cost.

Leagues for 2021/2022

AD proposed, AJ seconded and it was agreed that there would be no league fees for teams entering the leagues in the 21/22 season. Bob Hayter pointed out and it was agreed that, to encourage more teams to join, even new teams joining the leagues in 2021/2022 would not have to pay the league fee of £10 per team.

Bob Hayter to contact all league captains to ask them to complete league registration forms. Players who have not renewed by the 14th February cannot be included in leagues for the 2021/2022 season. However, if they re-join they can play in the leagues.

There was no County or EIBA News.

All friendlies now been cancelled. However, if we are allowed to re-open in March/April we might still be able to host a match or two.

Ideas to consider and develop.

Newbies' League or competition.

Bowlathon

Round Robin competition

Bowls committee reps should be thinking of ideas to regenerate interest in the leagues and matches as soon as restrictions are eased. New forms of competitions, friendly matches, different formats. MT to give this serious thought and bring proposals to the next MT meeting.

Welfare Update

SD advised that since the last meeting, Brian Church, Sid Kirsh, and Jack Matthews's daughter Michelle had passed away. Condolences have been sent to the families.

The following all seem to be recovering from various medical problems: Lou Jacobs, Jeff Abrahams, Tricia Hughes and Ruth Barber. Also good to hear first-hand that Brian and Irene Powell are also recovering from Covid 19 and we wish them all well.

There was no other news to report.

Members are asked to let Sandra know if they hear of any member in distress or unwell. We would also be delighted to hear any GOOD news too.

Health & Safety, Social Distancing and security

AJ advised that he had received an email from LD and that there were no Health & Safety Issues.

There are some serious problems with our ageing and almost obsolete camera system. Bob Hayter, LD and AJ to discuss replacing.

Club Maintenance & Gardening

SS advised that an order had been placed to re-paint the school side of the club that is badly weathered. Work to be programmed for spring 2021.

EB advised that between him, SS and Tony Seago, many internal repairs and redecorations had been carried out. The MT expressed their appreciation for all this hard work.

EB advised that two holes had been identified in the roof and had now been repaired.

Gardens and car park. Nothing to report.

Carpet stretching date postponed to September 2021. Bob Hayter to rearrange date.

EB advised that the boiler system serving the changing rooms was playing up. It is at least 17 years old. EB to seek quotes for replacement.

Bob Hayter advised that our five fire exit doors were in poor condition and will get quotes for replacement. KS has a contact who might be able to quote and will liaise with Bob Hayter.

Bob Hayter will also get quotes to replace the carpet surrounding the green and in the corridors.

Any other business

EB advised that he had several ideas to attract new team members. Bob Hayter to discuss with EB and arrange a Zoom meeting between EB, AJ and Bob Hayter, when convenient. They will report at next MT meeting.

AJ to investigate the cost of upgrading Zoom to the Pro version as it is so disruptive having a 40-minute time restriction. Other meeting apps should also be considered.

AGM 2021

Reminder - Ladies Section AGM - will be held by Zoom at 10:00 on Sunday 7th March 2021

PB to prepare and circulate agenda and nominations list. AJ and Bob Hayter to assist PB where possible.

Reminder - Men's Section AGM - will be held by Zoom at 19:00 on Friday 12th March 2021

AJ is already preparing Agenda and nominations list for the Men's Section meeting and will circulate ASAP.

Reminder - 2021 AGM. Will be held by Zoom at 10:00 on Sunday 11th April 2021.

AD reminded the team that in accordance with the Articles of Association, three Directors namely, Steve Simpson, Eric Brown and Philip Fagelson will retire by rotation and can stand for re-election.

Steve Simpson and Phil Fagelson agreed to stand again. Eric Brown will consider and advise if he will re-stand.

AD also advised that according to the Articles of Association, we are obliged to have 10 Directors and we currently only have nine.

Notice of AGM Meeting to be sent out by AJ by the 14th March 2021 along with Nominations for Directors and Officers form.

If anyone on the MT team wishes to stand as a Director or if they know of any member who wants to stand as a Director or officer of the club can they please encourage that member to contact Bob or Alan for further information.

Reports by Chairman, President, Ladies Secretary, Treasurer, Club Manager, Secretary, Gents Secretary, Ladies Captain and Gents Captain to be received **in writing** by the 11th March at the latest.

Proposal by AJ to hold next AGM by Zoom or Google Teams.

Date of Next Management Team Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:26 and all members were thanked for attending.

Date of next MT meeting will be **Thursday 4th March 2021 at 19:30 by Zoom** or other means.



**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.

Oh, and get vaccinated if and when you can!

The IIBC Winning Bowls Team 2019/2020 Season



The Great Realisation, by Tom Roberts

'Tell me the one about the virus again, then I'll go to bed.

'But my boy, you're growing weary, sleepy thoughts about your head.

'Please! That one's my favourite. I promise just once more.

'Okay, snuggle down my boy, though I know you know full well
The story starts before then, in a world I once dwelled

'It was a world of waste and wonder, of poverty and plenty
Back before we understood why hindsight's 2020

'You see the people came up with companies to trade across all lands.
But they swelled and got bigger than we could ever have planned

'We'd always had our wants, but now it got so quick.

You could have everything you dreamed of in a day and with a click.

'We noticed families had stopped talking. That's not to say they never spoke.

But the meaning must have melted and the work life balance broke.

'And the children's eyes got squarer and every toddler had a phone.

They filtered out the imperfections but amidst the noise, they felt alone.

'And every day the sky grew thicker, til we couldn't see the stars.

So we flew in planes to find them while down below we filled our cars.

'We'd drive around all day in circles. We'd forgotten how to run.

We swapped the grass for tarmac, shrunk the parks till there were none.

'We filled the sea with plastic cause our waste was never capped.

Until each day when you went fishing, you'd pull them out already wrapped.

'And while we drank and smoked and gambled, our leaders taught us why,
It's best to not upset the lobbies, more convenient to die.

'But then in 2020, a new virus came our way.

The government reacted and told us all to hide away.

'But while we were all hidden, amidst the fear and all the while,
The people dusted off their instincts, they remembered how to smile.

'They started clapping to say thank you, and calling up their mums.
'And while the cars keys were gathering dust, they would look forward to their runs.

'And with the sky less full of planes, the earth began to breathe.
And the beaches brought new wildlife that scattered off into the seas.

'Some people started dancing, some were singing, some were baking.
We'd grown so used to bad news but some good news was in the making.

'And so when we found the cure and were allowed to go outside,

We all preferred the world we found to the one we'd left behind.

Old habits became extinct, and they made way for the new.
And every simple act of kindness was now given its due.

'But why did it take a virus to bring the people back together?'
Well, sometimes, you got to get sick, my boy, before you start feeling better.

'Now lie down, and dream of tomorrow, and all the things that we can do.
And who knows, maybe if you dream strong enough, make some of them will come true.

'We now call it the Great Realisation, and yes, since then there have been many.
'But that's the story of how it started, and why hindsight's 2020.'



THE FUTURE
DEPENDS
ON WHAT
YOU DO IN
THE PRESENT

www.bitofclarity.com

Important Numbers

Club Telephone Number - 020 8597 6040

Club Email address - info@iibc.uk

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Club Chairman & Membership Secretary - Sandy Dron - 01708 347492

**Club Manager, Treasurer, Competitions Secretary and League Secretary -
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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

