



NEWS FROM THE CHAIR JUNE 2021

I start this mailing with some good news for our members, the directors and committee have held a meeting in the last week and have decided that in fairness to existing members their membership will be extended from 31st August 2021 to 31st January 2022 making up for all Covid shutdown periods. Any member that decided to defer coming back to bowling due to Covid earlier in the year can still just pay the £30 renewal fee and be covered until 31st Jan 2022.

Another good news item is that until we can hold an AGM it has been decided to allow all full members to be allowed to bowl both indoors and outdoors provided, they currently pre book (due to Covid restrictions) and pay the relevant rink fees. (£2 outdoors and £4 indoors)

The club are looking to changing the membership rules and fees at the AGM to only have full and social members with full members being able to bowl both indoors and outdoors for just one membership fee, currently they must pay a membership for each discipline.

Unfortunately, Covid prevented the holding of an AGM last year and until rules change to allow 50+ people to gather indoors we are still prevented from holding one, 50 being the minimum number required for a quorum at an AGM. Any changes required to the Constitution and/or Club Rules made during and due to the pandemic will be put forward as resolutions at the next AGM for members to vote on if still applicable.

We are pleased to announce that the Summer Leagues are now up and running and the pre- booked roll ups are becoming increasingly popular each week as members feel more confident in returning to bowling. If you are a member that has yet to return and wish to see for yourselves how we have set the club up to be as safe as possible please do just pop in during a session.

As announced previously under current rules you can now use your lockers, but not change in the changing rooms, all changing of shoes must be done in the staging area temporarily set up in the refurbished function room. Hopefully, you will notice that your locker door has been cleaned and a new name label has been provided, if it is wrong or blank, please write your name on it and we will provide a corrected one.

Whilst closed we have carried out a clean-up of the access card database and consequently if your card for whatever reason is not registered to you then it will probably not work, just come to the office and we will sort it out.

Members have asked about the café which is currently closed. We hope to open selling teas and coffees once the volunteers have been through a Food Safety course run by Peterborough College. We are waiting for them to supply dates. Larger events will be covered using outside caterers.

Many thanks to Sam and a small team of volunteers who have refurbished several areas of our club including the function room whilst we were closed.

Maurice has also been actively making and following up grant applications along with liaising with our insurers to get them to pay against our business interruption policy. They keep putting different requests for information to us, perhaps just trying to wear us down and to prevent them paying out, even though they lost a high court case.

He also consulted the Council over our rates and managed to get a good response and a larger discount than we had previously obtained.

I wish to thank him publicly for all the extra work and hours put in each day on our behalf.

You may be wondering how the club stands financially. Thankfully, the government grants over the shutdown periods means that we are in a good position but with obviously depleted reserves. The club is not in any immediate financial difficulties and hopefully now we are open again we can start to build

up our reserves to cover future large expenses e.g. new bowls carpet, re-roofing of club etc...

Like most bowls' clubs in the country our future depends on attracting new members both young and old. If you have any ideas on how to achieve this, please let Martin Bunning know.

If you know of anyone that would like to try the skill of bowls, please encourage them to contact Maurice. The coaches intend to restart training courses in August 2021, and they will now consist of a 6-week set course followed by additional help if needed.

Currently the club has 3 coaches but would like to expand the group, so anyone that is interested in becoming a coach please speak to Tony.