



CLUB UPDATE

An Update to members from your Board

New Members

We are delighted to have received four new member applications since we re-opened. Details are on the club Noticeboard as usual.

Book a Table

Your restaurant is up and running, offering a standard menu plus daily specials. You can reserve a table anytime simply by phoning the club on 01732 771262.

Can you help?

Our volunteers have done a terrific job in clearing our grounds after months of lock-down. As a result, we now have a number of large builders bags full of garden waste sitting in the car park!

If you can help us get these moved on to a tip please let us know in the usual way. Thankyou!

Revised Opening Times

The Club's revised opening hours are; Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 10.30pm, Saturday 9am to 5.30pm, Sunday 9am to 3pm.

Juniors

It's great to see the juniors back in the club. They are meeting at their usual 5.30pm Saturday slot.

Up and running!

We are delighted that our club is up and running again!

We have pairs and triples leagues starting next week and various 'turn up and play' sessions already underway. Thanks to all the volunteers who are arranging these activities.

The 'turn up and play' sessions are at Sunday morning (11.30am start) and Thursday afternoon (2.30pm start). All 6 rinks have been booked out for these sessions to enable safe distancing.

Covid Guidance

In the meantime, updates have been made to the club's covid related Member Guidance. Reflecting experience to date. Please see your website for details of these changes.

Additional Covid Safety Measures

The club has recently invested in two additional covid related safety measures.

The first is an indoor commercial fumigator. We will use this to deep clean the club from top to bottom whenever required.

The second is entry door thermometers. These will read the temperature of everyone entering the club and provide an alert should an excessive temperature be measured. These are being used increasingly in various settings across the country and provide us with yet further protection to staff, volunteers and fellow members. Further guidance on their use will be published when they are installed.

Financial Outlook

The club is targeting to cut ongoing costs by circa £35,000 per annum as a result of the staffing restructure.

This will be a significant step in securing the financial viability of your club as we go through the next difficult 12 months and beyond.

We will also be taking steps to improve the club's financial resilience to further periods of enforced closure, should that happen again, or continued restricted opening hours.

Key to the club's financial health, however, will be to have it being used by as many members as possible through the coming winter.

We will look to our Bowling Committee to re-structure our winter activities as necessary to provide you with maximum bowling opportunities. Particularly in light of the expected reduction in county and national competitions.

The directors will then sensibly manage the club's opening hours to match member demand, with an ambition to return to full 7 day a week opening hours as soon as viable to do so.

How can you help?

In the meantime, the best thing we can all do to help out as members is to use the club (if we feel it appropriate to do so).

We have made every effort to make the club a safe place for our members to play bowls, eat, drink and socialise in.

By using the club we will ensure it is still there for us when the current difficult times are behind us.

Club Staffing Restructure

It will come as no surprise that club activity levels are much reduced on pre-covid levels. As directors, we must also now prepare the club for a likely prolonged period of continued reduced income.

At the same time it is only reasonable that we defer membership renewals until the situation regarding covid becomes more predictable.

Up to this point the club has been able to cope with the resulting sharp drop in income by placing all staff on furlough, by utilising all available government grants and by stopping all unnecessary services.

Unfortunately this financial support will be exhausted very shortly. It is then necessary for us to take additional positive action to reduce the club's ongoing cost base. If we do not take such steps the club will run out of money very quickly (within a year or two depending on member usage levels).

The directors have considered a number of options to reduce the club's ongoing cost base and already implemented many, including temporary restriction of the use of the air-conditioning. It is, however, now necessary to reduce the club's ongoing staff costs, which is our largest single outgoing.

The directors have thus initiated a staff consultation process which will see the amalgamation of the currently distinct bar and office roles into single "club steward" roles. The club stewards will look after both the bar and the day to day running of the club house and grounds.

This restructure is made possible by the club's previous investment in modern systems, which enables more utilisation of volunteers, particularly around office functions.

This is, of course, a difficult time for our staff and, whilst they will all have an opportunity to apply for the new roles, it inevitably adds to the uncertainties created by the pandemic.

It is a regrettable but necessary action for the club to take to ensure the financial survival your club.

Bernard, Matthew, Neil and Paul

