



Newsletter February 2021

Hi Everyone,

We hope this Newsletter finds you and your families safe and well.

It seems a long time since we were all bowling in our leagues and competitions without any knowledge of Coronavirus or what was ahead of us all. When the pandemic became a reality and 'Lockdowns' were introduced, some of us made the decision to take a year out and not bowl until the next season when it was anticipated that normality would return.

With all Leagues and County competitions cancelled, once lockdown restrictions were eased, the decision was made to arrange 'The Lockdown Pairs' competition (good suggestion Age) which was open to all members. This allowed the playing of bowls again with a competitive edge and random pairs being drawn each week. It was great to see Andy filming Age and Sharon drawing the balls (just like Crouchy drawing the FA Cup!) See facebook for videos. The rinks were also made available to any members who wished to have a roll up. The rinks were allocated by Joy (the Clerk) Kent. Most importantly, it gave huge mental relief and physical exercise to those who took part by providing a weekly social event within the safety of our Club. A COVID-19 Safe System with strict rules was implemented to minimise risks and worked very well, 'The Lockdown Pairs' was a huge success and enjoyed by those who entered, together with spectators alike.

Towards the end of last season the Club saw some changes to the Committee, which is continuing to operate throughout the closed season by holding monthly meetings via 'Zoom'. At the Club, we are also fortunate to have a hardy band of volunteers who have turned out in numbers throughout the year to keep the green and its surroundings in good condition. The green is in great shape, with more ongoing improvements and ideas already planned.

At this time, we cannot say whether our Leagues and County matches will take place. However, we have a proven method of safely holding competitions and we anticipate playing 'The Lockdown Pairs' and also introducing more in-house competitions in order to encourage members to keep active and entertained as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

A recent communication, received from Bowls England, advises that The British Isles Bowls Council (BIBC) and British Isles Women's Bowls Council (BIWBC) have announced the cancellation of all International events for the 2021 season. The decision reflects the challenges related to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and has been made to enable more grassroots bowlers to enjoy the sport this summer.

Domestically they remain confident that, thanks to the rollout of the vaccine and their experience from the last season of bowling taking place in a COVID-friendly manner, people will be out playing in England at an early date. They are still planning for a full competitive season including National Competitions and Championships. However, they are working on a number of contingencies should there be a need to delay the start date. The cancellation of the British Isles events will provide opportunity for more flexibility in the calendar should the need arise.

Bowls England also recognise that it is important to provide opportunities for new people to try the sport and enjoy its many physical and social benefits, and are continuing work on the first-ever National Open Weekend from Friday 28th to Monday 31st May. Bowls was one of the first sports

to 'open' in 2020 and they will be working with clubs to help people get back to bowls and welcome newcomers into the sport.

The Committee hope you will all join us once more in the coming season.

As this is our first newsletter, it would be great to receive any constructive feedback, together with any suggestions for future issues. Of course, please check out our website and Facebook page for any publications, i.e. Meeting Minutes, etc.....

Spring will soon be upon us and our vaccines offer so much hope for the future, so please all stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all again on the green very soon.

With best wishes from all your Committee

