



MARKET HARBOROUGH CONSERVATIVE BOWLS CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Spring/21

Introduction

Welcome to the spring edition of our bowls club newsletter, continuing to keep you up to date with club news and developments as we finally see some light at the end of the tunnel during these extraordinary times. As the excitement builds approaching the resumption of organised outdoor sport, our thoughts turn to how we can return to bowls remaining within government guidelines. Your committee held a conference call to develop a safe return to bowls plan for the forthcoming season.

As you know we returned to bowls after lockdown one closely following Bowls England guidance and we intend to adopt the same strategy when we return after the latest lockdown. At the time of producing this newsletter, Bowls England guidance is yet to be published so, at this stage the following are our aspirations that will be subject to detailed guidance published by Bowls England when this becomes available. Once this guidance is published we will produce a further newsletter to confirm opening arrangements.

The Green & Opening Date

We are now into year 3 of our 3 year green improvement plan and we are pleased to advise you that we have completed our autumn, winter and spring maintenance programmes, since the green was closed last year, during this latest lockdown period. Therefore we are confident that the playing surface will be even better than last year.

It is our intention to reopen the green on the 12th of April.

2021 Fixtures

Sadly we have had confirmation from the league that there will be no league fixtures this year but it may be possible to run the Springer Cup competition. However, we do have a full friendly fixture list for the season and we are currently going through the process of confirming all these fixtures subject to Bowls England guidance.

In addition we also intend to organise a number of internal competitions and a league along with the return of the popular Thursday rollups (15/04/21) Contact K Waterworth. So, watch this space, there's plenty to look forward to.

Playing Arrangements

At this stage we envisage that arrangements will be very similar to last year, certainly to begin with. As restrictions ease we will be able to return to our more familiar playing arrangements.

- A maximum of 3 rinks open at any one time
- Rinks must be pre booked by telephone, a maximum of one week in advance. Bookings will be taken by Kevin Waterworth 07799 191461.
- Rink availability will be managed as previously, with maximum playing times restricted to 1hr 40mins in any 2hr period, to allow for arrivals and departures.
- The pavilion and main club premises will remain closed so please arrive ready to play.
- The one way access system must be observed.
- There will be no furniture surrounding the green or bowls accessories available, i.e. mats, jacks, pushers.
- Social distancing must be adhered to and hand sanitiser used.
- All players must be members of the MHCBC
- No visitors or spectators permitted.

These arrangements will be confirmed once we have had the opportunity to review Bowls England guidance.

MHCBC Finances – Membership Fees

As a club our two main sources of income are the Sunday raffle and membership fees. These income streams have ceased for a year and expenditure has exhausted our contingency fund. The issue of membership fees was discussed at length by the committee the results of these discussions were unanimous agreement that we should continue to follow 2020 Bowls England's advice on this issue, extract as follows;

'Funding (including Club Loans and encouraging bowlers to support their clubs financially by continuing to pay their annual subscriptions – so clubs will still be there for them when we resume bowling).'

We cannot stress the importance of this income stream enough and the work it allows us to do. We are therefore appealing to you to continue your loyal support of the club as we emerge from these difficult times by paying your membership fees. We are pleased to advise that we have decided to freeze membership fees for the second year running at 2019 prices, despite this actually resulting in a reduction as inflation and prices have continued to rise. Therefore fees for 2021 are as follows.

Under 65 £43.00

Over 65 £30.00

Please post (*no hand deliveries please*), your application forms and fees to the following address,

Mrs. Kelly Humphrey. 11 Latimer Crescent. Little Bowden. LE16 8AP. Please pay by cheque made payable to Market Harborough Conservative Club Bowls Club. Please also write the names of those that the fees represent on the back of the cheque.

When completing the MHCBC membership application form you will be required to provide and undertaking that you will join the Conservative Club when this is possible.

We would thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Your Committee

There have been changes to members of the Committee and we will update you with those changes in the next newsletter.

- Email: mhconnyclub.bowls@gmail.com
- Web: <https://mhconnyclubbowls.com/>
- Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1183100471844095/>