

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



Gedling and District Indoor Bowls Club

Hello everyone

This newsletter contains vital information about our plans for re-opening the bowls centre and returning to normality.



Members may well have heard about indoor bowls clubs all over the country who have struggled financially during the pandemic and sadly there are several who have been forced to close, both locally and nationally. Gedling Indoor has not been spared from these difficulties and over the last year members of the Management Committee have been working tirelessly to try to find solutions to the issues caused by the pandemic.

We have been given grants over the last eighteen months but these are aimed specifically to pay for property costs whilst we have been closed. With the ongoing costs of running the club, even when we were closed, this has reduced our available finances considerably.

The majority of our income of course comes between September and April when leagues and competitions are in full swing and not getting this income for the 2020/21 indoor season has naturally had an impact on our finances. We have had meetings with the leaders of Gedling Borough Council who have granted us some reductions in rent for this period which has helped, but the forthcoming winter season will be vital for the club to get back on its feet financially.

The Management Committee have already looked at ways to reduce costs and there are several plans in hand to raise money also but we would ask now that all members realise the difficult position the club is in and do their best to work together with the great community spirit that exists within Gedling Indoor Bowls Club to ensure our excellent club will continue to flourish for years to come.

JAN POYSER

Jan has recently sent a message to members telling you all of her new job with BCA. She will still remain a vital part of the club as a member of the Management Committee but we will miss her contribution to the smooth running of the club in many ways.

For eight and a half years Jan has worked tirelessly for the club in her role as Accounts and Admin Secretary. She has been the first point of contact for both members and outside agencies and has always gone above and beyond her role as an employee to ensure the club runs well. When things return to normal we hope to thank Jan in the appropriate manner for everything she has done for the club.

Whilst Jan's departure is a blow for the club it also presents an opportunity and the Management Committee have decided at the moment that her role will be taken on by various members of the management and bowls committees on a voluntary basis. It is a reflection on Jan's commitment to the club that she has continued to help the people taking over her role whilst still working at her new job.

REOPENING UPDATE

Plans are well under way for us to reopen on 1 September and from this date members will be able to have roll ups as usual. The leagues will commence on 20 September. If you wish to book a rink in advance the phone will be manned by volunteers from 10 till 12 on each weekday morning. If no one is there please leave a message and we will get back to you.

A complete survey was done on the roof and Gedling Borough Council arranged for the leaks to be fixed and this work has now been carried out successfully.

Whilst Richard Herrod is still being used as a vaccination centre we have had to make alternative plans for entry to the club as the NHS have informed us that we cannot enter through the bar in the usual fashion. Work is currently in hand to put a keypad on the doors at the very back of the bowls centre (by the stairs leading to the upstairs office and meeting room) to let members use the rear car park and enter the centre through the back.

We have looked at various methods of providing refreshments for members, but they were either too impractical or expensive. We would therefore request that members bring their own refreshments, if they wish to do so, until the bar is able to accommodate us again.



For the forthcoming season the following fees have been agreed by the Management Committee.

MEMBERSHIP : £35

Many members have already paid their membership fees for the 2020/21 season and their membership will be carried forward for the 2021/22 season. For those who did not pay for last season we will be collecting membership fees when we reopen and on 4 September (see later in newsletter).

LOCKERS : £7

The same situation will apply for lockers as for membership fees.

GREEN FEES : £4 for a two-hour session

For the 2020/21 season we had proposed a green fee of £4 (a reduction of 20p) and we think it is only correct that we carry this forward to the new season.

LEAGUE FEES : £1.50 a player

Many captains have carried their league fees over from last season so again we think this fee should remain the same. However, we have decided, for this season only, that we will not be paying any cash prizes to each player in the team that wins each league. I appreciate that this may disappoint some members but the savings made will help our current financial situation considerably.

COMPETITIONS : £2 each entry

This is a slight increase on previous years but we believe is still a small amount for those members who want to enter the many competitions we run.

In the past by sticking to a rigid prize structure the competitions have cost the club money so this year the prize structure will be based on the entry fees collected in order for us to still award prizes but ensure they are not a drain on our already stretched finances.



Our fund-raising efforts of the past year have been a vital part of our income. At the moment there are two ways members can help the club in this aspect.

100 CLUB

A fortnightly draw held fifteen times during the winter season with three cash prizes each draw. We will be running this again in the new season and details will follow about how you can get your numbers.

GEDLING LOTTERY

Gedling Borough Council Lottery with weekly draws held every Saturday. Tickets cost £1 each and half of that comes back to the club, with another 10% going to help local good causes. In the last year fifteen members entered this lottery and raised more than £670 for the club. To buy tickets please visit the website at <https://www.gedlinglotto.co.uk>.

OTHER EVENTS

We are planning other possible fund-raising projects throughout the year and more details of these will follow as the winter season progresses.



We are going to hold a Welcome Back Event on the morning of Saturday 4 September, from 10 till 12. This will give you a chance to catch up with friends, pay membership fees, join the 100 draw, collect fixture lists and all the other tasks that go with the start of a new season. Entry will need to be made via the back door as stated above but we can't wait to see everybody back at Gedling.

FINALLY

Over the last eighteen months the members of both committees have been working extremely hard to ensure the future of the club. We are now asking for the support of all members to ensure our club can progress through this difficult time and remain the strong club it has become, both for bowls and the social wellbeing of its members.

Looking forward to a return to normality and the chance to see you all on 4 September.

Dave Berry