

# DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

(A Member of Bowls England and English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd)

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**Date:** August 2020

Dear Member

It is usual at this time of the year for me to write to all members giving a brief summary of the events over the last 12 months together with an update as to the Club's plans for the forthcoming year, 2020/21.

## **A. THE PRESENT**

The advent of the Covid19 Coronavirus Pandemic has seriously affected our bowling, social and commercial activities over the last 5 months, with the club premises being ordered to close by the Government on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

This closure resulted in the 2020/21 Indoor season being curtailed, with several indoor league and cup competitions still to be completed.

In addition, we were unable to open the Club green for outdoor bowling, scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> April, which meant all the friendly inter-club matches, the County Kennett Leagues (KL and KLV) matches and the Ladies TVL league matches had to be cancelled for the whole of the current outdoor season. Subsequently, with the easing of the lock-down, we were advised by the Government that we could re-open our outdoor green for bowls, subject to the maintenance of the social distancing regulations in place at the time.

The Management Committee met to discuss the possible re-opening of the outdoor green and following a debate as to the risks identified, it was agreed to re-open on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 for limited play. Over 80 members have so far played in various roll-ups and competitions with social distancing and hygiene/sanitization measures being introduced and implemented in accordance with the recommendations and guidelines issued by Bowls England and the Government.

The opening of the outdoors green has been very successful with a schedule of in-house competitions and a bowls ladder introduced. Many thanks to all the members who volunteered and have been supervising the sessions.

The Management Committee agreed that, due to the major disruption and cancellations caused to the planned bowls events over the Summer, the Club would forego any subscriptions payable by members for their outdoor membership for this year.

A big thank you also to all those Members who have assisted with the essential gardening and maintenance of the buildings and surrounds during lock-down – MANY THANKS

## **B. THE FUTURE**

### **1) GENERALLY**

We have already faced and are still facing many unprecedented challenges, however, would assure Members that your Management Team is working hard to make certain we can continue COVID secure operations for both the Indoor and Outdoor membership within the Club facilities in the future.

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**President:** John Bucknell; **General Secretary:** Roger Wyatt; **Treasurer:** Peter Laban

**VAT Registration No:** 207 7898 26. **Affiliated to:** Royal County of Berkshire B.A. Berkshire County Women' B.A. and London and Southern Counties B.A

The future bowling programmes for competitions, leagues and friendly matches, for both the Outdoors and Indoors seasons, are now being finalised together with a new calendar of Social Events – all of which will take place strictly in accordance with the COVID 19 Guidelines, as issued by the Government and the bowls governing bodies, Bowls England and the EIBA.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL OUR FULL, INDOOR AND SOCIAL MEMBERS BACK TO DESBOROUGH WHEN WE RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2020.**

## 2) MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020/21

As many of you will be aware, due to the Coronavirus situation and the ensuing closure of the club facilities for the last 5 months, our income over this period has been reduced to virtually nil.

With the losses incurred over the closure period, the Management Committee have agreed that we will have to increase annual subscriptions and other green fees for 2020/21, to ensure our financial position remains viable and the services and facilities on offer are sustainable.

**THE PROPOSED CLUB ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020/21 (THE FIRST RISE SINCE 2017) ARE DETAILED IN APPENDIX “1” ATTACHED, HOWEVER CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:-**

Category	Subscription (per annum)
<b>Full Member</b>	<b>£230.00</b>
Outdoor Member Only	£115.00
Indoor Member Only	£115.00
12 Month Indoor Member	£165.00
Junior Member	£25.00
Social Member	£40.00

*THE ABOVE FEES ARE DUE FOR PAYMENT ON OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2020 PLEASE.*

## 3) INDOOR BOWLS

**THE GOVERNMENT GAVE APPROVAL FOR THE RE-START OF INDOOR BOWLS AS FROM SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020 AND WE ARE NOW PLANNING TO RE-OPEN THE INDOOR RINKS ON SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2020.**

<b>AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup></b> – Desborough Management and Staff return to their jobs at the Club.
<b>AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup> TO AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup></b> – the Club will use this period to put in place the physical measures required to ensure the safety of both staff and members when they return this year. All the measures taken will ensure the Club facilities comply with the current Government and EIBA guidelines regarding maintaining social distancing (1.0m+) and hygiene, to mitigate the risk of transmission, including, inter alia: screens, signage and cleaning/sterilization protocols.
<b>SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup></b> – Club reopens for Members - Indoor bowling will start
<b>SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> TO SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup></b> – Roll-ups will start.
<b>SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> TO SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup></b> – Roll-ups continue together with the completion of outstanding competition and league matches from last year, 2019/20.
<b>OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup></b> – Start of 2020/21 Indoor Bowling Season

We are still awaiting further advice from the EIBA as to guidance in relation to hosting Inter Club and County Matches along with hosting bowls events such as Open Singles Circuit/PBA.

## 5) SOCIAL EVENTS

We were very disappointed that we had to cancel all our social events, as we had a particularly exciting programme planned, however there was no option with the club in lock-down. I would however give a big vote of thanks to our Social Committee and Social Chairman who, between them, have completed a very successful number of social functions over the year. We are now looking forward to planning and delivering an exciting new programme in the coming year.

## 6) MARKETING AND MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

We completed a marketing campaign, led by Baylis Media, in October 2019, with both press advertising and social media platforms being used to promote the Club. You may also follow the Club's activities through its Facebook page. ([www.facebook.com/Desborough-Bowling-Club](http://www.facebook.com/Desborough-Bowling-Club))

The marketing campaign, Open Days and other publicity events, held over the last year, resulted in an increase in membership, from 600 in September 2019 to 840 in March 2020. A further increase of 40% year on year and an increase of 88% since we left York Road in May 2019.

Whilst appreciating there may well be a loss of membership numbers due to the virus and its aftermath, we are still actively seeking new members and will again be holding open days and coaching sessions to encourage those interested to join

Our website has now been replaced with a new version ([www.desboroughbc.com](http://www.desboroughbc.com)), members will now be able to access a far more accurate and informative level of updated information regarding both bowling and social events.

## 7) REGARDING BOTH CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS, I WOULD DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE FORTHCOMING SEASON :-

<b>(i) CLUB OPENING HOURS:</b>		
The Club Indoor Opening hours remain unchanged as follows:-		
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	-	0830 to 2200 hours.
<b>Saturday</b>	-	0830 to 2200 hours (unless league game or other prearranged event when closing time will be extended)
<b>Sunday</b>	-	0830 to 2000 hours (or earlier if no events taking place)

*(Bar opening hours are scheduled as 10:30 am to 3:00pm however times will vary to reflect and compliment times of matches and other events)*

<b>(ii) INDOOR PROGRAMME 2020/21</b>
<b>THE INDOOR SEASON WILL COMMENCE ON TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020</b> (For catch up on outstanding indoor league and Competition matches from 2019/20 AND Roll-ups)
<b>THE "NEW" INDOOR SEASON 2020/21 WILL COMMENCE ON 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020</b>

<b>(iii) INDOOR LEAGUE PROGRAMME 2020/21</b>
Following agreement with the Indoor Committee, the league fixtures have been programmed for the forthcoming indoor season.
If you wish to play or wish to enter a new team, this would be most welcome.
Please contact Mark Peachey or the Reception if you require any further advice as to how you register a team.

<b>(iv) COMPETITIONS</b>
Club competition entry forms will be available from the office for both men and women and I would encourage all to enter.
Entry fees for competitions should be paid, either, by cheque / cash/credit or debit card and <b>NOT</b> as part of any on-line payment for membership subscription fees.

**THE OUTDOOR SEASON FOR 2021 WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

**8) CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

I would advise that the date for the Desborough Bowling Club Annual General meeting (Full Members only) has now been scheduled for **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00PM**. To be held in the Club Lounge. (Subject to COVID Situation)

Once again, I would reassure all members that your health and well-being are of paramount importance and we are doing everything necessary to ensure that when you return to the Club you will be in a safe environment with all measures in place to mitigate against any risk of infection from the virus.

I hope you are well and look forward to your continued support and welcoming you back to Desborough in September.

Kind Regards

Roger Wyatt  
General Secretary

August 2020

# DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2020

Dear Members

Firstly, I hope that you are well and have managed to avoid COVID-19. When we celebrated the start of 2020, little did we know what a year it was going to turn out to be.

We closed the club on March 17<sup>th</sup>, as directed by the Government as part of their overall restrictions to bowls clubs and many other leisure facilities. This did not allow us to finish the indoor competitions and leagues.

When we went into lock-down, this put a lot of work onto our General Secretary, Roger Wyatt. Staff had to be furloughed, the catering contract was suspended, together with Sky and BT television. postal services had to be re-directed, waste collection services and cleaners were also suspended.

All our social events were cancelled or postponed. Roger kindly went to the club most days to make sure the club was safe and secure, so many thanks to Roger for all his hard work over this difficult period.

All of our facilities are now scheduled to getting back to some degree of normality later this year and we have already started to install various items in and around the building to ensure we conform with the latest Government Regulations. Further works will be completed before members return to ensure the buildings are COVID secure and safe to recommence indoor activities.

Not only did we all miss playing bowls but also, meeting up with our friends and socialising with them. A lot of people I know have found this difficult, especially those living on their own and in apartments. Hopefully, these times are now behind us but we must still take care.

We plan to re-open the indoor club and start playing again on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will follow the official guidelines of the Government and the EIBA as to what we will be allowed to do and hope there are no further outbreaks of the virus.

I wish you all a very good indoor season and above all, stay well.

Yours sincerely

John Bucknell,

President

August 2019

## APPENDIX “1”

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND GREEN FEES 2020/2021:

With the losses incurred over the last year, due to the Coronavirus epidemic, the Management Committee have agreed that there will have to be an increase in subscriptions and other green fees for 2020/21, to ensure our financial position remains viable and the services and facilities on offer are sustainable.

THE NEW ANNUAL FEES PAYABLE, EFFECTIVE AS FROM OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2020, ARE

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2019/20 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE</b>	<b>2020/21 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
<b>FULL MEMBERSHIP</b>	£200.00	£230.00	First increase since 2017
<b>OUTDOOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	£100.00	£115.00	First increase since 2017
<b>INDOOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	£100.00	£115.00	First increase since 2017
<b>12 MONTH INDOOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	£150.00	£165.00	New Membership Category
<b>SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	£25.00	£40.00	First Increase in 10 years
<b>JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	£25.00	£25.00	No change
<b>GREEN FEES INDOORS</b>	£2.00 – 1 hour £3.00 – 2 hours £5.00 – 3 hours	£3.00 – 1 hour £4.00 – 2 hours £6.00 – 3 hours	
<b>MATCH FEES (INDOORS)</b>	£10.00	£12.00	First Increase since 2016
<b>MATCH FEES (OUTDOORS)</b>	£5.00	£7.00	First Increase since 2017
<b>NATIONAL COMPETITION FEES</b>	£5.00	£5.00	No change
<b>KENNET LEAGUE &amp; KLV TEAMS</b>	£2.00	£3.00	Additional catering cost.

*(N.B. Locker rental £5.00 p.a. as existing – not included in above fees)*

**YOU MAY PAY USING ANY OF THE OPTIONS LISTED BELOW:**

a) **PAYMENT IN FULL BY CASH OR CHEQUE.**

b) **PAYMENT ON-LINE BY BANK TRANSFER TO:-**

**DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB,**

**LLOYDS BANK, MAIDENHEAD**

**ACCOUNT NUMBER: 34331168**

**SORT CODE: 30 -95- 36**

(If you pay by bank transfer it is essential that you add your name to the transfer instructions (both names if you are paying for two people).

c) **PAYMENT BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD**

d) **PAYMENT BY MONTHLY STANDING ORDER** – If you are paying by this method then please contact the Club Treasurer, Peter Laban, who will then provide you with a suitable Standing Order form