



BRIDGEWATER BOWLING CLUB

Coronavirus update



Dear Member

As you will be aware the whole world is in the grips of Coronavirus, something that has never been seen before in our lifetime. I am sure like me you are all taking the advice that we have been given whilst trying to keep some sort of normality in our lives. In the grand scheme of things bowling is a long way down the list of things to worry about, nevertheless we know that you have been looking forward to the new season. However, the bowling authorities have taken the advice of the government and issued the statement below on Monday 16th March.

Statement from the BCGBA

Following the Government announcement this afternoon it is with great sadness that we now have to suspend all bowling for the foreseeable future. Based on the advice announced we need to avoid all mass gatherings and sporting event as these will no longer be supported by the emergency services. If anyone within your household has symptoms then the whole family need to isolate for 14 days. Limit social contact wherever possible and encourage working from home.

At risk groups - those over 70 and those with medical conditions need to take additional care.

All BCGBA meetings should now be postponed as un-necessary travel should be avoided. Contact in Pubs, Clubs and restaurants to be avoided.

Taking this all into account all leagues should now suspend matches until such time as we are given an all clear to resume competition.

All BCGBA and BCGLCC Competitions are now suspended until further notice this should include all qualifier events.

As a Bowls community we need to look after our members and I encourage you to follow the advice being given and support those we are able to at this very difficult time.

Mark Bircumshaw (CEO)

As a result of the announcement above and the 'lock down' announcement from the Prime Minister last night, some of the committee held a 'cobra' style meeting via telephone conference to decide how to proceed for the foreseeable future as the club also needs to survive during these difficult times. We will be expected to pay the bills whilst having a very limited income. On page 2 of this newsletter, is a summary of the decisions that we have made in the form of Frequently Asked Questions

We will continue to update you on events as we get to know about them. All updates will be posted on our new website www.spanglefish.com/bridgewaterbowlingclub under the NEWS section, so please look here for the latest information.

We also had a few things planned for the club, the most imminent being the quiz night on Saturday 4th April. In the current climate we have no choice but to postpone this to a later date. Whilst this is disappointing, we must follow the government guidelines and stay safe.

I hope you find this information useful, but if you have any questions please feel free to contact Graham Sayers on 07774 145836 or Chris Sayers on 07710 158154

Kind regards
Ian Price
Club Chairman



BRIDGEWATER BOWLING CLUB

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Q. How do the Government announcements affect the bowling club?

A. We understand that we fall into the category of clubs/pubs/leisure facilities as we are licenced premises and therefore the clubhouse will be closed for the foreseeable future (the government have committed to reviewing things on a monthly basis)

Q. Will the greens still open on 28th March?

A. No, however we are planning to maintain & mow the greens throughout the coming months if the latest government restrictions permit.

Q. Will I be able to practice on the greens?

A. No, based on the advice that we have all received from the Government, British Crown Green and Sport England, who have clearly stated that all leisure facilities should be closed, and this includes the greens

Q. Will the clubhouse be open?

A. No as stated above we will not be opening the clubhouse for the foreseeable future – if this changes we will let you know

Q. Do I still need to pay my membership fees?

A. Yes please, as we expect the bowling to resume at some point in the future. We are grateful to those members that have already paid as it helps towards the running costs of the club when we have no other source of income. Just as a polite reminder you can pay by online bank transfer (Sort code: 20-77-85 Acct no. 60204056 Please put your name as the reference) or post a cheque payable to Bridgewater Bowling Club to Graham Sayers, 21 Verdin Close, Moulton, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 8RL.
Fees..... Adult - £25, Seniors - £20, Social - £10 Juniors - £5 **THANK YOU.**

Q. When will the bowling start again?

A. We don't know, and we will be guided by the British Crown Green Bowling Association, but it is safe to assume that it will not be within the next 3 months. The Whitchurch League have proposed that if we do start in July, then the leagues would be abandoned, but the knockout competitions (Jubilee Doubles etc,) would be played. The Market Drayton League are currently looking at the possibility of bowling half a season.

Q. If we start halfway through the season, will membership fees be pro-rated

A. No as the club has to pay bills all year round and relies on membership fees which are factored into our budget.

Q. How will I be kept up to date with the latest news?

A. We will use our new website to keep you all up to date and post any information in the News section www.spanglefish.com/bridgewaterbowlingclub

Q. What if other clubs open and we don't?

A. We will keep an eye on what other clubs are doing, however the government have stipulated pubs, clubs etc should close. Opening the club would at the very least risk losing our licence.

Q. Will the social events continue?

A. No not for the foreseeable future, so far, the quiz night is postponed, and a new date will be found. The hog roast on the 4th July has been moved to July 3rd 2021.