

Hello everyone,

I apologise for the longer newsletter than usual. In this newsletter I bring you the sad news of the untimely death of Mike Cole, but also news of the restricted opening of the green and possibly....eventuallyhopefully.... the start of a truncated bowls season.

Firstly Mike. Mike's funeral is on Wednesday after succumbing to the corona virus. Dave tells me there will be a wake at the social club at some time in the future to celebrate Mike's life. I'm sure all our thoughts are with the family at this sad time.

We are planning a restricted opening of the green on **Sunday 31st May**. There has been a good response to Val's email requesting numbers. In round terms just under half our members intend to play again, but some are delaying their decision until July. There is no obligation to play. Each individual must make their own decision based on the guidelines advised by the government. There is no need for me to remind you that elderly people who have underlying health conditions are at greater risk. Thankfully, it does appear the virus is on the wane. Let us hope there isn't a second peak or that it returns next winter.

You will be pleased to hear the committee has been having face to face meetings on "Zoom" to iron out our new play arrangements and I thank them on all our behalves for turning up this morning to clean out the ditches and prepare for a re-start. Dave Parker has also done a risk assessment for our insurance purposes and that will appear on our website shortly (if Ann can remember what to do!)

Our annual away day to the Madeira club at Exmouth has been cancelled, and as you may be aware, the league were looking to commence fixtures on June 18th and the Lloyd Trophy on July 7th. This is unlikely to happen. I'll keep you posted.

Clubhouse

The clubhouse will not be open. Toilet and hand washing facilities are only available in the changing room if required. Please restrict to essential use only. Access is via a new key box by the changing room door. The padlock has the same code as the gate. Inside the changing rooms you will find the bowls equipment and sanitising items to sterilise anything you may touch.

The Green

Only three rinks will be in use. The remaining alternate rinks will maintain the 2 metre social isolation.

The direction of play and designated rinks are posted around the green together with playing instructions. More about this below and on the website.

Rink markers will be left out permanently.

Booking system

In order to play you need to book a time slot. Val has agreed to coordinate this by email any time (val.knowles@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone (01454 774864) at the times listed below:

Morning	9.00am to 10.00am
Afternoons	5.00pm to 6.00pm

Please stick to these times. Initially we don't think there will be a huge demand so we are not placing any restrictions on the number of bookings, but this will of course be subject to review.

The time slots are as follows:

10.00am to 12.00	(weekends only)
12.00	to 2.00pm
2.00pm	to 4.00pm
4.00pm	to 6.00pm
6.00pm	to 8.00pm

You should arrive at the booked time to avoid overlap with the previous players. You should play for no more than 1½hrs. You should sanitise the equipment and lock up after use. You should leave immediately afterwards. You should not wait to meet new arrivals.

Social Distance

The playing arrangements are in accordance with advice from the government and Bowls England.

- Individuals may play bowls on their own on a single rink
- Two individuals from two different households may play on a single rink (no marker)
- Members of the same household may play on a single rink

There will be a maximum of six players permitted on the club premises at any one time.

No visitors or spectators are allowed.

Social distancing rules must be adhered to at all times; you must remain at least two metres apart from other bowlers (who are not part of your household) at all times.

You should travel to and from the green by yourself. Do not give lifts to persons with whom you have not been isolating.

Do not go to the club if you are experiencing any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or any cold or flu-like symptoms, in particular a cough or a high temperature. Use the NHS 111 website or helpline and seek advice.

Equipment

To minimise the risk of infection, only the Mat, Bowls & Jacks will be in use.

Any other equipment is not deemed essential and should not be utilised. This includes: Scoreboards / Bowls pushers / Ditch markers / 2m distance sticks / Chalk.

The mat and jacks should only be touched by **one person** per rink.

You are responsible for sanitising the equipment after use. There will be some anti-bacterial spray in the changing room for the equipment, but please take your own hygiene sanitiser for the door handle or anything else you touch.

Dress rules are relaxed. You should arrive ready to play. Only your bowling shoes need to be changed before and after play.

Avoid using the toilets in the changing rooms wherever possible and clean anything you have touched after use.

Any paper towels or wipes used to sanitise jacks etc should be placed in the disposable bags provided and taken home.

No food is to be consumed on the premises. Any empty drink containers must not be left on site.

Wash or sanitise your hands and sanitise any equipment you use after you play.

Sanitise padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use.

Playing the game

Do not shake hands before, during or after a game. Do not 'high-five' OR 'hug' other players to celebrate shots or a win.

Only one player should handle the mat during the session.

Two jacks (one at each end) should be used and this should be set by one player only throughout the session.

Do not touch your opponents' bowls with your hands.

Avoid measuring for shot.

The club holds no responsibility for any illness which may occur from members using the club's facilities.

John S.