



# Malvern Priory Bowling Club Newsletter

April 2020

## Message from Bowls England

'Stay home, stay safe, stop the spread'.

That's the message from Bowls England to its members and clubs in response to the latest Government guidance on the Coronavirus outbreak.

Bowls England last week announced the cancellation of all its domestic events ahead of the 2020 lawn bowls season including its National Championships, and now wishes to ensure that members and clubs play their part.

Tony Allcock OBE, Bowls England Chief Executive, said: "Understandably Bowls England has been inundated with enquiries from clubs and county associations regarding the Coronavirus outbreak. Within the past week we have made decisions regarding our events that would have been unimaginable only a month ago. However, from the enquiries we continue to receive there is clearly still some confusion within our membership as to whether they can continue to participate in the sport of lawn bowls at club level during this period.

"At this stage, we must urge our members to follow the Government's latest guidance, which clearly asks every person within society to stay at home if at all possible to help to stop this disease from spreading – and this is an appeal to everyone, not just those aged over 70 or the 1.5 million of the most at-risk people who have been told that they should stay at home for 12 weeks.

"Again, we encourage our members to keep an eye out for everyone within the bowls community during this time, for example by maintaining contact and undertaking shopping for those who are isolated, with special thought for those members who may live on their own. A telephone call, e-mail or Skype to another member of the bowls community will, I am sure, be welcomed at this time. We are also in the process of producing a 'Bowlers' Workout' in order to keep members fit and active during isolation and/or working from home, so we're all ready to play when bowling resumes. We would also encourage members to support their club financially by continuing to pay their annual subscriptions in order that the clubs will be there for them when we are able to resume bowling."

Bowls England will be providing support and advice to clubs and county associations over the coming weeks and working on a number of initiatives including club recruitment and a potential 'Festival of Bowls', which will be subject to Government guidance.

**Alistair Hollis**  
Operational Services Manager

## **SIGN UP FOR NEWS, CHAT, KEEP FIT AND CLASSIC MATCHES**

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**Bowls England is committed to keeping our members fully informed, particularly during this period of isolation.**

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We will be issuing regular updates via our e-newsletter - to subscribe and receive all of the latest news straight to your inbox, simply visit the Bowls England website [www.bowlsengland.com](http://www.bowlsengland.com) and add your email address to the relevant area at the bottom of the homepage.

We will shortly be launching our official Bowls England Podcast 'The Extra End', with Bowls International editor Sian Honnor chatting to our Chief Executive Tony Allcock OBE in episode one.

We are also in the process of providing a 'Keep Fit' guide advising all members of appropriate ways to stay healthy in the comfort of your own home.

Support will be provided for all clubs, as well as opportunities to enjoy your time at home with some bowls-related quizzes and some classic matches from yesteryear.

Kind Regards  
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These are difficult times for us at the moment so I thought I would try to keep the NEWSLETTER going provided I have sufficient content and that is why I wrote to ask for your contributions.

Let's hear what you are up to and how you are keeping yourselves fit and busy. The response was few but I am hoping these contributions may encourage you to give me some content for next month.

Brian and I have been busy. Each day I am doing my regular Pilates classes through Zoom, so far I haven't managed to get Brian to join in. There is still time!

He has managed to do a number of jobs around the house and garden that have been neglected due to time he spends elsewhere! Last week he had a YouTube haircutting lesson and then I let him loose on my hair. He made a very good job of it. He's so enthusiastic he's bought himself hairdressing scissors! We even did a Pub Quiz on line last Thursday night with 80,000+ others. It was fun.

Each day I have cooked or made something special, delving through my huge collection of recipes from all parts of the world. It has given me a chance to use up all those out of date items. There are still more to use.

Getting groceries has been a bit of a nightmare as I am sure many of you have found and after waiting three weeks plus I will get a delivery from Morrisons this Sunday. Our next delivery from Asda is due on 16th April - this order I had to do at 3 am in the morning several weeks ago. We are fortunate to have neighbours who will buy the odd thing for us when they shop.

The small garden is now full of large pots and bags of compost ready to plant up with veggies and salads. They may not be ready until after we get freedom but it gives us plenty to do and great to watch the seeds grow. The many large plastic storage bags have make wonderful cloches.

Over the past months I have been knitting to exercise my wrist. Until now this has been blankets for premature babies but now I am venturing out to knit something more challenging - but more on this later.

Do keep us all up to date with what you are doing.

Jackie Oakey \_\_\_\_\_

## Some really good news

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In spite of all the gloom surrounding the Covid 19 virus Malvern Priory Bowling Club has something to shout about. We now have the automatic irrigation system the club has longed for ever since a report carried out for the Council in the 1980s.

It has taken all these years and a great deal of time and effort to achieve it.

Unfortunately due to the current lockdown the final setting up and commissioning will not be able to take place until we are given the go ahead by the government to resume.

There was much input from members of the club analysing what was the best and cost effective system we could afford. A decision was made, after reviewing all the tenders and specifications, to purchase a kit from a specialised Bowls club contractor who had fitted over 40+ systems. This fitted the budget available. A contract was placed and the kit was supplied on 20th February. The plan had been for me to be there but due to weather conditions we had to stay on our cruise an extra day. I would like to thank all those who attended meetings with me for all their contributions and hard work. I really do appreciate this and I apologise if I may have upset some with the decision that I had to make.

A builder, recommended by a member of the club, was selected to do the work - Simon Bumphrey of SAB Contractors.

Simon started excavating the ditch on Monday 23rd February and it became apparent that he was converse with fitting the piping and stations so he was asked to complete the entire installation. Part of the main contract was for him to straighten the ditch sides and reinforce them. This has been done.

The original plan had been to cap the top of the ditch with paving stones but this proved to be not safe as there was a complete mismatch with the existing uneven paving. The old artificial grass has been put back.

The only thing I did not cater for was the huge amount of spoil we are now left with. This has occurred as the aggregate and sand put behind the ditch wall was needed to make a solid surface to walk on. This spoil now needs to be moved but the cost of a contractor coming into do it is prohibitive at the moment. The amount we have is too great to be lost in the grounds.

The system has been run but needs to be refined.

Again I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and patience.

Brian Palmer

## More good news

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The club has purchased a brand new scarifyer/varicut machine which will enable the green to be maintained.

All fluid fertiliser and weed and feed, wetting agents have also been purchased plus a quantity of top dressing. This is all stored in the shed which will be out of bounds to club members to comply with Health and Safety regulations.

This is all a cost effective exercise having paid our previous contractor huge amounts of money each season .

Until restrictions are lifted by the government the green will be maintained to a standard that will not be good enough for bowling. However, the plan is to be able to open it up as soon as these restrictions are lifted.

Once the restrictions are lifted I will need a band of volunteers to clean, sweep and put back cleaned artificial grass in the bottom of the ditch. I may even be able to talk Jackie into making us lunch!

Brian Palmer

## **A big thank you to Brian Palmer**

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I think I can safely say from all the committee well done Brian and well done all those that have been involved in this major project!

The builder has I believe been excellent throughout and has added value to the scheme, and has been considerate with members and had a good gang of people in his team.

The outcome may not have been as planned, but a truly great outcome.

Our disappointment is with being unable to use the green and clubhouse for some time through no fault of anyone.

All we can do is keep safe, keep fit

Keep safe.

Roger  
Club Treasurer

## **News from Past President Wayne Braddock**

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Many of you may not know that Wayne is currently in Worcester Royal having undergone surgery last Thursday. He sent me a text on Monday to say he is still immobilised but hoping to get moving again Tuesday (yesterday) when his blood pressure is more stable and oxygen is above a certain level. He is still nil by mouth after five days - relying on drip feed. It'll take several more days before he can eat normally. He reports the nurses are kind and helpful, and his bed has been replaced with a moving air bed, which he thoroughly approves.

He sends best wishes to all club members at this difficult time..

We all wish him well during his period of recovery.

Jackie

## **Membership Secretary's report**

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Well the 2020 season looks bleak at the moment but hopefully we will get a chance to play in a couple of months.

Normal outgoings have to continue throughout the period of government restrictions due to Covid 19 and it is hoped members will continue to renew their membership and pay their fees.

You will have received a membership form some weeks ago by email and we have received a number back already. If you would like to support the club during this lean period it would be of great help.

Forms can be sent back to me electronically. If you don't have a printer, now is the time to find out how to fill in the form on line, you should have plenty of time!!

Payment should be made electronically on line. (Club bank details are on the forms).

Fees for the 2020 season are £60 for current members, £10 for Social membership, £30 for new members (those who have not played at MPBC before). Short mat membership will continue at £20 for new players but will increase to £25 for new members for the next season. Short Mat membership for full Lawn Green members will be £20.

If anyone needs help on this please give me a call .

Lets hope the restrictions work to reduce the number of people suffering with Coronavirus and allows the government to relax restrictions soon.

Jackie Oakey  
Membership Secretary

Newsletter Editor - Jackie Oakey

[www.malvernprioritybowlingclub.com](http://www.malvernprioritybowlingclub.com)

## **A membership challenge - A small prize for a piece of craft, art or the like which has been made/done in the period of social distancing.**

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How about spending some of your lockdown time creating something. You may have had a hankering to do something like this but never had the time or impetus to do it. Now is your chance.

The Club plans an exhibition in the clubhouse, over a weekend (after the all clear is given), for all items made during the period of social distancing, which people may not have attempted because of their normal busy social lives. This could be craft, woodwork, photography, marmalade/chutney making, knitting, sewing - the list is endless.

This is my challenge - I'm knitting socks on 5 needles. It's certainly making my brain work.  
Jackie

## **An up date from Ron and Glynis**

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I think continuing the Newsletter is a good idea. I have been following the guidelines because we have super neighbours who collect our prescriptions and will get our shopping.

Fortunately we had a good reserve of tinned food and kitchen towels etc because we always stock up each winter in case we get snow. If you live in Fromes Hill you do not leave home if it snows: you might not be able to get back.

In fact we are having great fun doing things in the garden and getting round to organising the house. Yesterday I cleaned the Windows on the front door, reminiscent of G&S, HMS Pinafore, and discovered that you could see who was outside without opening the front door.

The other need will be to give the car a short run at least once a week to keep it going.

I notice the Radio Times is out of date. How many weeks ahead do they print it? they are still showing live sport for next week.

I Hope you get a good response to your suggestion. I will try and think of more things to send you.

Regards  
Ron and Glynis

## **From the Social Committee**

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Quite a strange title in view of our isolation experiences. The message is nevertheless a means of keeping in touch.

Our last social evening was on March 14th for our Pi Nite. It seems a long time ago and none of us could really envisage what the future held for us.

It was a very enjoyable evening with delicious pies. There were several number quizzes and so many winners we ran out of prizes!!

The raffle made £40.00 and the ticket money £141.00 after we had taken out expenses. Much needed money now with the present economic climate.

Obviously there is nothing planned at the moment but what we can say is that as soon as this is over there will be a big party. Let us hope this is before the summer is over and we can all get out on the green and enjoy our bowling again

**The Social Committee**

## **News from Bronwen and Terry**

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Greetings to all our bowling friends. We hope you are keeping safe and well.

We were finding the sunny weather a great help and tonic. Terry has taken advantage of this to plant some vegetable seeds. This is also to solve the problem of fresh vegetables LOL

We are practising our Tai Chi. Enjoying cooking, eating and drinking in any order. Catching up on reading.

We share with you that Anupam is doing home deliveries. That has really cheered us up.

Please stay safe and well. We look forward to reading your news.

*Bronwen and Terry*

## **News from Norman**

We have been  
watching these

Scottish movies: 😂