



# Malvern Priory Bowling Club Newsletter

June 2020

## Hot off the Press

Dear all,

As I am sure you are aware, the Prime Minister last night announced an easing of restrictions to enable groups of up to six people to meet outside.

However, at the time of writing the current Government guidance for lawn bowls continues to state:

"You can play lawn bowls where facilities have reopened, but you can only take part in these activities by yourself, or with members of your household or with 1 person outside of your household, as long as you are able to maintain social distancing."

We are seeking clarification from Government on whether the announcement last night will lead to any relaxation in the current guidance for exercise and will update you in due course.

For information, earlier this week we wrote to Sport England to request that dispensation be given to allow pairs play between members of two or more households and a response on this is awaited.

It would be appreciated if you could circulate this update to all clubs as a matter of urgency.

Kind regards

Alistair

**Alistair Hollis**

Operational Services Manager

Bowls England

1/6/2020

## The season starts with a few restrictions! News from the Editor

Today marks the first day of play in a year when no-one knew when this was likely to happen. Much planning and organising has been going on through Zoom meetings of the committee to get everything ready for members to get back to their beloved sport. We thank them for the valuable time they have given over the past weeks, especially Brian who has prepared the rinks and markings to comply with social distancing.

With restrictions changing almost by the day I am sure it will not be many days before we receive further instructions from Bowls England to open the rinks up to more people. We will, of course, let you all know when this happens.

A group of members met last week to clean the grounds which were looking pretty untidy after the work to the ditches and winter weather. It is now looking fabulous. Phil Bunyan has very generously filled the tubs with summer plants to compliment the hanging baskets he has planted and is due to hang today as I write this. A very big thank you Phil, we really do appreciate your generosity. The baskets last year were simply stunning.

The club now has a new flag complete with logo which was hoisted last Tuesday morning. Things are certainly changing, Graham Anderson, club secretary has produced and introduced an online booking system to comply with Bowls Englands requirements. At the moment there are 3 rinks open each morning and afternoon all through the week, apart from Monday and Thursday mornings. Should demand be high further times will be available. This is a very new system for the club which is very easy to use. The web site is [www.malvernpriorybowlingclub.org.uk](http://www.malvernpriorybowlingclub.org.uk) and the direct link to the booking system is <https://malvernpriorybowlingclub.org.uk/rink-bookings> Alternatively you can contact Graham Anderson by phone

Jackie Oakey

## News from Treasurer

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### FINANCE:

Just a quick note to say that the finances of the club are in reasonable shape and there is nothing serious at the moment to worry about. Thanks to Brian Palmer and co the watering system was completed just before Lock Down at a price below first estimated. The green has benefited enormously from the watering system in all this hot weather. Well done Brian.

Memberships are a bit down but a big thank you to all who have renewed membership, especially those that contributed when there was no real hope a relaxation of lockdown this season. The membership for the year is £60, note this is fixed for the current year for past members. New members pay the new members rate of £30 as agreed at the AGM.

A decision has been made by the committee that this year there will not be any U3A given that we are obliged to control and track everyone who uses our facilities. I suggest anyone from U3A who wishes to play becomes a member.

Payment for the usual green fees can be made by cheque or bank transfer at the end of the month. My address is 6 Longfield, Upton Upon Severn, Worcestershire, WR8 0NR. If you have any problems ring me

Roger Davies  
Treasurer

## Club mobile phone

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The club now has a mobile phone (the handset was donated by Norman Hall) that will be placed in the clubhouse for use in an emergency. The phone will be stored in a cupboard in the kitchen which will have an emergency telephone sign on it.

The phone has two purposes, firstly it can be used to summon the emergency services and secondly it will provide a permanent contact number, 07546 787094, for the club that will not need to be changed when the secretary changes (meaning that signs and publicity will not have to be changed).

Additionally the Club's address has been officially registered with Malvern Hills District Council. This means that the location (by map reference) of the Club has been registered with the Royal Mail, the Ordnance Survey, Land Registry and the Emergency services. The Club's official address is: The Bowling Green, Orchard Road, Malvern, WR14 3DA and this is the address that should be quoted on post, publicity and importantly if the emergency services need to be summoned to the Club.

Graham Anderson  
Club Secretary



The club sanitising station

## Membership Secretary's report

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A very big thank you to all who have renewed their membership in spite of the uncertainties this year. This is excellent news and the club is grateful for the loyalty of these members. We have 39 paid up members including new member Bill Stansfield. Bill has been playing at Manor Park. Introduce yourselves to him and call him to play. A list of members will be circulated with names and telephone numbers in a few days to all paid up members. Do call people and ask them if they would like a game.

We appreciate that some of you are not feeling confident about playing and are waiting for further restrictions to be lifted, we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Fees for the 2020 season will remain at £60 for current members, £10 for Social membership, £30 for new members (those who have not played at MPBC before).

There will be no short mat until further notice.

If anyone has any queries on membership please call me .

Lockdown is relaxing so hopefully it will not be too long before we can all get together.

Jackie Oakey  
Membership Secretary

Newsletter Editor - Jackie Oakey

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[www.malvernpriorybowlingclub.org.uk](http://www.malvernpriorybowlingclub.org.uk)

## How I missed out on the Lockdown!

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I would just like to thank the many Club members who contacted me during my extended time in hospital. As you may be aware, I was originally scheduled to be out of hospital within 7 to 10 days - but this turned out to be 6 weeks due to complications that arose, It was your kind thoughts, emails and messages that kept me focused on a positive outcome, and also the messages and telephone calls that helped my wife, Norma, who was in lockdown, to get through the difficult time. I must also say that the nurses and doctors at the WRH were brilliant. The care they gave me was excellent. I couldn't have wished for better.

I have now been home for just three weeks, adjusting to the lockdown conditions, but importantly gradually getting back to a normal life and eating 'real' food (I was nil-by-mouth for one month). My aim now is to try and reach my 'fighting' bowling weight before the end of the season. To achieve this, I am doing 2km walks each day with Norma = and at some point I aim to watch the play at the clubhouse from Orchard Road when the bowling starts again.

I could write a book on the extremes that I was faced with during the last two months. I cannot stress, though, how grateful Norma and I are for all the support that we received during this time. Thank you again. I hope to see you again in the not too distant future. Best wishes to you all!

Wayne Braddock

Past President

## For Sale

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The club wishes to sell the following irrigation equipment.

1. Crawler
2. .75 HP submersible pump
3. 1 sprinkler
4. Hose reel with 40 metres of yellow 20mm hose pipe and fittings

All the above could be used on a cricket pitch or any large lawn. The sprinkler will work under mains pressure, you do not need a pump. If you know of anyone who may be interested please contact Brian Palmer on . Items available separately.

Left hand side - Graham Anderson hoisting the club's new flag

Right hand side - Phil Bunyan hanging flower baskets and planting up on the bank by the green



## Green News

The green has now been commissioned and ready for play. Schedule of play has been posted to everyone and there is a sign on the club door. Please keep to the rinks allocated until further notice, this is to prevent overuse and keep the rinks in good condition. If there are worm casts please sweep them away before play.

I have a brainstorming dilemma for everyone. Due to the design of the new ditch top surface and the lockdown no provision was made for the score boards and I challenge club members to come up with ideas of how we should support them. The spikes as you will see from the photo below are about 100 mms in length and around 25 mms wide - you may think your idea is stupid, but two stupid ideas could result in one super idea. Many of you have played at other clubs, please think how they had theirs. We have 6 scoreboards that need supporting .

Please send your ideas to me at



One final thing - due to the constraints of the watering system design and our not being able to have a larger tank we still need to water the centre of the green, ie around 3 sq m. This can be done with a hose and spray by hand. We will be looking for club members to spray the green for half an hour 3 times a week in the evening. A schedule will be forthcoming. Looking forward to seeing everyone again. Keep safe, stay alert.

Brian Palmer,  
Green Secretary

## Watch out for George!

He cannot read and cannot write.  
But he can scratch and he can bite.  
He is the guardian of the green  
The hidden claw, the guard unseen.  
He sits there proudly on the wall,  
And if you woof or growl at all.  
He will come out with language bad,  
And then report you to his dad.

In the bushes he sat  
When suddenly he felt a spray,  
He scampered quick across the green  
Muttering words which were obscene,  
It cannot be rain he thought .poor cat  
Washing his paws as he sat.  
It seems to come from out of ground,  
Wetting and watering all around.  
World must be upside down he said,  
May be better off in bed.

Sleeping this way, then sleeping that  
He dreamed of his girlfriend tabby cat.  
He dreamed he was king and she was queen,  
Meeting at his favourite bowling green,  
But behind the bushes creeping low,  
Came a rival, what a blow.,  
But then a smile came on his face  
It was not a member of the cat race.  
It was a squirrel with bushy tail and ears  
One he had not seen for years and years  
"George! wake up you lazy soul!  
I've just put your supper in your bowl".

Roger Davies  
May 2020 (Lovely poem Roger - thanks)



## News from Tom and Caroline locked down in Panama

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Not a lot of news.

We are still only able to go out singly, for 2 hours, 3 days each. Rather a bore.

However enclosed pictures (Vulcan Baru , 3.500m high) from our sitting room, 10m x 3 m plate glass, we are better off here than in England at the moment, though we are hoping to join you around mid July.

Our personal belongings should arrive at Charlbury House arrive next week. Thank goodness, we now also have the empty flat 2, to put everything down and amazing neighbours to help out!

Best wishes,

Tom



## Les Thomas Trophy

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This Wednesday night competition has been cancelled for 2020

## Short Mat

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There will be no short mat play until further notice.

## A membership challenge - A small prize for a piece of craft, art or the like which has been made/done during lockdown

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Just a reminder of the craft challenge, I hope you are finding time to produce a piece of craft.  
Jackie

## U3A

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I have just received an email from U3A to say that all groups are suspended until further notice.

Jackie Oakey

Stay alert, stay safe and follow the guidelines you have received from the Club Secretary as laid down by Bowls England.