

## Oyster Bowls Club Newsletter - July 2024

Goodness, already into July - fingers crossed for some sunshine! Already week 9 of the summer season "calendar." – "time stops for no man" is oh so true...

First and foremost, it is hoped, as always, that all are keeping well, however, sincere best wishes go out to those who are poorly or recuperating from operations etc – as always, we wish you all a **speedy** recovery.

**Indoor Leagues** are moving along well, round 8 being completed this week (week ending 28 June). There are just 10 rounds to go so good luck to all teams at pretty much the midpoint of the summer season.

Please be advised that the winter season will start week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> October. Registrations forms **MUST** be in by, please, **20 SEPTEMBER**.

It is necessary to highlight that, in recent months the way the club banks our money has changed dramatically (bank rules). It has now become a serious matter as we will get charged – yes, charged – for putting OUR money into OUR account in the form of cheques. So, unfortunately, it is necessary to stop (with immediate effect -with huge emphasis on **STOP**) cheques being submitted especially re the new season fast approaching -

**Winter 2024 – 5** The new season registration forms will soon need to be coming in so please (an appeal to ALL team leaders- advance warning) do not pay these fees by way of a cheque. Please pay by card at the Club – it is regrettable that this decision has had to be made – but with a charge of 75p PER CHEQUE the penalty for us is unacceptable.

We do hope you understand and will assist us handle the financial side of the Club.

*Please ensure you get a card receipt that can be attached to your form before placing in the League Secretary's box.*

### Dates for the diary

**Sunday 11 August** - 4321 Competition – details on the board by Rink 4 (along with all up-and-coming matches)

**Sunday 22 September** - Finals Day \*\*

**Friday 27 September** - AGM - 7.30pm START.

**Sunday 29 September** - Presentation Evening

**Monday 7 October** - Winter Leagues start

\*\* Following some changes to the **Competitions**, please remember that once registered, it is vital that, should you progress through the rounds you *must* be available to play in the finals on Sunday 22 September. The new rules are available to view on the Competitions Board.

The Bowls Club has a **new website** – with huge and grateful thanks to Dave Bartlett, Adrian & Jan Judd and Lin Riches. To view, please go to the new web address... <https://oysterindoorbowls.co.uk>. To navigate and find your way around the website, please use the menu's across the top, (or the 3 bar menu on phones / tablets), and the subsequent drop down menu's, to access many of the reports, information pages and photographs, that have been added. Pressing the 'Members Area' button will take you to our Bowlr pages - where you can log in to view rink bookings and availability, leagues and (from October) the competitions, (this summers' competitions can be found in the Gallery section). You can also access the membership list should you wish to find the name and telephone numbers of fellow members.

You **log in** by using your membership number, and your password is your initial, surname and membership number (eg jblogs1234). Anyone having difficulty in logging in, please advise Dave Turner or Dave Bartlett asap.

**Maintenance** - In recent weeks you will, of course, seen the building adorned with scaffolding. This was necessary for work men to complete urgent repairs to sections of the roof which were in a very bad condition (holes/rust). It was crucial that this work was done to ensure the protection of the internal part of the building – especially the rink carpets. Thankfully the roof held its own and had not leaked – we all know how much rain we have had in recent months – the consequences would have been awful.....The Board of Directors had no choice but to spend a great deal of money on this project – money that was, surely, well spent.

Other costs for the Club to keep going on a day to day, week to week etc are immense. Directors sometimes have very difficult decisions to make over outgoing expenses e.g. rent (council), gas, electricity, and insurance (we as members accept what we pay as the “norm” to run our homes without question. For our safety the Club has an added duty to comply with Health& Safety regulations which link in to the Insurance policy requirements. This is not a luxury but costs linked to this are totally necessary.

**Staff** – Three are present during the morning sessions available to talk to re club matters or otherwise. *They are there for you.* The members of the Board and the Playing Management Committee are **volunteers** - giving up their time, willingly, to ensure the smooth running of the club – e.g. the maintenance/upkeep of the rinks, the ladies and gents changing rooms and toilets. Emma does a sterling job keeping the management of the bar/catering up to speed but cannot do it on her own. The crucial bit is that all of what is done is done behind the scenes and members must, please, understand that it is hard, really hard. There are times when things don't run as smoothly as they should and that is entirely regrettably but please remember all parties above are doing their best – repeat – *doing their best.*

**Bar** – this is a particularly difficult issue – Emma cannot run the bar on her own. There is a superb team who volunteer to ensure the bar is open, especially at the busy sessions. However, sometimes, it has been noted that the bar has been closed – completely and utterly regrettable but, alas, as volunteers do have other commitments! It is so hard when volunteers aren't able to “back fill “on the busy sessions.

For as long as can be remembered, numerous appeals have been made urgently asking for more members to come forward and join the excellent team of volunteers so the shutters can be lifted. Adverse comments from members are not ignored but appeals for members to come forward to help are, sadly, ignored. Bar closures could be avoided with more “on board.” So, again, an appeal goes to all – 400 plus members – in the hope that a few will **please come forward** – speak to Emma – she will be delighted to speak with you.

**Membership cards and parking permits** - These are being issued by Dave and Emma for May 24 to April 25 – now yellow. Please keep the membership cards on you at the club for administrative purposes.

Several appeals have gone out in the past for parking permits to be displayed on vehicle windscreens – this is still being widely overlooked. If Oyster vehicles aren't identifiable then public “infiltrators” (especially in the summer months) will get away with parking in member's bays. *Please use your permits.*

It is important to say that the Club is doing very well – so be proud of what we all have and what has been achieved over recent years. Yes, there are times when members highlight concerns. Yes, such things are discussed and actioned accordingly on the understanding that not everything can be actioned due to financial restraints. Some things take priority – e.g. the roof. We all know the scoring system isn't right which has to be dealt with....

The Board and PMC members are united in their resolve to do their best for the members – alas with difficult matters to face difficult decisions may need to be made. It is hoped that members will understand just how hard that is – please give them your full support and backing.

Wishing everyone all the best as we go forward.

Board of Directors & Playing Management Committee

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