

Middlesex Bowling Association



Men's President – Brian Hearn – Women's President - Vacant

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a fine pickle we find ourselves in.

The effect this infernal virus will have on all our clubs is profound, especially as most are struggling to keep going, to find new members and to maintain or improve the facilities.

You will have seen, from the Bowls England circular, that all the National Championships and Competitions have been cancelled for this year, along with the county qualifying rounds. The good news is Bowls England is refunding their affiliation fees and the County has decided to do the same. As a result it will be necessary for clubs to be refunded with the total of the National Championship fees, the Bowls England and Middlesex affiliation fees and the Men's diary.(see below). This will be done when we have received the Bowls England refund, and as it will be a major logistical issue this could take some time. In order to process the refunds I would ask that you give the club's bank details to the County Treasurer at the address below; this should include the sorting code and account number.

David Todd, Treasurer, Middlesex Bowling Association, 59 Foxwood Close, Hanworth, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 7DN. Tel. 07770-630826; Email: toddbooks@blueyonder.co.uk

In view of recent tightening of bank security please also advise the exact correct title of your bank account, as otherwise the payment may be rejected.

We will not be refunding: Bowls England yearbooks, Women's year books, Internal Middlesex competitions (see below), Middlesex League fees.

In line with all of the Counties we play in the friendly and the home counties we have cancelled these matches. On a positive note the County aims to play the bannerette matches against Masonians, Ealing and District, and Strawberry Hill, although we may need to change the dates of the matches and depending on the clubs and host clubs themselves.

Please advise your Club representatives that the April meetings (the Men's GPC on the 8th April and the Women's council on the 22nd April) will not take place.

The Women's Year Books are being printed and I will be in touch about distribution, of these and the already printed Bowls England Year Books, during April. The Men's diary is not being printed but an abbreviated form will be posted on the Men's website and circulated by email in due course.

At present the Women's internal competitions (again this will depend on the status of the finals days host clubs) and the Middlesex League, the Women's Luncheon (Friday October 16th at the Thistle, Heathrow) and the Women's tour to Bournemouth (there are places available) are all still planned to take place. Should the internal competitions be cancelled these fees will also be refunded.

It has been agreed that, in line with Bowls England, our Presidential team's terms of office will be deferred so Brian will continue his Presidency in 2021, along with his team. Hopefully we will have volunteers for the Women's Presidential team by then.

Your Club members now have a difficult decision as to how to proceed for, hopefully, the next few months and at worse the entire season. It would be great if they all agree that the club keeps the fees to help ease the financial pressures Clubs will undoubtedly face. I have heard that a Berkshire club has decided to remain closed for the entire season. It may be that you decide to do the same or have limited number roll ups, keeping the two metre distance from your fellow bowler and washing your hands frequently whilst at the club and when you get home. Whatever your club decides I am sure it goes without saying that your members will keep in touch with each other, especially the most vulnerable.

Don't forget the Benevolent Funds may be able to help members who find themselves in straightened circumstances. Club members only need to make contact with the relevant secretary.

All the officers of the Middlesex Bowling Association will try to answer any questions or help address any concerns you may have so please give us a call and most definitely look out for further statements and e-mails from me and keep an eye on the Men's, Women's and Bowls England's websites.

On behalf of the Officers of the MBA, I wish all Clubs and their members well and hope we can weather this storm without too much distress.

All the best.



Jacquie Elkin
County Administrator and Women's Hon Secretary