Rolleston Club Newsletter.

Welcome to the June edition of the Rolleston Club newsletter.

I hope everyone is keeping safe and looking forward to the day we can reopen!

If you have passed by the club recently you may have noticed a bit of activity, and also quite a bit of noise! Apologies to our neighbours for that, but we now have the builders in carrying out our kitchen extension and refurbishment. They started on Monday 25th May and it is expected it will take them four or five weeks to complete. Once finished it will give us lots more space to work in and will make the kitchen a lot safer too. This is a great opportunity to get the work done whilst the club is closed and will therefore eliminate the chaos that would have been caused by staff trying to work around the builders! We are going to be taking regular pictures of the progress of the work and putting them on our Facebook page. A link is at the bottom of this newsletter, keep an eye on the progress there.

If anyone is interested in seeing the plans of the work we are carrying out, they can be viewed on the ESBC planning website, or we have electronic copies that could be emailed.

Once the kitchen is sorted, the builders are going to carry out conversion of a brick shed we have in the rear yard. This has been used for storage for the last few years, but we are converting it into a new secretary’s office.

We also have plans to build an accessible toilet in the car park near the current ladies’ toilet, and also have decided to carry out major work to the roof over the main hall. This roof is being converted from the current flat roof to a pitched design. This work is planned to start once the kitchen and office projects have been completed. Again, this is a great time to do it, as we won’t have to cancel any functions that would have been booked for the main room. So, less disruption again.

Apart from the building, there hasn’t been a lot happening around the club as you can probably imagine. There are no sporting activities taking place as they are all still suspended. The darts team did manage to complete their season though, and they finished a very respectable third in the division. Well done to them.

We have had numerous enquiries about when the bowling green is going to open, so I’ll explain what’s happening. Although the Government has allowed for outdoor sports to take place, we also have to take into account the advice and recommendations of the British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA). Currently, the advice is that only two people are allowed on a green at any one time. Spectators are not allowed. There should be one person ensuring that social distancing is maintained by the players, and that no other person enters the green. Each player must use their own jack and mat. There should be pre-booked time slots of forty-five minutes which would need to be booked the previous day. We would also have to ensure that items that have been touched are cleaned at the end of each day. Of course, we would need to make sure someone was there all day to manage all of this.

We also have to consider the safety of our members at this time, we don’t want anyone to be put at risk by using our premises. Another problem we have is that we are not allowed to open either the club or the pavilion. There would therefore be no hand washing or toilet facilities available.

It has just been announced by the Derbyshire Association that a local green which has recently opened has seen a case of Covid-19, and they believe the person involved contracted it at the bowling green. We cannot risk this happening at Rolleston Club.

It has therefore been decided that it is not practical to open the green as we cannot ensure that all the BCGBA rules could be properly policed. If, and when, the BCGBA changes its advice, and reduces the number of hoops we must jump through, then we will look into reconsidering our decision. Until then, unfortunately, the green will remain closed. As soon as anything changes, we will let you know.

You may have noticed that the benches outside the club have now been removed. There have been a couple of people using them now and again to sit and enjoy the afternoon sunshine, have a chat, and drink their own beer. Unfortunately, some kind-hearted soul has decided to put in an official complaint to the council, accusing the club of being illegally open and selling beer. Thanks for that, whoever you are. I must stress that at no time has the club been open, and at no time has any beer been sold.

On a lighter note, you may have noticed the outside of the club is looking a lot nicer. We have sprayed all the weeds that were popping up and making the place look untidy. Christine Brandon has done a great job of buying plants on behalf of the club, making up hanging baskets, and filling the plant boxes on the fence. At least the place looks a bit more ‘lived in’ rather than just an abandoned building! Thanks to Maureen in the flat for helping with the watering too.

Sorry there isn’t much news at the moment, especially good news, hopefully that will change in the coming weeks.

Stay safe everyone!

That’s all for this month, if you have any items that you would like included in a newsletter, please email us at secretary@rollestonclub.org.uk and we will make sure we publish them.

We have a Facebook page [Rolleston Club](https://en-gb.facebook.com/rollestonclub/) and a Twitter account [@Rolleston\_Club](https://twitter.com/Rolleston_Club) for up to date news.  Join in our conversation.

Mark Storr

Assistant Secretary

Rolleston Club