



Bexhill Bowling Club Committee  
Statement  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The notice from Rother District Council, whilst perhaps not entirely unexpected, was nonetheless disappointing. The door, however, was left open to the possibility of reopening the greens this season.

Your committee do not want to write off 2020 whilst there's hope.

We have however, sent out a precautionary note to all clubs on our intended fixtures list, notifying them of the statement from R.D.C.

We are told that we must comply with all government measures; that the worst may be over in three months and that restrictions could start to be lifted.

We just might be playing bowls at the end of June and that will give us twelve weeks or so.

Our first decision has been to change the finals weekend to 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September.

We are also extending the time allowed for membership subscriptions and competition entries payments to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

We urge you all to sign up and enter our competitions.

If you have already done so, then may we say how much we really appreciate your loyalty and commitment to the club.

We will specify the date for each round to ensure all competitions reach a conclusion at our finals weekend.

If Government restrictions are still in place and we can't achieve this, then we will refund your competition entry monies in full.

Should we only manage to enjoy a few weeks play, the competitions secretaries are considering alternative competitions.,

If we can't have a finals weekend, then until told otherwise, we'll plan a fun weekend at the end of September.

We would like to be able to do something about the level of membership subscription, given that this will not be a full season, but this is difficult for us.

You may, or may not be aware that £9.00 of the £10.00 you pay to us goes directly to Sussex County Bowls as an affiliation fee. £4.00 stays with the county and £5.00 is sent on to Bowls England.

This is paid to the county in October and entitles our Club and its members to involvement in County and National activities the following year.

It is important, therefore, that you do pay your membership subscription.

We will then send your £9.00 to the county by 1<sup>st</sup> October, securing your entitlement in 2021

We must emphasise that this is not our rule. This is set within the Sussex County Bowls constitution as shown below and applies to all clubs within the county.

#### *4. Fees and Subscriptions*

*a.*

*The Annual Affiliation fee due to 'SCB-MS' shall be fixed by the Annual General Meetings - Clubs are required to pay this fee on a per capita basis for each member. Similarly, a per capita fee shall be paid to SCB annually for onward transmission to Bowls England annually the amount of which they will notify SCB.*

*b.*

*The Affiliation fees shall be requested by the 'SCB-MS' County Secretary annually and will be required to be received at a date that will be set out on the demand. Failure to pay the dues by the due date will disqualify the club from participating in the affairs of 'SCB-MS' until such fees are paid.*

We can report that Bowls England have just announced that they will be refunding the £5.00 affiliation fee you paid last October in full.

If you entered National and County Competitions then your competition entry fee will also be refunded. This will be processed through the county and may take a little while to organise.

The £4.00 Affiliation Fee paid to the County by each member covers administration and expenses throughout the season.

The County Secretary has announced:

*"Despite no bowls being played, there is still administration taking place and there are still expenses to be paid. Having reviewed the situation and having taken into account the anticipated expenses this year, they are considered to be about half of what they are in a normal year.*

*The General-Purpose Committees of both the Men's and the Women's Section, gave serious consideration to this matter and have agreed that we do not require - and it would be unfair - to retain the entire £4.00 from each member, but that we do need to retain a proportion to cover costs. They have both therefore agreed, that as the anticipated expenses this year are expected to be about half, we only require to retain half of the Affiliation Fee and therefore half of the Affiliation Fee - a sum of £2.00 per member, will be refunded to the clubs*

*Not an ideal situation, as nothing is at the moment, but I trust all can see that the County still needs to operate during these unfortunate times and that a small sum of £2.00 is surely not too much of a burden on any player."*

We are yet to hear how this will be processed by the County or when this might be received, but it will obviously take some time to organise.

We want you all to stay well and urge you to follow the Government's latest orders, which clearly demand that every person within society stays at home, to help to stop this disease from spreading.

These are difficult times and we would like you all to know that we are here to help.

If you are feeling isolated and none of us are finding life easy right now, pick up the phone and have a chat to us. Your committee will also be reaching out to you.

We encourage you all to keep an eye out for everyone during this time by maintaining contact, especially with those who live on their own.

A telephone call - e-mail - Face Time - Skype to another member will, I am sure, be welcomed at this time.

We are in the process of setting up a Bexhill Bowling Club WhatsApp group, which you are all invited to join. WhatsApp is a texting service and is free.

Over the coming days we will be sending out a link to enable you to connect to the group.

Let's all think about what we can do to help each other.

If you have any suggestions or observations, we would love to hear from you.

We will continue to provide you with regular updates by newsletter and the "members page" of our web site:

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

We hope you will like the changes we have made to the web site and you may especially enjoy the photos on our "gallery" page. If you have any photos you would like us to add, please do get in touch and we will organise it.

Please continue to support your club. If you were with us last year, you will be receiving a £7.00 refund, so effectively this year's subscription is just £3.00 and if you pay now your 2021 entitlement is secured.

Do support our competitions, secure in the knowledge that should Government restrictions prevent these, we will refund your entry fee in full.

We look forward to seeing you all as soon as is possible

Please take care and stay well.

Committee  
Bexhill Bowling Club