



WHITNASH SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB



NEWSLETTER – MAY/JUNE 2020

Dear Member

We hope everyone is coping well and that it won't be too long until we can meet again at the Club.

A sad start to this edition of the Newsletter by offering our sincere condolences to Julie Evans and Maureen Tims, for the loss of their wonderful husbands, Roy Evans and Eddie Tims. It was heartwarming to see so many members out on the roads paying their respects to these two gentlemen who have been such an important part of our Club for several decades. They will both be sadly missed but will never be forgotten.

ELECTRICAL REPORT

We are pleased to report that all electrical work has now been completed and, contrary to any rumours you may have heard, we have received confirmation from independent electricians, that the Hall and Club rooms are entirely safe. They have made a full EICR inspection, completing all tests, and apart from a few minor issues which needed addressing (at no extra cost to the club), we can confidently assure you that we have met all safety requirements.

FINANCE & ADMIN

Our new Treasurer, Ian Hart, is settling well into his new role, and has set up various procedures (eg Purchasing) to make the job easier to administer and more transparent. Thanks to Kevin Watson, for his guidance and training on the accounting package. Ian has committed to the role enthusiastically and we are confident that his skills and financial control will be a great asset. The new signatories for the bank account and club expenditure are Jeremy Ley (Secretary), Ian Hart (Treasurer), and Carol Woodward.

We have also set up a WSSC Dropbox account to keep all important club documentation in one place for easy access and centralised filing, including, but not limited to, Processes and Procedures, Correspondence, Meeting Minutes, etc. Although still retaining paper records, where required, having secure and controlled access to this online "one-stop shop" for Club information makes administration and record-keeping much simpler for those who need access to it.

JAYKAYS DANCE ACADEMY AND SLIMMING WORLD

Obviously with the closure of the Club and Covid-19 restrictions, we have received no income from the Dance Academy or Slimming World for the past few months, but as from Monday, 1st June the Principal of the dance school will be solely occupying the New Hall each weekday to offer Zoom classes to some of her pupils, until she is able to resume classes full-time. She will obviously only be in receipt of a much lower income for these virtual lessons, so we have negotiated a reduced rate fee during this period, but it will at least provide us with some additional income.

With regards to Slimming World, their return will depend on their Head Office ruling on when they can continue their meetings, but we will be working with them to ensure that when they return we put in place the necessary distancing regulations and work within Government guidelines.

SPORT

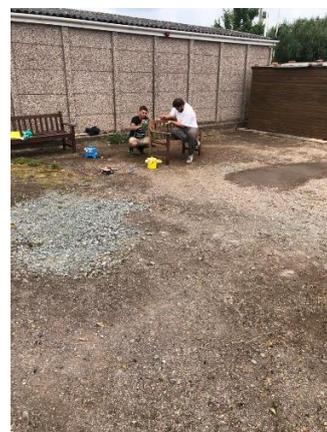
Using the ruling of six people gathering together at social distance, and since it is an outdoor sport, the Bowls Section have resumed occasional play, and the Petanque Section are in the process of doing the same in line with Government and national association guidelines.

MOLSON COORS

The offer from Molson Coors has now been confirmed, and they should be ready to install everything in early July. In the meantime, we will be refurbishing behind the bar in readiness for the new pumps and new point of sale layout, as well as installing a brand new bar counter.

SITE IMPROVEMENT AND BAR REFURBISHMENT

Things have been continually moving in the last month, and your committee and young volunteers have worked hard to make improvements at the Club, using social distancing rules of course. We are very grateful to Rachel and her son, Jean-Luc, together with Lee Handy, James Claridge, Ryan Robinson, Dion Howe, Ben Hindson, Jacob Perry, Jake Bradbury-Lee, Lee Williams, Jovi Hone, and some of our committee, all under the direction and supervision of Craig Lee. Everyone has worked tirelessly over the past few weeks, all free of charge and we are indebted to them all for their selfless and magnificent contribution. They have undertaken numerous jobs and completely weeded the whole site which has made a massive difference, and Rachel has also spent hours weeding and jetwashing the slabbed area around the Bowling Green, and also tidying, weeding and mowing the garden area, which has greatly enhanced the environment.



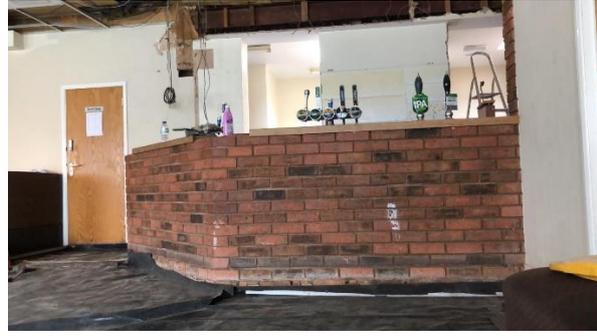
Volunteers cleaning slabs, tidying the garden and sanding benches

This group of volunteers has also provided free manual labour in the hard preparation of the bar in readiness for the bar refurbishment, which is currently underway. To give you an idea of the extent and depth of the work involved in this project these photos demonstrate some of the issues that we faced and the professionalism and quality of the work being undertaken.

The bar has been stripped out of tables, chairs and some of the bench seats. The floor, due to Health and Safety concerns, was in dire need of attention, and has been ripped up and relaid but has yet to be laminated. Work on the floor was not without its problems and once ripped up major works were required to rectify the situation in order to ensure a professional, long-lasting floor.



Part of the solution to fix the floor was to lay a screed of concrete to ensure it is even across the room before the oak laminate is laid. This work will hopefully be completed within the next couple of weeks.



The columns and roofing around the bar itself have been removed as planned, and this has opened up the serving area more substantially than we originally anticipated and as a result of this we did not feel it was necessary to change the shape or extend the bar area further as indicated in the plans in our last Newsletter.

As promised, we have worked within a budget of £5,000 to undertake this refurb which, without the free labour from Craig and the volunteers, would normally have cost many thousands of pounds more. It was felt sensible to replace all the lighting in the bar at the same time as the refurbishment, and this work has been undertaken by the independent electrician who undertook our EICR inspection and this aspect was funded outside of our budget as it was not included in the original plans. We are also taking advantage of the closure of the club to carry out other necessary maintenance work during this time.

THE FUTURE

We are looking at how we can return to normality once we are allowed to reopen, and we are considering what measures we will have to implement in order to ensure we have a safe environment for us all to return to and we will be looking at government guidance in this respect. The committee has several ideas for the club going forward, but we are currently concentrating on improving the facilities for its members. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will have time to consider our proposed Business Review, and, in the next Newsletter, be able to report even more positive progression.

Stay safe and best regards

Carol Woodward - *Section and Membership Liaison (on behalf of the Management Committee)*
12 Jun 2020