

NOTES FROM THE MEMBERS' FORUMS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 18TH AND MONDAY, 23RD JANUARY 2023

COMMENT / SUGGESTION	BOARD'S RESPONSE
<p>Consider reducing the cost to play particularly for those bowling on their own or involved in back-to-back matches. Offer two-for-the-price-of one at quieter times</p>	<p>Rink fees are already extremely competitive and the Club's income needs to be protected. The minimum rink fee is low compared to other stadium and is priced to encourage usage. There is no leeway in terms of reducing what are already very low fees.</p> <p>The quiet period on a Thursday Afternoon has been addressed by making a change to the day when Over 60s matches are played (which also helped with disruption to the Wednesday Afternoon Leagues)</p>
<p>Stadium closing early especially over Christmas/New Year and on Sundays causing inconvenience to Members wishing to play</p>	<p>Impractical and costly to keep the Stadium open to accommodate a very small number of players – particularly given the rink fees. Running costs and staff wages need to be met to make it viable to remain open. Christmas / New Year an exception. Sundays already a loss leader and will be subject to review</p>
<p>On-line booking facility for casual roll-ups</p>	<p>A possibility for the future – but as things currently stand, not possible/practical</p>
<p>Players wearing non-regulation footwear</p>	<p>Signage all around the Stadium reminding players of the need to wear the correct shoes. Difficult to tell sometimes. Staff reliant on members to bring any such issues to their attention</p>
<p>Time on/off the Green</p>	<p>In all instances, bowlers should play to the bell</p>
<p>Food to be taken into the green</p>	<p>Clarification provided that food had been prohibited from being taken into the green area since the Stadium opened – and only drinks were permitted, but not beyond the brown line on the walkway. Policy in place to protect the bowls carpet and Board</p>

	<p>keen to reiterate the need for all members to comply.</p> <p>Individuals who needed to eat for medical reasons could take sugary drinks into the green – or consume snacks in the lounge. It was for each individual to manage their medication (if appropriate) accordingly</p>
<p>Cash payments to be reinstated</p> <p>Team members to be allowed to pay individually</p>	<p>Not an option on several levels. Reconciling card payments with cash would be highly time-consuming for staff. Local banks have closed, which make it extremely difficult to pay money in without it requiring someone to travel into town, which in itself was a security issue. Bank charges were becoming increasingly more expensive and would be an unwelcome additional cost to the Club.</p> <p>Given the number of teams and players involved in the Leagues it would be nigh-on impossible to monitor</p>
<p>Encourage uptake at the bar and allow non-members (e.g. Swansea Academy parents) to use the lounge</p>	<p>Had been trialled when the Academy first opened but had caused numerous issues. The lounge was being used as a waiting area with very little being purchased from the bar. Children were entering the facility in football boots and more often than not, our own members were unable to sit down or were having to queue for refreshments. The Club's focus is ensuring that its members have a safe, comfortable and clean environment.</p> <p>The Club had previously arranged events in the Lounge e.g. Curry / Pie & Pint / Quiz Nights – but there had been no support from the members. As and when the new caterers are engaged, it might be something they would be willing to look at. On that note, at the time of reporting, there had been only one expression of interest in taking over the cafe</p>
<p>Utilize the car park(s) for financial gain (e.g. charge £5 per vehicle for Swansea FC parking)</p>	<p>With limited parking for members' it would not be possible to accommodate everyone – and our obligation is to be able to provide our</p>

	<p>members with a parking facility. The barriers were paid for in order to ensure only members could use the areas – and it would give mixed messages and cause confusion. In addition, it would have to be staffed and that was not currently an option</p>
Introduce a '200' Club or similar	<p>Unfortunately, the Club's lease prohibits 'Gambling'</p>
Help from the Council	<p>Swansea Bowls took over the lease for the Stadium in 2014 and as a result, the Council ceased to provide any assistance whatsoever. Financially, the Club does not receive any money from the local authority and is wholly reliant on Membership and (especially) Rink Fees. The Club has been operating at an unsustainable loss for the last 5 years.</p> <p>The recent cost to repair the heating system (£15,000) singlehandedly wiped out the income generated from Membership Renewals – with WIB affiliation fees a further £4,500. Current electricity costs alone are £1,000 per week.</p> <p>Whilst registered as a not-for-profit charity, applying for grants is not an option as the Club has reserves in the bank</p>
Encourage new members	<p>Currently have just shy of 520 members – but only about half attend the stadium. Need to encourage existing members to keep playing and attend regularly as green fees are essential means of income. Happy to look at mailing cricket and golf clubs (as their seasons are opposite our own). Possibly look at attending Freshers' Week at Swansea University in September and will arrange Taster Sessions or Open Day(s).</p> <p>Most importantly, existing members to encourage friends and relatives to come along and try</p>