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April 2021 Newsletter – A quick reflection on the first two weeks

This is just a very quick reflection on the first two weeks including some important information about Junior Practice and a tweak to our opening times for the bank holiday weekend.

Re-opening the bar - thank you for your patience

It is fair to say that it hasn't been easy in the first two weeks since we opened whilst we look to understand what works well and what doesn't in this crazy new world of socially distanced, sit down drinking with no spectators allowed to watch cricket matches unless they are partaking in hospitality and therefore sitting down as well.

Behind the scenes we have been getting used to new tills, an ever-increasing number of card machines, boosting our wifi strength to cope with card payments all the way around the ground etc etc, but we are getting there and making improvements on a daily basis. Can I just say thank you for your patience as we do learn about what does work well, and what doesn't. Thank you too for making our new team of waiting on staff feel very welcome, I think that they have been fantastic in what have sometimes been challenging situations. I also need to say thanks to Alastair Ralph for his help with the technology and to Pam Willetts and her bar team for everything they have done thus far.

You'll have seen the arrival of 10 new benches last week and we are expecting the arrival of 10 new tables in the next week, all of which has increased our capacity around the ground.

Whilst we have been rather fortunate with the weather since we opened, the cold evenings that "hit" from about 7pm means that we will continue to close early each night until we perhaps reassess at the next formal date on the recovery journey which is 17th May.

That said, we will just change the opening hours for the bank holiday weekend with the bar :-

- **remaining open till 10pm (last orders at 9.30pm) on Sunday 2nd May,**
- **whilst we will actually open at 2pm on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May rather than the usual 4pm.**

The cricket

We've had a fantastic 2 weeks of cricket with 6 very close and exciting matches for our 3 senior teams. Whilst results went slightly against us on the first weekend with the 2nds losing by 3 wickets and the 3rds losing by 5 runs, the 1sts were able to win their first ever match in the Lancashire League by 7 runs at Accrington. Lessons had been learnt by the time we got to week 2 and I'm pleased to say all 3 teams won this last weekend in a series of very close and exciting matches so we look forward with confidence to the games that are scheduled for the bank holiday weekend. Andy Skinner and his team of helpers continue to keep the ground looking glorious and produce excellent wickets for playing cricket on.



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Our junior practice continues to attract many players and parents enjoying a nice end to the week. **We have reached a point however, where we will no longer be able to accept any more new junior members** whilst we reassess coaching / helper ratios for the children and look to recruit new coaches / helpers to increase our capacity. We will hopefully be able to open up to new members in the near future, **but for the time being we will only be able to accept children who are already members.**

A gentle reminder

I'm boring myself with these but feel it's only right to continue to ask for your continued support in abiding by the covid regulations in force around the ground / clubhouse. Council Licencing and GMP officers will be visiting the ground to ensure that we are providing a safe and covid compliant service to you all, so your continued support in this is very much appreciated. Covid regulations around the re-opening of outdoor hospitality are particularly stringent and require :-

- **Waiter / waitress service only**
- **Customers to be seated when ordering**
- **Customers to be seated when drinking**
- **Customers to abide by the rule of 6 in particular and social distancing in general**

This significantly impacts on capacity levels and **we will therefore only be able to serve drinks to GCC members and members of opposition clubs.**

GCC club members are therefore reminded that they will only be served if they have their new 2021 membership card. I am afraid we will simply be unable to accept orders from people who do not have their membership cards with them.

Members will be able to bring their own chairs which is one legitimate way of increasing capacity, although please do be mindful of the need to maintain the rule of 6 / social distancing requirements should you bring your own chair.

The total focus on outdoor only drinking, allied to the very cold weather we are currently experiencing, means that **we will initially be serving drinks in plastic glasses only.** We will continually review this but we hope that you can understand why this, initially, is the safest policy.

Customers will once again be asked to pay for all drinks by card.



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Customers are not allowed to enter the clubhouse at all other than to use the toilets. **The toilets in the function room will be the only toilets open.**

When using the toilet facilities, all visitors will be required to :-

- Wear a mask when inside the clubhouse
- Maintain social distancing when queuing for the toilets
- Observe the one in / one out protocol for the toilets using the vacant / occupied signs on the toilets as appropriate.
- Make good use of the hand sanitisers that are placed directly outside the toilets

I think that is about it for now, I hope the update is useful. Let's hope the weather remains kind to us and we continue to benefit from the sun as it makes the Log Cabin such a beautiful place to come and relax and watch cricket. I do hope to see you down at the Log Cabin over the coming weeks. Take care.

Rob Kilvington

GCC Club Chairman