



Dear member

So, we are to remain in Tier 2 over the Festive period meaning that we could only open and serve drinks to accompany a substantial meal. Any of you who have looked into it in any depth will also be aware that there are guidelines as to how much alcohol can be served with a meal and how long you can "drag a meal out for."

Rest assured that the Committee has looked into this very closely and looked for any solution that we believe would allow us to open in a cost-effective manner. The harsh reality is that when we are locked down, the staff are paid by the Government, we receive the Additional Measures Grant money, we can turn off virtually all the gas and electricity (and we spend **a lot** on those when open) and many contracts for services are put on hold saving us a lot more cash.

So, whilst we could open and produce some sort of food offering, all the sums show that it would have the end result of costing us a lot of money compared to staying shut. After losing half our income this year, that is an extra loss that we couldn't and shouldn't allow.

Therefore, with regret, the Club will remain closed into the New Year until such time as we possibly move into Tier 1, or the national rules change.

Christmas draw

This will happen sometime in the New Year. Rather than try and put a date on it, we'll see when we can re-open then maybe allow a bit of time for members to make any final purchases they might want. As stated before, all the normal meat prizes have been replaced with Farm Shop vouchers so you can get the product of your choice, depending on what season it might be – hopefully it will be well before it's time to think about next year's turkey!

Annual subs

Being realistic, the virus rates will be higher after the Christmas and New Year festivities and we don't see any real prospect of a change soon after the holidays.

Therefore, **subs will not be collected in January** and we will advise when it is going happen. We also need to consider the safety of the people involved – large amounts of cash and membership wallets change hands not to mention the close proximity when making a payment.

We will schedule this when we think it is safe to do so. Only the payment deadline will change – you will still be paying for the same period (i.e. Jan 1st – Dec 31st).

Rest assured that nobody will suffer as a result of this and be declared lapsed. And if you are say, away on holidays at whatever time we do it, just let us know and we can make a note to grant you late a payment exemption.

Annual Dinner Dance

The one thing we do know is that it cannot be held in March in Hoburne Park - they don't intend to open until after Easter. Depending on how things go, in terms of both the spread of the virus and the vaccination programme, it could happen a bit later in the year, but we can't be very specific as yet.

In the meantime...

Please, keep yourselves safe over Christmas. Remember, just because someone is a relative or a really close mate, they can still infect you. There'll be plenty more Christmases – let's make sure we're all still here to enjoy them!

Spend some of that unused beer money on some nice treats at home and let's make the best of a bad situation.

From the Staff and Committee, we hope you have a happy Christmas and look forward to a healthy 2021 and life returning to something more normal!

Richard Leyshon

On behalf of the Management Committee