

# The Muddeford Club

## Dear Member,

Finally, it seems like there might be light at the end of the tunnel! With the vaccination programme going well and rates of infection (and most importantly hospitalisations and deaths) dropping dramatically, there is every reason to be optimistic that the planned re-opening on 17<sup>th</sup> May can go ahead. Let's just hope that as other restrictions are eased, people will behave sensibly and not do things that might put this timetable at risk.

We won't know much for certain until Boris makes an announcement on **10<sup>th</sup> May**. Be sure to tune in

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What has become clear (things we didn't know at the time of the last update) is that:

1. **Every person will now have to sign-in** (or scan the QR code with their phone) rather than the previous system of one person per group. By way of an advance warning, should there be any more "hilarious" contact slips signed by "Mickey Mouse" or similarly stupid acts, the CCTV footage can and will be used to identify which member was not properly signed-in.
2. When we do re-open, it will again be table service only, with everyone to be seated in a group of no more than 6. Hopefully, this will only be until 21<sup>st</sup> June.

There's much debate at the moment on the subject of "Covid passports" – we know this won't be required from 17<sup>th</sup> May but in the longer term, who knows? Boris seems keen but there is plenty of opposition to the idea.

## Other good news

I'm sure you can imagine that with people furloughed or shielding, getting things done has been rather painfully slow for the past few months. However, we have now been refunded for most of the unopened beer kegs that had to be disposed of (this took five months!) with just one outstanding keg of Guinness which, believe it or not, is processed by a different system to all the other beers!

The Local Restrictions Support Grant payments came to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March and we are up to date with everything we were eligible for under that scheme and indeed we received all the grant payments we expected to with the exception of the £1,000 payment for wet-led pubs to cover loss of sales over Christmas. This, it turns out was strictly for pubs only and being a Club made us ineligible as this loss was "covered" (I wish!) by the LRSG payments.

It has been confirmed in the last couple of days that we have been approved for what is probably the final grant that will be made available, **The Restart Grant**. We don't yet have a confirmed figure but, if the Council agrees with our sums, that should hopefully be £12,000 in the bank by the end of the week.

## Brewery contract

This is the time for renewal of the brewery contract. Normally this would involve looking at offers from competitors to secure the best deal available. However, as you can imagine, with organisations having skeleton crews at the moment, this would be very difficult. Also, you can imagine that after the year we have had, nobody is "throwing money around" in the form of great deals.

So, we have been negotiating extensively with Coors and have a deal which is frankly way beyond what we could have hoped for. We have traditionally received brewery payments to us of specific amounts to cover specific items e.g. contributions towards certain types of promotions etc.

Under the new deal:

- These payments will no longer be linked to specific events and we will get “cash back” to use for whatever we wish. This will be calculated on quarterly targets so even if we have say, a quiet summer when people are on holiday, we can still hit maximum targets in the other three quarters and receive the full payments. The numbers are based on our 2019 volumes so we know the targets are achievable. In fact, we could get more money back than under the old deal if we only reached the full target in **one** of the four quarters as long as we hit 67% in the other three!
- We will receive a further “retro payment” equal to 3.5% of every order placed with the brewery.
- We will get 30% discount on BT Sport bills
- Price rises will be capped (other than what the Chancellor may hit us with)

Under the circumstances, the Committee thought that this deal represents unbelievable value in the current climate and the risk would be in not signing up to it while it is still on the table. We have therefore agreed to sign on this basis for an additional 3 years meaning that we will continue to stock our best-selling lines (Carling, Worthington and Doombar).

### Cricket Club fundraiser

The Cricket Club not only completed their charity fundraising walk/run covering 1,008.6 miles during March, but they **doubled** it! Currently, the sum raised through sponsorship stands at a fantastic £2,705. Half of this money is being donated to Macmillan Caring Locally and they came along to photograph Ryan Attree and Alex James as they completed the final leg, finishing at the Pavilion (after stopping for a quick “refresher” at the Club to give them the energy for the last 250 metres!)

The Cricket Club would like to thank everyone who generously contributed. The portion of the money raised for the Club has already found a use as the players have started a refurb of the pavilion with painting and changing room improvements underway as I write this.



***Gordon and Jacky provide Ryan and Alex with socially distanced refreshment to help them to the finish line.***

I can also reveal (due to his mate “grassing him up”) that the final leg of the run was marked by Alex, in spectacular fashion, by falling flat on his face in the middle of the road as they set off in full cricket gear!

That's about all for now. Assuming nothing changes, there will be what is hopefully the final member update after Boris addresses us on 10th May. Hopefully in that email, we can let you know which events will be restarting and when and we will be able to give you an idea of the arrangements for payment of subs. (We know some members are keen to pay subs as soon as possible but perhaps others might be more comfortable after 21st June when all restrictions will hopefully be lifted. If you feel that way, please send a quick reply to let us know and we could maybe organise a few late payment sessions at the end of June.)

Stay safe,

Richard Leyshon  
On behalf of the Committee