

Message from the ESMBA

Back in March when the decision was taken to postpone events due to the Coronavirus outbreak, no one imagined four months on our lives would still be so affected by it.

The Government is slowly allowing activities to start again, albeit with restrictions. But indoor activities like Short Mat Bowls are still being advised to stay closed as are many of the venues we all use. As such the ESMBA strongly recommends that all its Counties and clubs follow this until it is safe to do so and remain closed.

The ESMBA is having ongoing conversations with its various partners and venues to try and find a safe way to start playing again in line with Government guidelines. We can now see that with the cap on the number of competitors within a confined space, that National and County events will struggle to happen at least in the next couple of months. It is expected that there will now be a gradual restarting of our sport, likely to be around September/October with clubs going back to practice before leagues, county and National events start to happen. The ESMBA management committee are looking at possible guidance for clubs and then Counties but are waiting for Government information to be issued, so that we are in line with these. We understand it is going to be a very difficult time for members to continue so the ESMBA are looking at ways to help both professionally and financially to its members via its County set up. We are also looking at the diary ahead and areas where changes can be made to allow for a later or reduced start to the season. Information will follow as details are confirmed.

This is a first in all our lifetimes and has been a very testing time for many of us. Hard mentally for many of our members that rely on our sport for social interaction. But after making such a sacrifice with social distancing and shielding as we have so far, we owe it to ourselves and others not to rush back now. The positive selling points of portability and relatively small space required to play Short Mat Bowls, together with the Government guidelines make the situation of managing a safe return very complex.



Working from home, but missing the train trips.



More Nonsense from Jeff B

Linking a player to a Film Title. Inspired by the 1 st on the list.

***Alan Hare**.....The Magnificent 1 (asked him for another 6 to make up The Magnificent 7 ,but he said he couldn't think of any more)

***Margaret Hare**.....Lady Windermere's Fan.

***Ken Murray**.....The Quiet Man (he walks around ,watching us play, he doesn't have to say a thing, a-look is enough)

***Sue Murray**.....The King and I (bit crawley ?. What the hell !)

***Alan Spicer**.....The Pink Panther (there was no film called the Coral Panther)

***Bill Gearing**.....The Dark Destroyer (Nuff said)

***Toni Gearing**.....Kill Bill (When she plays a bad shot & He stamps his foot)

***Dennis Mac**.....Cool Hand Luke (This man is Cool)

***Alexis Mac**.....Banana Skins ,2014 comedy. (when she got to the quarter final singles at Potters I said I didn't want to draw her as she was a 'banana skin.) but with her recent results she is now a fully fledged banana.

***Michael West**The Assassin (Well he has assassinated me on the mats before now) was going to link him to The Fall Guy, but thought too bad memories.

***Jeanette & Tony**....Quick on the draw ,tv series.(lets put it this way, if their game overruns the opposition must be slooooooowww)

***Peter Griffiths**.....Peter Rabbit (not only does he like a chat but his bowls can find some little holes to go thru)

***Sam Salmon**.....Throw in the Towel, 2016 Netflix comedy..(I know he doesn't do that anymore)

***Brian McGivern**.....The Chess Player (he's always working on his strategy to beat you)

***Jan Rogers**.....The Artist (Beware you know you place on the mat ,she has been known to magic marker peoples hands with their place in line)

***Ted & Cherry**.....Terrible Ted & Cheeky Cherry (there is no such film, just thought I would give them a mention)