

## **The Cricket Society and Covid-19**

We are all coming to terms with what the current public health crisis means for us, our families and friends, and wider communities both here and elsewhere in the world. Sport, including cricket, is an inevitable casualty. I am writing to summarise the consequences for The Cricket Society as they seem at present. But, first, **a message from our President John Barclay:**

*“The pace of events and the necessary precautions have, I’m sure, taken us all by surprise. A shock too. In the meantime keep yourselves as safe and secure as possible during which time I know The Cricket Society will try to provide you with morsels of comfort to help keep up spirits. And, at the end of it all, when we’ve all been through the tunnel and emerged to the light on the other side, we will have an even richer appreciation of all we love and treasure, including our cricket.”*

### **A round-up from the Chairman, Nigel Hancock**

As I hope you saw last week on our website ([www.cricketsociety.com](http://www.cricketsociety.com)), our Spring Awards Lunch, arranged for 27 March at The Oval, is postponed until Friday 30 October (the original date for the Autumn Lunch). Those of you who have booked will be contacted about this directly.

The Cricket Society and MCC Book of the Year Award 2020 (BOTY) is also being postponed: we are keen to find an alternative date for the event. However, it may be some time before one can be confirmed. Amid the current uncertainty one possibility is that cricket will be played during October, which means available dates for functions like BOTY will not be known for some time. Meanwhile, MCC will be in touch with those of you who have booked to make clear your options. And look out soon for an announcement on our website about the short list.

With the domestic cricket season postponed to at least 28 May, our announced ‘days at the cricket’, at Hove on 15 June and Worcester on 1 July, remain for the present on our 2020 programme. Payments already made will be held (but not passed on to the venues) unless requests for refunds are made pending clarity about the fate of these events.

The Cricket Society XI will not be playing cricket until the recent suspension of all recreational, that is non-professional, cricket is lifted.

In this our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, planning for the autumn 2020 to early 2021 programme of meetings continues in respect of all our four locations: London, Bath, Edgbaston and Chester-le-Street. Some meetings are already scheduled from October. The Spring Journal will be printed soon and posted to you in early May. The Club Lottery goes ahead, with the first draw taking place at the end of May: the latest Bulletin has the details.

We will be taking forward soon our plans to survey our members on a range of issues that will help us understand you better and inform our decision making.

Finally, we would like to expand the range of cricketing material that we make available to you this year - in our publications, on our website, and via Twitter (@CricketSociety). For example, the Autumn Journal, to be issued in the same month as The Cricket Society was founded in 1945, will be larger than usual; and we are considering additional features such as quizzes and where they might best feature. A first quiz is already on our website, and regular official tweets have started on our feed.

Please look out on our website for further updates, and please take the best care you can in your personal circumstances.

**Kind regards, Nigel Hancock**

**24 March 2020**