

Dear Club Secretary

You will no doubt be aware of the closure of the Braehead curling facility at the end of this season. Lanarkshire Ice Rink has had requests for ice for next season from a good number of the displaced affected Clubs.

It is impossible to accommodate all requests made (albeit tentatively at the minute).

The LIR Directors are obviously monitoring the situation as closely as they can at this stage especially taking into account various rumours of a new temporary curling facility being made available for next season “somewhere in Glasgow”

It is the firm view of the Directors that we should extend facilities to as many of these Clubs as possible (despite the fact that it may not happen), **WITHOUT IMPACTING TOO SEVERELY ON OUR EXISTING CLUBS AND THEIR BOOKING PATTERNS.**

Having reviewed all the possibilities we felt that our options were confined to the following options:

**1 Open the season a week earlier.**

**2 Finish the season a week later.**

**3 Make more Sunday's available for curling.**

**4 Ask Clubs to move say 10% of their ice from peak to off peak ice (ie away from 5.45 and 8pm weekdays)—perhaps by moving inter club/friendlies to say 2.30pm or Sunday's.**

We do not think there would be much appetite for a return to 10pm curling unless there was a particular demand for that session maybe 1 day per week??

**Clubs should be aware that your Directors have decided to implement ALL OF the above options and that we look for your support of our decision. This will predominantly affect Clubs which book prime time WEEK DAY ice and will be reflected in next seasons ice allocation.**

Frankly the real issue is that most Clubs are looking for scarce prime time ice (5.45 and 8pm weekdays). **Any move away from prime ice from our existing Clubs may allow us to offer a mixture of peak and off-peak ice to new Club requests.**

Based on this current season (2019-20) we have approx. 1600 sheets of 5-45 and 8pm ice booked. If we ignore Sundays (150 sheets) which are non-peak days, then we have approx. 1450 sheets of prime weekday ice booked. If Clubs managed to transfer 10% of these sheets to off-peak, we could free up approx. 145 prime time sheets for accommodating new Clubs. You should be aware that your Board has no intention of allowing these “new” clubs to cherry-pick only prime time ice. We will be mindful of that possibility.

The Directors are attempting to take a balanced and commercial view of the opportunity presented to LIR for future sustainability and seek the understanding of all loyal Club members.

We are aware that this request of change will impact many of our Clubs but all should be aware that the status quo would return should we lose those new Clubs after say a couple of seasons or indeed if the need never arises due to the unexpected provision of some temporary facility.

The Directors are refreshed at the unofficial views of many Members/Clubs who have already expressed a desire to try to help through this situation and hope now Clubs will understand the rationale behind our actions.

We welcome any feedback/questions from Clubs/Members and an early indication of how your Club may deal with the revised ice allocation on offer for next season would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

The Directors