



## GEELONG BOWLS REGION PENNANT COMPETITIONS REVIEW SEASON 2019-2020

### **Discussion Paper**

#### Timelines

**Nov 2018** - Review Document to all GBR Bowls Clubs

**Nov / Dec** - Clubs conduct discussion and provide feedback

**26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018** - Delegates Meeting. Open Forum discussion and Clubs Initial feedback

**Jan 2019** - Final Document of Pennant competition structure 2019/2020 forwarded to all Clubs

**25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019** - Delegates Meeting - [Clubs Vote](#)

**27<sup>th</sup> May 2019** - Annual General Meeting.

#### BACKGROUND

The Geelong Bowls Region and The Ballarat District Bowls Division have unanimously resolved to disband the Ballarat / Geelong Premier Division competition at the completion of this current season. This was as a result of a regular meeting of the committee where all parties by mutual agreement believe that after 20 years of competition a new direction is needed.

#### IMPLICATIONS ON GBR PENNANT

As you would understand this will see the return of our current 6 teams (Clubs) back to our domestic Saturday competitions. (Bareena, Eastern Park, Highton, Lara, Ocean Grove & Queenscliff)

Each organization (Ballarat & Geelong) will need to decide on the best options to accommodate the 6 Premier Clubs with the objective of Improving and Streamlining their current competition.

The GBR Board have suggested options as listed below, included Pro's & Con's and will implement change to both Saturday & Midweek to align where possible.

#### **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION GBR**

##### Saturday Pennant Only

- Add a Division "Premier Division" to our current competition. (those currently playing premier Division – 6 teams)
- Promote the two (2) teams reaching the Saturday Division 1 Grand Final to premier Division making an 8 team Division. (Geelong Premier Division)
- Continue with 16 players per Division, Premier to Division 8, Reduce player numbers per following divisions as required.

##### Saturday & Midweek Pennant

- Change Promotions relegations to One team up One team down
- Restrict team entry one team per club per division
- Reduce all other divisions to 8 teams per division (therefore reducing Pennant season to 14 weeks)
- Start the season a month later – 6 games before Christmas
- Have a 4 week break at Christmas
- Finish season in March - 8 games after Christmas

#### Advantages (Pro's) If changes are made

- Provision of a higher level of competition in Geelong Bowls Region
- Increase of competitive players in premier division from 96 to 128. (i.e. 8 x 16 compared to 6 x 16 for current competition)
- Playing in Geelong Region (premier division) provides opportunity for increased spectator levels and greater interaction between Clubs/divisions after the games
- Premier Division Clubs / Players less travel distance and more pleasing for those with young families
- Increase the standard level in GBR to a division higher than Division 1
- Reduced season - Practice matches commencing in September, playing pennant until end of March commits members for 7 Months, where a reduced competition would see this change dramatically
- Longer Christmas Break allows both working members and members that have Children (School) to get away for a Break / Holidays
- Longer Christmas Break gives Clubs the opportunity to retain team members in fixed positions rather than depleting other division to fill due to absenteeism (away on holidays)
- Free Period (4 weeks) at Christmas can be taken up with Club Tournaments, Club Games and GBR Events therefore reducing the length of Club Calendars. Capture tourists and allow social games. Promote Barefoot Bowls etc. Maintain income stream.
- Extra Christmas Break could allow scheduling of GBR Events and free up weekends (Sundays) for players and officials
- Finals in March allows for extra time if cancellations (Fire Bans, Heated Out) occur during the final's periods
- One set of Rules & Conditions of Play for Geelong Bowls Region Members. (Currently Ballarat /Geelong Premier division operate under different rules.
- Negate the need to print two Season Handbooks, Fixture and Rules, thus reducing costs

#### Dis - Advantages (Con's)

- Less rounds will impact on Clubs income
- Continue with 7 months of pennant Commitment
- Be forced into double headers, if finals series is interrupted.
- Limited Christmas Break. Last round 2018 is 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, Resumes 12 Jan 2019
- The impact of Club member availability and to field teams for December January Rounds remains.

SECRETARY GBR  
Jim Millar