



## MEMBERS UPDATE 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

Dear Member

Geelong Bowls Region has advised clubs that it has received a number of Notices of Motion for adoption at its upcoming Annual General Meeting.

GBR have requested that clubs discuss the issues in order for the Club Delegates to present their club's consensus when they attend the GBR AGM.

Torquay Bowls Club will therefore hold a **Members Meeting immediately after the close of our Annual General Meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2021** after General Business discussions, if any.

For your consideration prior to the meeting the discussion items are as follows:

- 2021-2022 season for Midweek Pennant be 21 ends straight through.
- 2021-2022 season for Saturday Pennant be 21 ends straight through.
- 2021-2022 season for Midweek Pennant be 14 weeks plus 3 weeks for finals.
- 2021-2022 season for Saturday Pennant be 14 weeks plus 3 weeks for finals.
- Midweek Pennant restrictions changed to allow men to skip, reserving minimum of 2 women per team of 4.

There is the full documentation available on our website, including the submitting Club's rationale. Geelong Bowls Club has already had their AGM and have included their conclusions.

In forming opinions we should consider all aspects, both for and against – which include:

### Re: 21 ends straight through

| Advantages                              | Disadvantages  |
|---|--|
| Earlier finish time                     | Our older players find 21 straight through too tiring. Reality is, 10 min breaks are not really an option                |
| Other Regions have shorter formats      | Loss of revenue with no raffle or in-club socialising  |
| Does allow for 10 minute break per rink | If hot, long period of play without a break & refresh  |
|   | Midweek teams have early breakfast to travel to other clubs and straight through is a long time to not have a meal break |

### Re: 14 week season

| Advantages  | Disadvantages   |
|---|---|
| Commitment to play shorter season                         | Unless unbalanced draw, Divisions will reduce to 8 sides  |
| Available time to play other competitions                 | Concertina effect of reduction to 8, more Divisions (i.e. Saturday Pennant would be 13 instead of 10)   |
| Presumably later calendar start when weather more stable? | Bigger gap between a club's sides for players moving between sides and any new side added would be Div 13   |
|   | Unbalanced skill level for a number of seasons as new Divisions sides will be a mix of one above & below until relegation/promotion evens it out. |
|   | Torquay will no longer have Midweek Division 1  |
|   | Reduces club's income with reduced Pennant days   |
|   | Do our players intend to play anything when Pennant finishes?   |

### Change to Midweek restriction

Our club has lodged this motion with the following rationale:

Overriding restrictions are not the answer to the perceived problems with Midweek Pennant. This is an open competition. Women don't need protecting but should be treated fairly and equally. Clubs must select both women and men on merit, without bias or discrimination.

With the GBR restrictions, our club has found it impossible to select on merit and progress players through the positions and ranks, for both men and women, and our Midweek competition's integrity and player ability has suffered.