

## Members Update – 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Dear members,

After eight long months I can finally report that the club is about to open up and that the financial position of the club has been stabilised and we feel the club can start to look forward to better days ahead.

Personally I will look forward to seeing the new green finished in the coming weeks and watching our facilities being enjoyed by all members and, when COVID allows, the local community.

Being voted as Victoria's Best Bowls Club by the public in the Wotif 2020 Uniquely Aussie awards came completely out of the blue but it is an indication of how welcoming our club is to visitors. This award also assists us to achieve more on behalf of our members, particularly in grants and support from politicians.

Many difficult decisions have been made by the Board in the last eight months and as we start the new season we do so with a complete restructure of our finances and our personnel.

Briefly:

- We have a new greenkeeper, Billy Hamshere, who is rewarding our faith in him by already delivering a superior grass green.
- We have engaged a completely new bookkeeper, Felicity Royle, who has restructured our accounting and reporting processes both inside and outside the club.
- We no longer have a General Manager.
- We have terminated our cleaning contractor which will be replaced with a superior service.

Rather than take you all through the minutia of what we have done we will hold a members meeting before the end of the year to fully report back to you the decisions we have made, the restructuring we have instituted and a clear plan of our path forward.

It would be remiss of me not to bring to your attention the outstanding work in the last eight months by:

- our treasurer **Aaron Ruff** and the many, many hours he has devoted to turning our financial position around in the very worst of economic times.
- **Lance Avent, Joe Issell and Andrew Shaw** for their work on the surrounds of our new green.
- our marketing director **Scott Holmes** in retaining our current and securing new club sponsors.
- **Lindsay Harrington** for his coordination of our volunteers on our gardens and his work as our Membership Director.
- **Karen Harrington** who completely redesigned our communications with members.
- **Geoff Grigg** for his endless work in setting up the greens for use each day.
- all the **Bowls Committees** as we work to bring a new standard of consistency and fairness across all the bowls activities.
- **Peter Hirth** as our Secretary for his steady, reliable administration on behalf of the board.
- **Graeme McTaggart and Robert Wilson** who have undertaken a professional delivery of all our personnel operations, particularly as we reopen with our staff.
- **Daryl Clutterbuck** for his coordination of the bowls review and his role as the Business Director, particularly as we battle COVID 19 restrictions and limitations.
- our match committees, selection committees and our FLAME group.... whom I personally appreciated following the death of my dad.

- The newly formed **Fundraising Committee** who have been working to provide opportunities for fundraising, important now and ongoing.

Please remember that all of this work is done by volunteers. Everyone I have highlighted, and the many others who I have not, demonstrate what being a good club member means and I thank everyone sincerely for what they are all doing for you the member.

Gary Banks  
TBC Board of Management Chair

### **Click Frenzy Result:**

Now that the Click Frenzy Sports event has finished, the Torquay Bowls Club Fundraising Committee and Board wish to thank the members, sponsors and general public for their generosity over the last two months. **NINETY** people contributed **\$8,413** which ended up being ranked number **ONE** out of the **200+** clubs that registered for the event.

Progress is being made with the build of our new synthetic green and as with most builds, extra funds are needed to complete the job. The Club is deeply grateful for your contributions both small and large and your generosity will enable the club to complete the surrounds infrastructure required to provide a safe and friendly environment.

Sponsors have been forthcoming with contributions both monetary and with materials. We welcome Coastal Group -Outdoor Construction and Landscaping as a sponsor who are helping us with the synthetic turf for the surrounds after contacting us wishing to be part of this fundraising campaign.

The continued restrictions will affect our trading for some time to come and the fundraising committee is coming up with events that will enable the club to purchase items that are needed to provide for our members and general community. Our "Shark Lotto" is currently running and activities in the planning stage include - Sweep during first game on our new Green, Beer for a Year raffle - and many more fun events. These events will be starting soon and will be advertised and promoted via email to members, social media, our website and word of mouth.

The Fundraising Committee is open to any and all suggestions for activities/ events for raising funds, so please email your suggestions to [communications@torquaybowlsclub.com](mailto:communications@torquaybowlsclub.com)

Thank you again,

TBC Fundraising Committee.