

Members Update – 26th September, 2020

Hello everyone,

Well that has been an incredibly hard six months with an enormous amount of work going into keeping the club financially viable and now able to slowly open up to bowling. Just this week it has been a huge fillip for the Board members to actually see people back on our lawn green which has been brilliantly looked after by Billy Hamshere (Greenkeeper), Geoff Grigg (life member) and Peter Barnes (Greens Director).

Social bowling has now commenced and must be booked online through our website. Everyone needs to follow the COVID requirements when coming down for a roll including using the sanitiser, wiping down the jacks and the mats after every session and entering your names in the log. We are also asking that people donate a gold coin each session as this goes directly to covering all the extra costs associated with starting up such as the sanitiser, the wipes, etc.

Look after our greatest asset – the Green.

Being reduced to one green for a period of time makes it even more important that we do not damage the green by a bad, dumping delivery. The greens this time of year are invariably soft and cannot recover from dents and dings. Please be mindful of this and seek help if your delivery is not at the required level. There are many club coaches and experienced bowlers who are only too willing to assist you to stay out there bowling and enjoying the company of your teammates.

General Manager

Further to my communication with you on August 28th Peter Temple resigned his position at the club effective on September 4th. Whilst Peter and our other staff have been on JobKeeper payments since April this year there was no foreseeable pathway for Peter to recommence his duties with the club due to the closure of the club during COVID 19. On behalf of all members, the Board and myself, I wish Peter and his family every success in the future and I am pleased to relate that Peter has obtained full time employment.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom with approximately 50 members on Monday September 7th. It was fantastic to see the faces of those members who attended but special mention needs to go to Alan Young and Don Mariager; two club stalwarts both in their nineties who navigated the vagaries of Zoom to participate!

All the business of the AGM was completed and the official record of the meeting has been lodged as required under legislation.

Click Frenzy

This spontaneous little fundraiser was a great success and raised just over \$8000.00. This money has been transferred to the club bank account and will be directed towards the new surrounds of the new synthetic green. Whilst I would not highlight anyone who contributed to this small fundraiser it was incredibly reassuring for the Board to read those who did contribute. Some of the donations were incredibly generous and highlighted how important the bowling club is in the lives of some of our members. Whilst we are first and foremost a sporting club we are also vital to the social connection and health and wellbeing of our members.

The New Green

At last I can report that Sports Build recommenced work at the club on September 17 and we have hopes that the remainder of the build will progress smoothly. Until the COVID 19 second wave and border closures hit us for six, the completion date of the new green would have been this very week.

The club therefore remains a construction site and so the area of the new green and part of the carpark will be fenced off with no access to anyone other than Sports Build.

Reopening the Bar and Bistro

A reopening subcommittee has been formed to slowly reopen the Bar and Bistro that complies with the ever changing COVID 19 restrictions and recommendations.

This subcommittee will address how we can open up in a financially viable way as we simply don't have the funds to carry any part of the bowling club that is not at the very least cost neutral.

We are currently opening Bar facilities which will be available initially via the portable "bowlo bar". The restrictions only allow very limited numbers inside premises and our Clubhouse will be open for toilet access only. All the area west of the bi-fold doors is closed to members as this area has been allocated as the site office/staffroom and toilets to the workmen

Please note our licence does not allow for BYO Alcohol and we ask members to adhere to this.

The Bowls Review

The following recommendations by the Bowls Review Committee have now been approved by the Board and the Bowls Committee.

The recommendations were presented to the Bowls Committee on 6th July 2020 and were agreed to by the BOM on 17th July 2020

This has been presented at a recent meeting with Social and Twilight Committee members on 27th Aug 2020 as well as at the AGM dated 6th Sept 2020.

- The Agreed recommendations.
 - Green fees, Introduced/ Increased to all 'organised' bowls events at the club.
 - One club championship/tournaments. We are One Club
 - Each Bowls section to record income and expenditure from their events.
 - New Bowls Structure, Competition - Social
 - All Sponsorship to be obtained and coordinated by Marketing Director – Scott Holmes

- A further 8 recommendations have been agreed to in principle and the Bowls Committee will develop working groups to work through them prior to presenting to the Board of Management.

COVID has slowed the process as we all know but we are working to ensure the Bowls Committee and the BOM approves the recommendations ASAP.

Please stay tuned as information on the return of our Bowls programs will follow very soon from our Communications Director Karen Harrington.

Gary Banks
Board of Management Chair