

Members Update December 2020

A very big year for our Bowls Club is quickly coming to a close so it's time for a quick wrap up of the year. There are a number of important notices, so please read through to the end.

New Green

The new green was handed over to the Club by Sports Build on December 3rd and I am relieved to report that we are very happy with the result. From the very beginning the Board have been determined to provide a first class green for our members. We have been uncompromising in the demands we have made upon our constructors so as to provide a base and surface that will be true and consistent and stand the test of time. I hope you all agree that we now have a green that is worthy of being voted Wotif's Aussie Victorian Bowls Club of the year. Along with the excellent grass green Billy Hamshere is providing, we now have the facilities for everyone's bowls to improve.

Please note, flat (no tread) bowls shoes are required on both greens and drinks are not to be taken onto the green. You will notice our synthetic green has a "no liquid" policy for the green AND surrounds. Please keep beverages to the concrete pathway areas to avoid spillage stains. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking sheds.

Surrounds

Many members have worked tirelessly to complete the surrounds of the new green which look fantastic. The final working bee had up to 30 members completing the site to allow for opening. The brickwork, the Colorbond fencing, the synthetic grass surrounds, the stainless steel railings, the signage, have all combined to produce a first class facility in appearance and performance. I won't highlight again the individual members who have completed these projects (as they don't want me to) but take the opportunity to ask who did what and thank them personally if you can. We will now undertake the further work to be completed such as seating and shade.

Opening

The club is now open for business and the opening of the new green was on December 5th when we had four of our life members on hand to roll the first ceremonial bowls on the new green – Don Mariager, Kevin McCormack, Geoff Grigg and Claire Crameri. This was an important event to celebrate all those members who came before us as we approach our 100 years in Taylor Park.

Sponsors Night

All the Club sponsors were invited to the Club on Tuesday December 8th where we were able to thank them for their support and steadfastness in the most difficult of years. Our Marketing Director Scott Holmes was also able to talk about how the new sponsor's signs will be erected around the greens. Please make yourself aware of who our sponsors are and mention the bowls club when you use their services.

New General Manager

I am delighted to report that Aaron Ruff has been appointed as our new General Manager in a part-time capacity. Aaron has officially stepped out of his role as the Club Treasurer, which Rob Wilson has kindly agreed to fill for the remainder of the financial year.

Aaron has worked tirelessly to restructure the Club's financial arrangements so that we have weathered the COVID storm and are in the best shape we have been for some years.

Bar and Bistro

Brian Calthorpe volunteered to temporarily take on the role of Bar and Bistro Manager after we were completely closed due to COVID. Brian's expertise in hospitality and bar management has been the reason we have been able to open at all. Members will notice that the Bistro is now offering a reduced menu with a dinner specials board and is currently open Friday & Saturdays for lunch & dinner and Sunday lunch. Happy hour on Friday nights has been reinstated and we look forward to starting up the Friday meat raffles and member's draws very soon.

Brian has now steeped back from all his long hours of working and can start to get back into his bowls!

Upcoming Events

- Pre Xmas Pennant breakup. Following our final practice game this **Saturday 18th December** we will have a get together and pizza. Put your name on the list available on the day if you wish to be included in sharing the pizza, \$10. The Crameri medal for 2019/20 will also be presented to the winner, Karen Harrington.
- Our previously postponed 2019/20 winners presentations will follow our Pre season BBQ after Pennant practice on **Saturday 9th January**. Join in to congratulate our Championship winners.
- We are planning to hold an official opening of the new green on **Friday 26th February** where we will invite all the local politicians and dignitaries. Please put that night aside for a big celebration.

Club Championships

We have completed our Club Pairs Championship and are soon to play the Semi Finals of the Men's and Women's Club Singles Championship. The remaining Women's Semi is on Friday 18th December at 10am and the Men's Semis are on Sunday 20th December, also at 10am. The Grand Final will be Friday 8th January at 3pm.

A reminder that entry closes 6pm Saturday 19/12 for the Minor Singles and Men's & Women's Veterans singles. Enter online or put your name on the list on the noticeboard outside the clubhouse. Entry fee must be paid before closing date.

Minor Singles is open to affiliated members who have played less than 4 games last season in Div 1 or higher and have not previously won a Singles Championship.

Veterans is open to affiliated members who are 70 or more as at the date of the first round. We have provided a Women's event as we have had requests for it. Ladies, if you fall into that age group, have a go and enter!

COVID Restrictions

Could members please be aware that we are still required to adhere to the numerous COVID restrictions including signing into the Club by scanning a QR code on a smart phone (or manual sign-in), maintaining 1.5m distancing and continuing with hand sanitising and antibacterial wipes for shared equipment. We are still required to carry a mask at all times and use it where social distancing cannot be maintained. Please keep yourself and each other safe.

Our Clubrooms are open for members up to a maximum capacity of 72 in the bowler's area. Please remain socially distanced or wear a mask. (Max. of 6 per table). Our bowlers kitchen will be available again for self serve tea/coffee. However, please sanitise hands before using & keep handling of common equipment to a minimum.

Greens Protection Policy

The Bowls Committee have been working on a formal greens protection policy, which is timely with our shiny new synthetic green! A difficult and delicate subject, but we must protect both our grass and synthetic surface from permanent damage. Please be aware that if your delivery no longer allows you to deliver a bowl down to the surface and you are "dumping", you will be contacted. Our objective is to refer members to a coach and work with them to solve the problem and keep you bowling. If you know you are an offender, take the initiative before you receive a letter from the Bowls Committee and seek help from one of the coaches. We are here to help.

Finally

On behalf of the Board I wish everyone a safe and restful Christmas. Enjoy your family and friends as we celebrate getting through the most difficult of years and as we look forward to a much better 2021.

Gary Banks
Chairperson, Torquay Bowls Club