



## Torquay Bowls Club Members Update

5th August, 2020

### Building of the new green

The second wave of COVID-19 and the new enforced lockdowns has had a consequential impact on the bowls club.

The most significant impact has been on the building timeline of our synthetic green. Our constructor Sports Build is having many nightmares moving their equipment and workers around the country due to closed borders, enforced quarantine and the required permits.

I am sure members will be very pleased with the extra room we now have between the new green and the clubhouse. This will result in far less congestion and increased safety.

Members may be aware that the club is to complete all of the new green's surrounds as our federal grant will not stretch far enough to cover that cost. Norm Chalmers Construction will assist Lance Avent and our team of volunteers to have the surrounds usable and safe even if they are not as perfect as we would wish when we re-open. I sincerely thank every club member who puts up their hand to assist.

Once again our plans for re-opening the club for business is very up in the air due to the new restrictions and the second flare-up of the pandemic. We have Peter Temple's expertise in planning for opening whenever we are able.

With no business income to the bowling club since March and possibly none before October a number of financing options are being explored using the current state government guarantees for small business loans.

### GBR Pennant

Due to the unstable and ever changing COVID-19 environment, the Geelong Bowls Region Board and Pennant Committee have made changes to 2020/21 Pennant to manage compliance to restrictions.

#### Changed:

Midweek and Saturday Pennant will be reduced to 21 ends, played straight through

All Midweek matches will start at 10.00am

Saturday Div 7 will be reduced to 3 rink competition (12 players)

Saturday Div 9 will be reduced to 2 rink competition (8 players)

Restrictions have been for a maximum of 32 players per green and 20 patrons inside a venue. If this is the case when Pennant starts, clubs will have difficulty with green availability. Possible solutions may be Divisions playing at other clubs. Saturday games may be split with some Divisions playing a morning game 10.00am – 1.30pm and others in the afternoon 2.00 – 5.30pm.

GBR have asked clubs to gauge their members 'commitment to play' given the proposed changes to pennant, as we have to confirm our Pennant entries for 20/21.

**If you have concerns about your commitment to play** 2020/21 pennant, or any comments, please contact (**before Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**)

Alan Sampson 5261 5550	Brian Calthorpe 0417 948 487	Joe Issell 0418 487 357
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## **Bowls Review Committee**

The Bowls Review Committee has completed its initial review of the bowls section with regard to Membership attraction, Financial viability and Pathways.

The recommendations were presented to the Bowls Committee at their monthly meeting on the 6th July. After discussions, some recommendations have been presented to the Board for approval. The remaining recommendations are still being worked through with the Bowls Committee and Review Team.

After the August Bowls Committee meeting we will be communicating the approved changes to all groups via information sessions.

## **Application for Community Safety Infrastructure Grant**

The club has submitted an application under the Community Safety Infrastructure Grants program. This Vic Government initiative is designed to reduce criminal behaviour such as vandalism and increase community safety and security. If we are successful we will use the grant money for new fencing around the club, increased lighting and replacing our current security camera monitoring.

I think we have written 6 funding submissions in the last three months as well as having regular contact with the Surfcoast Council, State and Federal MP's and our loyal sponsors and supporters.

## **Volunteer Update**

Volunteers have been busy working around the club, tidying the gardens, paths and fences. We can't work in the construction zones and of course must comply with the COVID restrictions. Once completed, the gardens will be a great complement to the new green and our outdoor deck.

## **Member Fixture Book**

The fixture book is being prepared for the 20/21 season. **Please advise if your contact details have changed**, from what appeared in 19/20 fixture book. Contact [membership@torquaybowlsclub.com](mailto:membership@torquaybowlsclub.com) with any corrections.

## **Board Update and Annual General Meeting**

The Board is very keen to get the postponed Annual General Meeting completed and we are looking to run the meeting online before September. Members will be advised as soon as we have a date with details of how to join an online meeting.

In this very demanding time the Board has been operating on a 'war cabinet' model because the current membership of the Board has not been ratified by an AGM.

The board has operated with both the existing Board Members and the members Elect, all meeting as one until an official handover can take place.

To that end:

have been the Acting Chairperson as Mac Smith has now relocated to Queensland.

- Daryl Clutterbuck and Mick Slater have shared the Business portfolio.
- Aaron Ruff continues as the treasurer for the time being.
- Joe Issell and Alan Murphy have shared the Bowls President role up until now but Joe will continue alone as Alan unfortunately cannot continue due to ill health.
- Scott Holmes has taken the Marketing portfolio, assisted in the interim by Tony Gall.
- Karen Harrington has been seconded onto the Board in the Communications portfolio. All communications within the club will go through Karen.
- Lindsay Harrington continues in the Membership portfolio

- Graeme McTaggart continues in the HR portfolio.
- Lance Avent continues as the Facilities Director.
- Peter Hirth continues as the Secretary.
- Rob Wilson has been elected to the Board with responsibilities that are yet to be finalized.

## **Finally**

In tough times like these it's up to all of us to put the club first. That is what your Board has been doing. The club only survives when all members step up, share the load and operate with goodwill and cooperation. Your Board members are all just volunteers who are working extremely hard in very challenging times to keep the club going. Some other clubs may not survive at all.

Stay safe!

Stay well!

Gary Banks

Acting Chairman Torquay Bowls Club