



Eagle Wrap

April 2020

No. 30

From the President (by Sam Katsivas)

COVID-19 and us

What strange unprecedented times we are living in. In the same way that our parents and grandparents told us their harrowing stories about WW2 and the impact this had on their lives, so our children will tell their children and grandchildren about this troubling time in history and how they lived through and survived it.

Bowling seems such a long way away; almost a distant memory – a pursuit we had all grown used to and consciously made an important part of our lives. Now it has been cut off and we are all discovering what life without it is all about.

Some may find they don't miss it as much as they thought they might, as other things begin to assume greater priority – families, health and the need to communicate and connect in other ways. Others may be missing it terribly and wanting to get out on the greens to just have a roll-up.

And by necessity in needing to keep sane, gardens all around the country are flourishing and all those little odd jobs around the house are being ticked off one-by-one. Governments around the world are being quite magnificent in their leadership, while health care workers,

are just astonishing in their dedication and commitment to looking after their ill.

The small freedoms we are being asked to sacrifice pale into insignificance in comparison with what the front-line workers are undergoing. We must therefore all continue to play our part to help mitigate the spread of this pandemic for as long as our leaders ask us and need us to do so.

I'm not sure what bowls will look like after we pass through this crisis but I know it won't be the same. But whatever it is, we'll take it as it comes and adapt. Adaptation is one of our greatest strengths as humans – look at what we are doing right now.

So, while you are at home and contemplating the future, give thought to those less fortunate. Give thanks that we live in a country where we've had the opportunity, through our geography, to learn from the developments in other nations ahead of time. That is a blessing and a silver lining which we should not waste.

I wish you all continued strength, patience and, above all, health and wisdom. In the words of the ancient Persian Sufi poets, "This too shall pass" – and so it shall.

Newsletter

This newsletter will be quite substantial not just because we know you will have time to read it – I'm hoping you will also welcome some Club-related news while you're at home. The Board met via Zoom just prior to Easter, addressing several key issues, so I've asked Bob and Ashley to include anything and everything that you may have questions about or need to know.

Redevelopment progress

As you can imagine, the redevelopment discussions have taken a back seat on the City of West Torrens' agenda as it seeks to manage far more important priorities relating to health and financial management among its constituents.

Bowls SA's fact-finding review on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic

I received a call last week from Bowls SA (as did the presidents from other clubs) to assist them with a fact-finding mission about the financial impact to our Club following the closure. I worked through the events that have had to be cancelled that were to have been sources of income for us.

I also took the opportunity to give Bowls SA feedback around their capitation fees for each club, making a suggestion that consideration needs to be given to a restructure of these, given the lack of income that clubs are experiencing (and Graeme Isaacson was able to provide exact figures for them). Hopefully we might see some positive outcomes from this review.

Practising during the coronavirus pandemic

Council has taken the unprecedented step of suspending its lease on a number of its public facilities such as its sporting venues, public libraries and community centres. The Lockleys Bowling Club is one of these facilities.

The reason I bring this to your attention is to emphasise that the reason for the lease suspension is to ensure the Club house and our facilities cannot be used during the coronavirus pandemic. If we did, we would be in breach of our agreement with Council.

I raise this because I know there are one or two metropolitan clubs (who own their own facilities) who are allowing their bowlers to come onto the greens and have a roll-up. I also know these clubs require and adhere to strict COVID-19 conditions (social distancing, cleansing of jacks, mats and bowls with alcohol wipes etc).

The Board considered whether we could do something similar but rejected it on two grounds:

- Firstly, it would require some kind of supervision to ensure the sanitisation procedures had taken place – and it would likely mean members would need to come in and out of the Club house to get mats, jacks and other equipment. And then comes the question as to who would provide the sanitisation – and how would it be maintained and replaced? It's a very difficult management issue all round.
- Secondly, if an accident were to occur where someone was hurt or caught the virus as a result of inadvertent contact, potentially resulting in an insurance claim against the Club, we would likely find our insurance cover void because we had allowed people onto the premises and/or to use our facilities in contravention of the conditions imposed by our lessor.

For these reasons, the Board was unanimous in maintaining the current prohibition. While it is regrettable, I must therefore urge everyone to adhere to the policy of no bowling at the Club until further notice.

Computers cleaned

As you know, I've made an offer to conduct computer security checks and system clean-ups this month for **Club members only** at a heavily discounted cost of \$150, with the money going directly to our Club. Please consider this, as your computer will need this work done in these troubling times.

I have completed six computers already and every one of them was compromised by not having the very latest patches installed. It's a great way to get a bargain and help the Club at the same time. Please consider it.

From the Board (from the Secretary)

Annual General Meeting

As members would be aware, we had earlier scheduled the AGM for 31 May. However, given the closure of the Club, the Board has deferred the AGM to a date to be advised.

The Board's decision was informed by advice that the Australian Securities and Investments Commission would not be enforcing (for at least six months) the otherwise mandatory requirement for incorporated associations to hold their AGMs within two months of the close of their respective financial reporting period (which for our Club is 31 March + 2 months).

Bowls SA has offered to assist clubs in conducting their AGMs 'remotely'. However, we appreciate that a number of our members either do not have computers or could not easily manage remote meeting platforms. So the Board decided we should aim to conduct a 'physical' meeting as soon as the coronavirus situation allows (which hopefully will be before August/September).

The Board further agreed:

- those **Board members** whose terms expire at 31 May (or who have indicated they do not intend to continue) would be asked by the President to consider extending their term until the AGM can be rescheduled
- the President should consider asking prospective new Board members to volunteer in the interim in an 'assistant' capacity, which would provide a useful handover/transition period before the AGM
- the Board would produce an e-version of the 2019-20 **Annual Report** in the normal timeframe ie by 31 May for circulation to members, accepting that the auditor's report might not have been finalised (but would be provided to members before the eventual AGM)
- the amount and due payment date for **membership fees** for the 2020-21 season would be deferred until the resumption of Club activities becomes clearer, accepting that the normal due date of 30 June may need to be extended
- any such deferral of the payment date – while clearly not ideal from a cashflow perspective – would be financially manageable, given that the Club's liquidity is around \$55K.

Electricity savings

Thanks to Karen Kovaleff for a particularly bright idea. Karen suggested we turn off the bar fridges for the duration of the closure of the Club house, not least because they consume about \$200 of electricity each week! Mark took up Karen's suggestion and turned off the fridges in mid-March (after removing any perishables). Thanks again Karen for your initiative, which is likely saving us as much as \$800 a month.

Bowls (from Ashley Halls)

Presentation Night

After discussion at the Board meeting, it was agreed not to reschedule the Presentation Night. Instead, we will include the winners of key awards and Club championship results in this newsletter, with due recognition of all results to be made also at some future event, such as during the pre-season trials.

We're accordingly pleased to advise:

- the **Bowler of the Year** is Karen Kovaleff
- the **Eagle Participant of the Year** is also Karen
- the **Wednesday pennant player of the year** is Ray Howard
- the **Thursday pennant player of the year** is Karen Kovaleff
- the **Saturday pennant player of the year** is Greg Screnci.

Two of the Club championships haven't been finalised, namely the fours and mixed pairs. However, the other results are as follows:

Women's singles: winner – Karen Kovaleff; runner-up Lyn Teague

Men's singles: winner Ashley Halls; runner-up Peter Thaler

Open singles: winner Peter Thaler; runner-up Fred Kovaleff

Women's pairs: winners Lyn Teague & Karen Kovaleff; runners-up Margaret Livie & Lyn Nixon

Men's pairs: winners Roger Kimber & Fred Kovaleff; runners-up Ross Bennett & Mike Pearson

Men's triples: winners Roger Kimber, Don Webb & Robbie Flavel; runners-up Kevin Fuss, Bob Ormston & Ashley Halls

Congratulations again to these players.

The matter of whether Club championship winners will be awarded cash prizes – and the updating of honour boards and trophies – will be considered at a future Board meeting, where the financial impact of the coronavirus can also be taken into account.

We'll also ratify the winner of the 'Club member of the year' award once Mark Ballestrin (who coordinates the award in his capacity as Vice President) has had the opportunity to consider feedback from other Board members and key officials.

Pennant promotions and demotions

It's something of a formality, however the Metropolitan Bowls Association has advised the following:

- Wednesday – our first side promoted from Div 1 to Premier League
- Thursday – our first side promoted from Div 1 to Premier League
- Saturday – our first side demoted from Premier League to Div 1; our second side demoted from Div 3 North to Div 4.

Greenkeeper

As advised in the minutes of last month's Board meeting, we've invited expressions of interest for the greenkeeper's position, due by 21 April. Ashley has liaised with James Gregory, President of the SA Greenkeepers Association, to advertise the position via relevant websites/Facebook pages and word-of-mouth to ensure the position is made known to those

who may be interested, including those involved in turf management more broadly.

Concurrently, Tim Dodds has generously offered to substantially reduce his contract fee for the remainder of his current contract (until 31 May) and to continue in the position for a further 12 months if needed.

While very appreciative of Tim's offer, the Board agreed it would be prudent to gauge responses to our advertisement – and possibly engage in preliminary negotiations with prospective contractors – before determining how best to move forward, particularly given the uncertainty over the likely duration and financial impact of the coronavirus.

Keep up-to-date with Facebook

For the latest news and updates on the Club, access our Facebook page on

<https://www.facebook.com/LockleysBowlingClub/>

If you have suggestions for material to include on Facebook, please contact Mark Ballestrin on 0417 700 257.

Did you hear the one about ..?

A blonde, wanting to earn some money, decided to do some handyman-type jobs and started canvassing a wealthy neighbourhood. She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any jobs for her to do.

"Well", he said, "you can paint my porch. How much will you charge?" The blonde said, "How about 50 dollars?". The man agreed and showed her the paint and ladder in the garage.

An hour later, the blonde came to the door to collect her money. "You're finished already?", he asked. "Yes," the blonde answered, "and I had plenty of paint, so I gave it two coats". Impressed, the man reached in his pocket for the \$50. "And by the way," the blonde added, "it's not a Porch, it's a Ferrari".