



Eagle Wrap

June 2020

No. 31

From the President (by Sam Katsivas)

Friday Pairs

Well, wasn't it great to finally dust off the cobwebs and have a roll at Friday pairs again? Now that COVID-19 rules have relaxed even further, it's nice to partly regain that sense of normalcy through familiar Friday activities.

Thank you, Glenn and Peter for kicking things off again – it was almost like we were never away at all. And the ever-whining President was invited for a game!

It would be great to see as many people as possible out there on a Friday. We can open more greens if we need to. Technically, we can accommodate a maximum of 40 people (20 per space) both indoors and out, so please come along and have a game.

AGM

The Board has set a tentative date for the AGM. It will be held on **Sunday 16th August at 10.00 am** in the Clubrooms. Hopefully by then, further relaxation of meeting rules will enable us to go ahead. Please put this date in your diary.

Greenkeeper appointment

The Board congratulates **Tim Dodds** on his successful application to continue as the Greenkeeper for our Club. There were many factors considered in his appointment, which was progressed in close consultation with Green's Manager Geoff Ellis and Bowls Director Ashley Halls.

A greens-management program for the 2020-21 season has now been put in place and equipment is being upgraded and repaired in readiness for the new season (further details are in the Bowls section on the next page).

Fees and memberships 2020-21

There would not be a single member who is not aware of the difficulties facing all clubs right now. Significantly, raising membership fees as a one-off exercise for the coming season was certainly one option the Board has considered as a way of recouping some of the losses inflicted as a result of COVID restrictions. In fact, some members have suggested that the Board should implement this as a necessity.

While appreciating the merits of doing so, the Board has recommended not to raise membership subscriptions this year. **The Board's recommendation to the AGM therefore will be that fees remain unchanged** for the 2020-21 season.

The Board will be making this recommendation in good faith, knowing that our members have always rallied when we needed them. And we do need you. In the next few months, we will be replacing fridges in the bar, buying chemicals and fertiliser in preparation for the pennant season, and repairing rollers and other items of equipment.

As your President, I am asking for two things. Firstly, in anticipation of the Board's recommendation being approved at the AGM, I am requesting members pay their fees by the end of June (as is the normal practice) because this will assist the Treasurer to authorise

immediate and necessary purchases for the Club.

Of course, should the AGM decide otherwise, fees already paid will be adjusted as needed.

Secondly, I am asking all members to consider what they are able to do within their means to make a **donation to the Club**, along with their membership fees for this year. We ask this every year and we have some very generous members who always support us.

However, this year is a little different, as we find ourselves in unfamiliar financial territory. Therefore, I ask, in lieu of not raising your membership fees, that you please add whatever donation you can afford to help sustain our Club.

Thank you all once again for your support and generosity. I can promise you this. Come October and pennant season, we will all be there again!

From the Board (from the Secretary)

Assistance from Council

Council has undertaken to repair the ceiling beam in the main hall. Their assessment is that the damage is not structural and, pending its repair, should pose no particular risk to our members.

As mentioned previously, Council is also assisting with the repair and/or replacement of the bar fridges and associated compressors, with the expectation that new equipment will be in place before the start of the pennant season.

Council has also generously offered to reimburse the Club's outgoings during the coronavirus, which will include electricity costs, water and sewerage, and contents insurance. This will result in much-appreciated savings to the Club of several thousand dollars.

State event tenders

We're planning to tender again for the 2021 Women's Country Round Robin, following our

successful (and financially lucrative) hosting of the 2020 event in February.

We're also intending to advise Bowls SA that we do not wish to be allocated any other State events, such as State singles and pairs or sections of the Women's Country Carnival, which tend to require considerable volunteer effort for minimal financial return.

Financials

The auditor has now provided her report for 2019-20, which will be included in the final Annual Report. It reports satisfactorily on the Club's finances, with no adverse comments.

The Board has agreed a budget for 2020-21, notwithstanding the uncertainties associated with COVID-19. It anticipates a positive but very small profit which, under the circumstances, would be an acceptable outcome.

Bowls (from Ashley Halls)

Greens Manager

The Board is pleased to advise that **Peter Thaler** has been appointed Greens Manager with effect 1 June 2020, taking over from Geoff Ellis who has decided to relinquish the role after many years of much-appreciated work in this role. Thanks again Geoff for your very valued contribution and we welcome Peter to this important position.

Greens management

As mentioned by the President, the Board has ratified a greens-management program for the coming season, prepared by Tim Dodds in consultation with Geoff Ellis and a turf-management specialist. As part of the program, the Board had agreed to provide funding to

- 'spike' the greens in the next month or so (to allow better aeration, watering and fertilisation of the roots system)
- purchase new 'grooming' blades in the next month or so (to remove lateral growth and dead material, allowing for more effective leaf growth during the growing season)

- repair our second greens roller before the start of the pennant season (for back-up and to enable 'double rolling'), and
- pave the current grassed areas between the northern-ends of A, B and C greens to allow easier access/egress of machinery (though this task is not considered urgent and may be deferred for a few months).

2020-21 pennant season

We're awaiting advice from the Metropolitan Bowls Association (MBA) as to when the pennant season will resume, which is obviously dependent on the continuing easing of COVID restrictions.

Our expectation is that it will resume about Saturday 17 October, suggesting our pennant trials will begin in mid-September. Dates will be advised as soon as they come to hand.

In the meantime, we're giving consideration to resuming an intra-club competition on Wednesday afternoons. We've also responded to the MBA's invitation to comment on the pennant structure, a copy of which is attached to this newsletter.

Volunteers for bowls-related positions

This season's membership renewal form includes a call for volunteers to fill the positions of pennant selectors, Night Owls coordinators, and teams to roll the greens (ideally 2-3 teams of two members to cover Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays).

Please give consideration to volunteering for these important roles, which are essential for a successful pennant season in 2020-21.

Sponsorship

Sponsors greatly assist the viability of our Club. We've listed below the Club's sponsors, with a brief explanation of their products or services.

Members are encouraged to support these sponsors, and make sure you mention that you or a member of your family are from the Lockleys Bowling Club.

Platinum level

- **Peter Elberg Funerals** – committed to excellence and underpinned with care and integrity
- **Premier Home Loans** – provide excellent financial advice; every loan or refinancing benefits both members and the Club

Gold level

- **Hypercore** – need a computer or repairs to a computer or want some online help?
- **Shingleback** – although a past sponsor, we are still benefitting from a generous donation of their wines; visit their cellar door
- **EMA Legal** – provides advice and representation in the areas of employment law, industrial relations, workers compensation and general litigation
- **Lockleys Hotel** – for all your liquor needs; members receive a 20% discount on meals Monday to Thursday (but please appreciate that COVID-19 restrictions may have temporarily suspended this offer)
- **Air Comfort Services** – need a new air conditioner or service to an existing one; their objective is to provide customers with safe, reliable and optimum cost services delivered on time
- **Seaside Garden Cottages** – three beautifully presented, architect-designed private cottages, the perfect getaway on Kangaroo Island
- **SA Accountancy** - whether it's tax time or you need help with book-keeping, SA Accountancy can help you with specialised financial practices

Silver level

- **Horndale Winery** – great selection of wines and, for the winter months, a very delicious range of fortified wines, with ports a speciality

- **Peressin Pools** – thinking of putting in a swimming pool or you have a pool that needs maintenance?
- **Karidis Retirement Villages** – considering downsizing; make sure you mention Lockleys Bowling Club and the \$500 referral program
- **Baa Moo Oink** – premium quality meat and excellent value at wholesale prices
- **Ken Hall Plumbers** – if you experience a plumbing, electrical or roofing problem in your home or office, give Ken a call; members receive a 10% discount on services

Bronze level

- **Fulham Fresh** – all your fruit and vegetable needs at your fingertips
- **Supa Sava Embroidery** – any embroidery needs are expertly handled
- **Drakes Supermarkets** – for every dollar spent, the Club receives one cent; it adds up; remember to get your barcode scanned
- **Bunnings Adelaide Airport** – for all your DIY, household maintenance and gardening needs, remember to mention Lockleys Bowling Club.

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 about ..?

A Scotsman, an Irishman and an Englishman are each sentenced to a year in solitary confinement. But before being locked away, each is granted a year's supply of whatever they want to get through the long spell alone.

The Scotsman asks for a year's supply of whisky; it's given to him and he's locked away.

The Irishman asks for a year's supply of Guinness, so he's locked up with several hundred bottles. The Englishman asks for a year's supply of cigarettes and he's given a pile of cartons.

One year later, their doors are unlocked.

The Scotsman staggers out and shouts, 'I'm free!' and keels over dead from alcohol poisoning. The Irishman is dragged out into the light, whereupon he promptly dies of liver failure.

When the door to the Englishman's cell is opened, everybody watches eagerly to see what sort of a wreck he's made of himself. To their surprise, he walks out, sidles up to the first person he sees and asks, 'I say, you wouldn't happen to have a match would you?'

Proposal to reduce the MBA pennant competition from eighteen minor round matches to fourteen minor round matches and associated restructure of grades

Lockleys Bowling Club's response

The following comments are intended to present our view from both a player and club perspective. In the main, they probably represent my thoughts, as Bowls Director, however several players did take the time to provide me their views, knowing that I was to provide a club response.

Players seem to have mixed views on the length of the season. For some, it is a bit long. For most, the season seems to go too quickly, especially after Christmas. With the finals, the season can now be 21 weeks, so the change would bring it back to 17 weeks – however, only 50% of teams and players would be involved in finals.

It must be recognised that the culture of bowling in South Australia is focussed on representing one's club in pennant competition. That won't change in a hurry. A lot of players will see the change as four weeks less bowling, notwithstanding other events being available, many are not interested. And one point on this that I've never seen discussed – for those bowlers who have partners who don't bowl, the pressure not to participate in "discretionary" events. For some, less pennant games simply means less bowling.

Some members expressed disappointment that pennant play stopped last season for the World Champion of Champions and the ladies had a week off due to a Vic v SA State series. We know the pressure on you to not schedule when Bowls SA or Bowls Australia have competing events. There is talk that these events may be condensed into a period in early October, which would place some pressure to start the pennant season a few weeks later. If that is to occur, I think most bowlers would prefer to extend the season into April rather than shorten the season. It is often commented at the moment that our greens are at their best when the season is over.

The commitment expected of State bowlers is understood. But will four less pennant games make a difference to them, or are there other things that could be done differently. Perhaps playing all State events after the conclusion of the pennant season will not reduce the amount of bowling, but would spread it over a greater part of the year. Also, Bowls SA is sometimes criticised for perceiving to cater to the elite level, rather than the "rank and file" bowlers. Given the number of teams (and therefore players) in the MBA competition at the lower levels, we question whether the needs and wishes of that group of players is given enough consideration in these types of reviews.

From a club perspective, the pennant season provides the impetus for revenue, because that is the time when all members are around. Most clubs have bowlers who either live interstate during the winter months or disappear off the charts and only return for the start of the season. Again, that is unlikely to change. Your document is unclear whether the intention is to start the season later (most likely), finish earlier, or start and finish at the same time with days in the middle for catch-up... but if the period from round one to grand final day is shortened, club revenues will suffer.

Pennant days are profitable. Reducing the number of home games from nine to seven will have a greater impact on some clubs more than others. However, no-one gains. The idea that club tournaments will make up that shortfall is dubious. We have seen the number of players entering tournaments and State events decline in recent years and for some of the reasons mentioned above, a shortened pennant season will not necessarily change that. Especially if the period "freed up" is pre-season when a lot of players are not around. It can be argued that clubs should be looking at

different revenue streams and not relying on pennant activities for survival and that is correct. But every dollar helps. And shortening the season doesn't.

The above points are not show stoppers, however it's not evident that any argument can be put to show that reducing the season from 18 minor round games to 14 is financially beneficial for the clubs involved. Perhaps the only one is that a shortened season may lead to more players committing to pennant play, but that is a tenuous argument, to say the least.

Some of the points in your programme structure document have been addressed. The remainder are mainly points which assist the MBA in the organisation of the competition amidst pressures from Bowls SA and Bowls Australia. From an organisation viewpoint, there are benefits regarding flexibility, the ability to avoid scheduling on public holidays, to pick up cancelled rounds, etc. An eight team competition with two promoted and two relegated (if that's what's intended) would produce some high drama in the last couple of rounds. However, the primary question is how this proposed change benefits participating clubs and their members and we're not sure that it does.

Addressing some of the other points in the document:

- Starting the season later to help greenkeepers prepare the greens is a furphy – if they're not preparing them for pennant play, they would have to be preparing them for other events.
- Travel – Lockleys is centrally located so it's not as big an issue for us. Speaking with Lockleys club members and members of other clubs, the feeling is that this is a bigger issue on Wednesday and Thursday than Saturday. The idea of north, south, east and west is good. Not so sure about the need for a "central division". Our division 3 ladies played in an eight team central division in the season just gone. Five of the other seven clubs were on the eastern side of town so their travelling time was little better than if they'd played against some of the furthest southern clubs.
- Extending the finals series to all divisions. Why not? Playing for a spot in the four keeps the season alive a lot longer for many teams. It's also a good money spinner for clubs hosting finals. If the season was shortened, finals eligibility may need to be tweaked a little.
- Thursday women's competition – Yes, there is concern about participation levels and the reduced number of teams competing. The change to the number of opposite gender players allowed last season (reduced from six to four) had an impact (as it also did on Wednesdays) with some teams struggling for players, so that may need to be reviewed. Clubs just have to manage this as best they can.
- Heat Policy - We think the heat policy is as good as it can be. It strikes the right balance between player safety and getting matches played. Perhaps, two things to be considered. Replay of games on Friday night (or some other time) for all cancelled matches on all days. Secondly, there may be a need to tweak which observation point some clubs are aligned. This is probably a Bowls SA issue to address, but for example, Modbury and Hope Valley are aligned to Edinburgh (the closest observation point) but their whether pattern is more aligned to West Terrace. There may be other clubs in a similar situation.
- Pennant Format document – this can be introduced regardless of whether there is an eight team or ten team competition. Division one would be weaker. In the three years that Division one has been unified on a Saturday the gap between Premier and Division one has been reduced. Lockleys was the first team in four years to get promoted to Premier and go straight back down the following season. A return to north and south in division one would reduce the level somewhat because of the number of teams involved. Maybe a suggestion to have north and south on Wednesday and Thursday and leave one division 1 on Saturday, given our view that travel is a bigger issue during the week.

We don't really see the need for a Central division in division 2. Either have two or have four. We also don't see the rationale for a central division in division 7. Have four all the way through.

All of the above comments reflect the Lockleys view in a normal environment. Of course the current situation where we don't know when we will be back on the greens is a challenge for both clubs and regional associations. It may well be that by necessity a pennant competition in 2020/21 looks quite different to the one just completed. That may present an opportunity to make wholesale changes to the pennant structure without traditional resistance to change. However, the need to consider the revenue implications for clubs becomes even more important as I believe most clubs will initially struggle to recapture their current membership numbers, and of course, are not generating any revenue during these trying times.

That's about it. This feedback is from the perspective of our club and our members and I hope that you find it helpful. I'm looking forward to seeing you all back on the greens soon.

Regards
Ashley Halls
Bowls Director
Lockleys Bowling Club