HAMPTON BAYSIDE BOWLS CLUB Inc

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Chairman's Update

Dear Members,

A brief update of where we are at present and what is intended as we near the start of the bowls' competitive season and make slow but steady progress in establishing the new club.

Firstly, we will hold a members' information session this Thursday, 14 September, at 5.00pm. We have chosen 5pm to allow for pennant practice to finish and to help those who are working to attend. We cannot be any later as we are still under licence this week (more below under Lease) and our hours are from 1000 to 5.00pm daily.

The aim of the session will be to update members on the new club structure, what still needs to be done, to present the latest budget, and to allow for questions and answers. I am aware there are still rumours around questioning what the Board is doing and as much as possible we want to clear the air so rumours that are just plainly wrong are seen as that.

We all need to appreciate this is not just a matter of having reached our fundraising target to turn the lights back on and continue what we are were doing. We have to start the Club from almost scratch, with new contracts for everything needing to be negotiated and volunteer work crews needing to be established. Thank you to many of you for your support, hard efforts and commitment thus far.

The new club structure seeks to give members transparency in what is happening across the whole club, and importantly improve coordination between bowls activities, social activities and club operations.

A summary of key activities

Lease – We met with Bayside Council last week to discuss the draft lease. There are aspects we are not fully accepting of, and they have taken some of those onboard. It is anticipated a final draft will be with the Board midweek and, subject to an agreed covering letter, I would hope to sign with Board approval by Friday 15 September.

Utilities – At present we have no contracts with utility companies but with the Administrator and Council support Kathy Walker hopes to have these settled by the end of the week.

Insurance – We agreed cover through the brokers BCiB last Friday and are now covered for all activities which this time around had to include volunteers undertaking most of the work around the clubhouse and its grounds.

Liquor Licence – Our application to transfer the licence from Hampton Bowls Club to Hampton Bayside Bowls Club was received by Liquor Control Victoria early last week and confirmed in a call to the Club. There is no update on when we can expect the licence, but we are assuming 6 to 12 weeks based on the advice on their website. At present we are planning a gradual opening of bar services to ensure we can cope with our full social membership when we do open fully.

Bowls – I understand there will be an updated Bowls newsletter out soon. I wish to acknowledge the huge contribution of Ivan Silver who has advised he will step back half a pace from the running of the regenerated Bowls Committee. Ivan has done a tremendous job over many years and most of you know that far better than me. Ivan has offered his continued support and will remain the doyen of the schools' program and bowls' sponsorship. I thank the Pennant, Selection and Coaching sub committees for being quick off the mark and instigating training, trial games and structure for the forthcoming season.

Special General Meeting – It is still intended to hold a SGM in the near future and at present it is likely to be Sunday 8 October at 10.30 am. This allows us to give the legal notice of 21 days for calling a SGM. The key requirement for the Board is to seek members' support for a resolution adopting a new Constitution for the Hampton Bayside Bowls Club Inc. The updated Constitution will remove anomalies that have arisen after many part amendments over the years. It will also update membership categories and propose adopting a new membership category of "Voting Social" member. The Notice of Meeting and resolution will contain more detail.

Other Matters

The Board consists of only 5 members at present, and it would be fair to say they are all quite exhausted from the work they have done as volunteers over the past 7 weeks. I did advise some time ago that I would call for elections to the whole Board at the SGM. However, the need for skilled support is now as we build the new Club. A director position will be filled by the new Chair of the Bowls Committee which will be announced soon. The Board may also seek to appoint a director representing the social and community membership using the "Appointed Director" provision in the Constitution. There remains a position for a full affiliated director to be appointed to the Board now and I ask members to consider whether they can contribute to the Club as a director. If you are interested, please contact me directly.

For any member concerned they are not having enough input to the membership of the Board I will state that all positions will only be appointed until the AGM in May next year. If you are uncomfortable now, every affiliated member has the right to raise the matter at the SGM, and if you wish an alternate Board to be in place a vote can be taken to the members. All present Board members are agreeable to that matter of procedure.

Lastly, volunteers. Lyn Manning and the volunteer coordinators and teams are doing an excellent job. The Club has not looked so good for many years I am informed, and one feels proud of what is occurring. However, this is ongoing work. So do give your time at least fortnightly or monthly to do your bit. And part of volunteering can be through donations. Paint, tools, cleaning equipment in good condition is welcomed. Contact Lyn, Bev Jacobson, Haydn Williams or Phil Gibbons our group coordinators.

Thank you, for your support.

John Lord AM