



Club Bulletin

JJ Tully Drive, Doncaster, VIC 3108

OCTOBER 2021



Welcome to the Spring Club Bulletin



We are well and truly out of hibernation and into the beautiful Melbourne spring. There have been some early sightings of people on the Doncaster Bowling Club greens wearing a strange contraption on their faces. Apparently, this is a new addition to our bowls attire and must be adorned at all times. Those secretly observing Planet Earth from faraway places have been wondering what this is all about. A solstice festival perhaps! Keep those Martians guessing!

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Well at last the lockdown shackles have been loosened a little and we can at least now enjoy the opportunity to have a roll up in a limited fashion.

This last lockdown period has been a real grind and a test for all of us, but at least good lines of communication have been available to members, thanks to the efforts of those that have organised the weekly "Happy Hour" Zoom get-togethers, the latest Club news via the Website and Facebook, and the provision of ongoing information on Covid regulation updates.

And so to an update on what has been happening behind the scenes:

- As previously advised, the Doncaster Club has been selected as one of 10-11 Clubs between Deer Park and Dandenong to be assessed as part of a feasibility study for the establishment of a new State Bowling Centre. The State Govt. has appointed an independent consultant for this study and the outcome is due to be announced early in December.
- A series of individual meetings have been held with the four councillors representing the wards in the area of DBC, (Tullamore, Waldau, Schramm, and Ruffey), together with the Mayor and the Director of City Services. At these meetings we have emphasized the extent to which the Club is engaging with the community through a range of activities and that we expect this engagement to be acknowledged in the form of satisfactory lease terms and financial assistance towards our key projects, particularly the conversion of the back green to a synthetic surface.
- Since these meetings we have met with the Director of City Services regarding the lease and I believe that we have achieved a satisfactory outcome regarding the term of the lease, but we have yet to receive a written proposal which will of course also include the new annual fee.
- We also have a meeting scheduled with the Council's Sport and Recreation Group at which we will make our case for a revised application for funds for the back green conversion. Concept plans have been prepared by a designer / builder for the construction of a deck leading out from the dining area but this item ranks as a lower priority than the back green project.

- Separate meetings have also been held with our local member, Matthew Guy, the federal candidate for Menzies, Keith Wolahan, and Sonja Terpstra, the State Upper House local member. A meeting with Kevin Andrews has also been scheduled. All of these meetings are aimed at highlighting our revised Strategic Plan and the efforts of the Club in providing for its members and engaging with the community, and in doing so, hopefully establish connections that will assist with our future applications for funding assistance.
- Considerable effort has been made to renew existing Partnerships and develop new ones, but this has not been easy due to the financial impact of the extended lockdowns. Nevertheless the outcome has so far been reasonable and it was particularly pleasing when Bendigo Bank so generously approved our application for funds for new scoreboards for the front green, new rink numbers for both greens, and a new outdoor speaker system. We will continue with our efforts to engage with more Partners.
- A series of three meetings has recently been held with representatives of Bowls Australia, Bowls Victoria, and the Donvale, Templestowe and Greythorn Bowls Clubs to discuss an initiative by Manningham Council and Bowls Vic. to organize an ongoing "All Abilities" programme for disabled bowlers and for the young and old. We are advised that annual funding of \$20K will be available from Council, and the Greythorn Club has volunteered to be the "secretariat". Interestingly, Bowls Australia believe that this would be the first time that Clubs from the same LGA have agreed to join together to run a common programme. This is very much in its infant stage.
- And so with those items of news, it's over and out from me. Here's hoping that it won't be too long before we can all meet up together again in the Clubrooms and on the greens!

Ash Rowe

PENNANT SEASON 2021-22

The revised Pennant calendar for the coming season has been released by Bowls Victoria and all the information pertaining to Doncaster is on our club website. Saturday Pennant gets underway on 13th November and Midweek Pennant on November 16th.

GOOD THINGS FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA – BE CONNECTED



Thanks to Tricia O'Connor, we were successful in getting another \$1,000 grant to host two fabulous lunches for 'Get on-line week' originally scheduled for mid-October. It is unlikely we will be back in the clubrooms by that timeframe. However, when we have access to the clubrooms we will run these two lunch and learn computer skills sessions.


We do need as many people as possible to attend these catered for events. It is likely to be in December or January. So, do keep an eye out for this great opportunity to get together, have a lovely lunch and learn some new skills.




SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Fingers crossed, we will be able to have a Christmas function at our club this year. To this end Beth Reid and her committee have been doing some preliminary planning. Once again the Social Committee is intending to prepare those beautiful Christmas hampers. Could any

members assist us with items that could be added to the Christmas hampers. Wine, tins of food, Christmas decorations, cake or anything that helps us have a good time. You can start organising your donations for the hamper now and then bring them to the club once we get the green light to open the club rooms.

The drawing of the hampers will occur on the 4th December at the  Christmas breakup. The Social Committee appreciate the assistance of members in making this a good fund raiser for our club.

 Please contact Beth Reid 0414990794 if you can help or for any further information.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Our regular monthly club tournaments have been on hold for the last two months. Hopefully we can resume sometime in November. We shall be in contact with you with all the details as soon as we get the green light.

COACHING AND PENNANT PRACTICE

It is great to see bowlers on our greens once again, albeit in restricted numbers. At the present time, a coach is only able to have two other people on a particular rink. This is far from ideal but still better than none! So, in the interim if you are interested in some specific drills, and or need the assistance of a coach, there are two options:

1. Contact one of the coaches and arrange a mutually convenient time that you can be at the club. Book a rink for that particular time slot. If someone is also going to attend that session with you, they too need to book a rink for that timeslot.
2. On Thursday afternoons coaches will be present at the club between 1 and 5pm. Some drills may be setup for players to try out should they wish to do so.

Just a tip about practicing on your own. If you are practicing the draw shot, do so by varying the length and also the placement of the jack. Practice long, short and medium lengths. Especially if you seem to have mastered that $\frac{3}{4}$ length, it is important to try something different. Most bowlers have a favoured hand, forehand or backhand. It is important that you also practice with your non-preferred hand as your skip may ask you to do this on some occasions.

If you are a third or skip, apart from practicing the draw shot of varying lengths, try placing the jack near the ditch and drawing to that, or moving the jack from the centreline and drawing to that off-centre jack. It is useful to practice various scenarios that are likely to occur in a game.

Drawing around short bowls is a great one to practice as this is a very common situation we face. Getting used to bowling with bowls in your eye line - especially those at an incorrect weight - is tricky. Often bowls naturally group together, and getting your mind to ignore these bad bowls is important to fix these situations.

To set this up, place a jack down and the two short bowls on each hand. Then try to draw within a mat length of the jack. Play two shots on the forehand and then two on the backhand. Before you bowl, ask yourself how you are going to achieve your goal of getting the shot. Are you going around or under those short bowls. Is it advisable to play the narrow hand or wide hand, or this does not matter.

Another situation would be to practice covering back bowls. In this example place your imaginary opponent's bowls on the green. We want to imagine you need to "cover" them in case of jack movement. You can make this as easy or tricky as you like. For example, you can group them together, or you can spread them out. You could keep them close to the centre

line, or move them wide, so you have to adjust your line. If your lead and second have done their job, the last thing your skip will want you to do is to draw another shot and create a big target for your opponents.

One final tip. When you arrive at practice and are trying to draw to the jack. With your first few bowls try to draw to a point a few feet or even a metre past the jack. You may be surprised with the result. No short bowls and most of all enjoy your bowls.

See you on the Doncaster greens soon.

COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS

The vast majority of our members will by now have had their two shots of the Covid-19 vaccine and discussion has now moved onto booster shots.

Australia's expert panel on vaccines has approved the rollout of a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine for those with severely weakened immune systems, with advice to be released later this month for the general population. If you would like to find out more click on the link below:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australia-is-rolling-out-covid-19-booster-shots-here-s-how-they-work/55a15231-9d58-42c7-805b-419993326a7a>



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