



10 August 2021

Dear Bowlers

There has been a lot happening over the last few weeks with border restrictions to lockdowns in the Byron, Ballina, Lismore and Richmond LGAs, with all of these points creating uncertainty and confusion and we hope that we can get back to some normality in the near future.

The Chairman and I would like to thank all bowlers for working with Club staff by following our COVID requirements which ensures our compliance obligations. We know and understand the frustration but if we all continue to do the right thing we can continue to trade and enjoy our facilities.

In the past few months the Board and section committees have been holding discussions in relation to working towards unification in line with Bowls NSW. The discussions have been moving forward very well with the exception of Saturday play which caused a stalemate and the Board were asked to intervene and make a decision. After much discussion the Board made the decision to introduce Saturday bowls as an "Open" event as per our current Tuesday Open money game. The format will be 2 bowl triples with 25 ends, rink draw on each green and overall losers. There will be an afternoon break at approximately 2.30pm. The Board and Club Ltd will provide the prize money for each Saturday event in conjunction with the KBC who will contribute what they would have normally contributed to prize money on their normal Saturday play. This decision was not made easy, but it was agreed a decision needed to be made for the future viability of our Club and to allow opportunities for those members who currently cannot play during the week for a range of reasons including work commitments. The Board considered a number of options before introducing this new format and believe this change will allow more members more opportunities to enjoy the fellowship and the game of social bowls within our Club.

Whilst some members have been very vocal in their comments about this decision, our Board are looking to our future and our Club is one of only a few that have not already made the decision to open up Saturday play to an "open" event. We understand some members don't agree with this decision however all of our members pay the same membership fees to enjoy our facilities and as a club we should not be discriminating against those members who cannot play during the week because of tradition.

I would like to thank those members who have supported the Board on this decision and have acknowledge the vocal responses of some members during the address to the KBC members were not representing the views of all members that were present. We again fully understand the opinions of some members and appreciate their passion for the game which may not reflect the best interest of the Club. We are disappointed that some members have made this decision personal and have verbally attacked some members of our Board including some very threatening comments which is concerning. We hope all members appreciate that change is necessary for future growth and bringing members together during difficult times. It should also be noted that any further threatening comments towards any member of the Board or section committees on

this issue will not be tolerated. We are happy to hold a productive calm discussion but do not believe any member or members have the rights to verbally abuse or threaten Directors or committee members who are performing their roles as elected representatives, nor should members verbally abuse or make claims against other members for having an opinion.

We hope that all members will work with the Club Ltd and Bowls sections on ensuring the future viability for the game of Bowls within our Club.

Yours truly

R Breen

*Ray Breen*

Chairman of the Board

P.L Kelly

*Phil Kelly*

General Manager