

Mornington Bowling Club Inc

Chairman's Report - 26th September, 2022

The Board has addressed a number of issues since my last Report.

Of not great significance, but nevertheless important, has been the review of our free drinks to Volunteers policy. The Board agreed that free drinks should only apply in the following circumstances :-

1. For those Volunteers working behind the bar for special functions that extend over 3-4 hours, one free drink per Volunteer has been agreed to.
2. Similarly, those Volunteers working from the start to finish at Barefoot Bowls are also entitled to a free drink.
3. For the upcoming Pennant Season, if the side wins, those players in the rink with the greatest winning margin are entitled to a free drink. Also, if all sides win, every player RETURNING TO THE CLUB ON THE DAY, is entitled to a free drink.

The Board has also been advised that profit margins for members drinks have reduced due to the increasing costs of purchasing stock. To regain reasonable margins, it was agreed that members' drink prices will be increased by 50 cents per drink commencing 1st October, 2022.

Our Treasurer, Martin Cheeseman has been investigating many computer systems that may provide a remote sign on facility. We are currently testing a system which appears may provide members with this facility without the need to download any special Apps.

We are still awaiting advice from the Victorian Government whether we have been successful in being granted a \$500,000 low interest loan. This will enable us to proceed with planning for the replacement of Greens 2 & 3. We are in constant contact with the Victorian Government who keep advising "that we will be notified shortly"! In the event that we are unsuccessful, we will approach Bendigo Bank for a loan but this will require member's approval as their current interest rates are above 5% which was approved by members at the 2021 AGM.

Currently, we have problems with drainage on Green 1 after heavy rainfall. The Green builder, KCL Sports, has been contacted and we are currently waiting for their advice. We will also seek their advice in controlling the Green speed.

In order to provide an alternative option for replacing Greens 2 & 3, we have contacted Tiger Turf, who have provided an initial quote for a carpet based replacement.

A lot of work is still to be done and decisions made before we can go ahead with the Greens replacements. An idea has been raised to look at widening our entrance pathway which seems a good idea, but needs a great deal of investigation before we can proceed. Many thanks to the 6 volunteers who have agreed to form a working group for the Greens replacement project.

We will soon be calling on Volunteers to assist in the repainting of the seats between Greens 1 & 2. Also, Helen Smeeton has asked if we can reduce the current stock of books in our Library and allow new stock to be brought in.

ALSO, we still need a Board Secretary. The role of the secretary is wide ranging and is seen as the co-coordinating link for most matters associated with the running of the Board. The Secretary provides support for the Chairman and subsequently can make and advise actions on most matters. If any member would like to give it a go, it would be very much appreciated. Susan Gullidge, our current Vice Chair and past Board Secretary, will be on hand to give assistance and a comprehensive handover. She is happy to chat to any member who may be interested.

Working with Council - we have had problems with our heating unit, grafitti and the need to extend our Lease.

Insurance - a Claim has been submitted to our previous Insurer, Allianz for the loss of income over the period 19 March 2020 and 31 October 2020 when the club was closed due to COVID-19. Initially our claim was rejected but a recent court ruling has forced Allianz to reassess all previous claims. Over the last few weeks we have submitted extensive documentation supporting our claim and we are hopeful of an early, successful response.

Robin Growse

Chair, BOM