



IMPORTANT CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

18th March 2020

Things continue to evolve daily. Our club-wide email release several days ago (also posted on our website) detailed important Coronavirus precautions. Subsequently, relevant bowling authorities have imposed key decisions and Government directives now provide more explicit guidelines.

The situation is unprecedented and all areas of our club are impacted. Board members plus key club coordinators have thoroughly worked through all options to determine our next steps. In addition to constraints imposed from above, we are also mindful of OH&S, duty of care, insurance, accreditation and other factors.

Following are the positions resulting from our special session.

Power to Act

Our Constitution had the foresight to implant Emergency Administrative Action powers (section 59) to deal with unforeseen events. The Board is now applying this power in relevant matters.

Club Management

The current Board will continue to meet at the club, observing the specific protocols we already have in place. The current Board is well-placed to evaluate financial and administration impacts and generate strategies to mitigate the likely damage. The Finance Committee will drive this.

Annual General Meeting/Special Meetings

The Board deliberated at length on all available responses and options. The consensus is to:

- Postpone the AGM to a later, safer date
- Issue the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements in the normal way
- Establish an email, postal and/or web-based system for receiving and addressing Annual Report queries during the period which the normal AGM would have occurred
- Continue with the current Board as a caretaker Board until the deferred AGM and voting can take place
- Restrict material changes to existing policies to the status quo for items that require AGM endorsement (eg subscriptions)

Pennant Bowls

All Pennant bowling activities have already been cancelled by BowlsSA and the MBA.

Night Owls

All Night Owls activity has now been cancelled; fortunately, we are in the last week of that program.

Social Bowls

Most regrettably, all organised Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday bowls events are suspended until further notice.

Casual Bowling

Members are still able to use the greens for individual bowling. On their own volition, people may also choose to have an informal roll-up together providing club protocols are followed (refer web site, notably the distancing advice). Whilst the clubroom may often be open, there is no guarantee, which means access to toilet and locker facilities may be irregular. It is best to relocate your bowls to your car boot or at home for the time being. Mats and jacks may be available in the external cupboard on the southern clubhouse wall.

Internal Building Areas/Bar/Kitchen

The Board very much wants social connections to continue. A good example is the Friday Night catch-up. However, there are problems: Coronavirus can remain active on doors and surfaces for a few days and staff and volunteers are placed in a difficult position dealing with this. Further advice is being sought on whether/how internal clubhouse facilities should be open for gatherings. A notice will be issued imminently.

Presentation Night

Presentation Night is postponed until further notice.

Dixie Dunbar Tournament

This tournament is postponed until further notice.

External Club Bookings

Some external bookings have already been cancelled. We will not accept any new bookings for the time being and we are talking to the two remaining booking parties.

Down-time Opportunities

In addition to the above, we also canvassed some positive opportunities to take advantage of the down-time – eg greens upgrade erection of new shelters. There are productive windows of opportunity to exploit.

Good club people are collaborating to deal as best as they can with unprecedented scenarios and complications. Things will change again and we may not get every detail right first time round. We are also obliged to act within parameters established by external authorities and umbrella organisations. We will maintain a steady, professional approach. The ultimate test is how well we manage the risks involved.

If you have any concerns or matters you would like to raise on the above, the Board would be most happy to consider and respond. Please direct any items to Russ Thomson (0447 883 060) or by email to the Administrative Secretary (admin@somertoneagulls.com.au) in the first instance.

Thanks.

Russ Thomson

President