



Chairman's Report 2023/24

Once again, I am happy to report a successful trading year in conditions which have been difficult in many ways. Even though depreciation hurts us on paper we are still in a strong trading position. Our bar trading was better than last year but our gaming machine profit was considerably less. Like all clubs we are very aware of the current business trends and we are always looking to diversify income streams.

Wages and superannuation have all increased as well as insurance and all products and services that we need to conduct our business. We still strive to keep prices as low as possible and provide value for money for our members and visitors.

We have recently replaced a large retaining wall on the Kiola Street side of our club and we have replaced an aged audiovisual setup with new screens and a completely new audio system. We are now able to regulate varying sound volumes in 8 sectors around the clubhouse and on the bowling greens. This increases the comfort level for everyone.

In the last 12 months we made 3 grant applications from State and Federal Governments. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in all, even though they all met grant criteria and were all high value propositions. We are not easily discouraged and will be applying for more in the future.

Our State Government has recently tightened regulations concerning gambling and we organised advanced gambling training for all our staff and directors. Staff are all trained in counselling and ways to assist problem gamblers.

After suffering long holdups with our local council, we now have permission to construct an artificial green at the side of the clubhouse with a wider deck outside the Gaming Machine area and a 10 metre wide deck across the back of the green.

Our construction will not be starting until after Christmas because we are waiting for the bowling green surface to be made and delivered from Portugal. The whole construction should take approximately 12 to 14 weeks. The green will include lighting for night play and will also light the golf course for evening play. The children's playground will be completed at the same time.

The planned new toilets and eating area are beyond our finances at the moment. We will instead provide an extra indoor and outdoor seating area for customers. As finances allow, we will keep improving our facilities.

Even though all clubs and community groups are finding volunteers very difficult to find we still have long term reliable volunteers. Special thanks are due to Don Booth for his volunteer work around the club, Ken Choice for his work on the mini golf course and Bill Benson for his help in conducting bowls events.

Our greens and grounds are in great condition owing to the skills of our Greenkeeper Scott and our Bowls Organiser Jamie.

Thanks to our selectors for men's and women's bowling teams. This is a thankless job and requires dedicated people. Our selectors are Paul Goddard, Mark Wallace, Su Wood and Lorraine Schofield.

Our Manager Felicity and her inside staff carry out their duties in a competent and friendly manner to maximise the club experience for all.

Our Board of Directors meets regularly to make decisions to steer the club in the right direction by ensuring a strong business which supports the sport of lawn bowls and provides facilities for our community.

On behalf of the board of directors I extend our sympathy to the families of the members we have lost this year. Recently we have lost four Life Members in Dino Martin, Doug Easey, Ellen Farrell and Peter Sandiford. They will be missed by many. We give our best wishes to those on the sick list and wish them a speedy recovery. Special thanks to our Welfare Officer Judy Wright who spreads a little cheer to those not well.

The board welcomes positive suggestions for club improvement at all times.

Mark Schofield
Chairman