

PRESIDENTS NEWS UPDATE -NUMBER 25- MARCH 2020

The conclusion of this pennant season is something that no one could have foreseen. We have seen major bushfires, floods and now the Pandemic health disaster of the COVID - 19 virus throughout Australia.

I can only trust that everyone heeds all the recommendations and instructions from our Governments and Health Authorities such that we can all get through these worrying times and hopefully get back to what we all consider to be the lifestyle that we all like to enjoy.

Along with many other sporting codes the board of your MBA had to make decisions to bring the pennant season to a satisfactory conclusion. We were fortunate that on all days of pennant competition that all the minor rounds were completed. The option to declare all minor premier division winners to receive the major pennant award was agreed to be the most satisfactory outcome for the season. Discussions and advice was sought from Bowls SA who themselves were in regular contact with Bowls Australia. We considered the option to postpone the finals program to later dates but when could these dates be scheduled for? The pandemic conditions were moving so fast and government and health authorities were releasing recommendations and regulations on a frequent basis. Other sporting codes moved fairly quickly to resolve their competition issues.

As they say "hindsight is a wonderful thing" but with regulations coming out, on 23rd March 2020, that all Licensed Clubs should be closed for the near future. It was a prudent decision not to try and schedule any future dates for pennant finals. Many Clubs have already responded with their approval of our decision.

Thank you to all the Clubs that were invited to host Grand Finals. Many Clubs would have hosted Grand Finals for the first time, under the MBA banner. Our policy is to share around to as many Clubs as possible to host these events.

Well done to all Clubs in coping with the introduction of the "Bowslink" match reporting computer software. I am aware that Bowls SA is seeking further improvements to the software that will further improve requirements for next season.

Jeff Allen and the members of his Match and Program committee have done a terrific job in managing the pennant program for us all. A big thank you to all of them.

Once again our Major Sponsor, ECH, provided considerable financial support towards the provision of Medallions and trophies for every one of our division/section winners.

Thanks to Myles Griffin of Focus Energy and lots of running around by our Secretary, Ron Mulliner, our proposed bulk electricity savings scheme for member Clubs will commence from 1st April 2020. Some 12 Clubs have signed up to be included in the scheme for a 12 month plan. Before the 12 months has been completed all Clubs will be advised of the savings that have been made under the energy bulk buying program such that they can decide to join for the following 12 month plan.

The Bowls Tournament we organized in January to recognize the magnificent contribution made by Ron Mitchell, the inaugural President of the M.B.A. was well accepted by the Clubs that took part. Thank you to the Torrenville Bowling Club that hosted the event for us. So lock in the date of Saturday 2nd January 2021 for the next one and be part of a really good Club day.



**Metropolitan
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We have asked Bowls SA to schedule some more courses for Umpires and Measurers etc. for the beginning of next season.

At this stage we have scheduled our AGM to be held on Sunday 17th May 2020, at the Ascot Park Bowling Club. However this will be subject to what we are allowed to do in relation to the regulations/restrictions regarding the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

We do need members to consider nominating to join the MBA management committee - what can you offer to keep our fledgling MBA on a progressive path for the benefit of our competition and its bowlers?

Please remember that any Club that has any suggestions to improve our Pennant competitions then you are welcome to submit them to your M.B.A. board. When you submit suggestions please consider the impact of them on ALL Clubs and the administration of suggestions.

Please look after your health and we will enjoy our bowls together even more in the future.

regards

Mike Porter

On behalf of your M.B.A. Board of Management