



From the Centre Desk

November 2020

The 2020/21 season is well underway, and we have been blessed with fantastic weather. The one wet day we had was welcomed by all greenkeepers I am sure and was easy for us to cancel because the rain was so heavy region wide.

So far entry numbers have been up in quite a few events which is great. It seems playing the Mixed Pairs over Labour Weekend was well received. The weather at Show Weekend was as expected which meant the Singles was played in perfect conditions. The Over 60's are underway too. Thanks to all clubs that made their greens available, we really appreciate it as we know more work is required by many at the club.

Rep Round Up – The representative programme is now well underway. The annual Town and Country event went well a couple of weeks ago. Thanks to Morrison Ave Club for hosting the men and to Ashburton and MSA Clubs for hosting the women. Lots of talent, old and new, so lots for the selectors to pick from.

Two Women's teams competed in the Marjorie Gundry event against Marlborough in Kaikoura last Tuesday. The results didn't go our way but this event is an opportunity for our players to experience this level of competition, which is invaluable. The more experienced Marlborough women provided tough competition and were really pleased to take home the trophy.

The next event is the Southern Quad in Timaru on Sunday 29 November.

Centre Club Meeting – Monday 30 November 6pm at Bowls Papanui. Bowls NZ CEO Mark Cameron will be centre stage for most of the meeting. He will make a presentation and then open the floor for question time. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Consistency Award for 2019/20 season – These will be presented to the Centre Club Meeting on Monday 30 November. The winners will be notified.

Sanitisers – We still seem to have ample supplies of the handwash and surface cleaner in the office and are keen to get it to clubs. I think we will be using these products for a while yet so an opportunity to make sure you have a good supply. Some of the rural clubs haven't picked up their supply of goodies yet. We know that you don't take the trip to Town for just one thing but if you do want your allocation please let us know by Wednesday 25 November and we will keep it for you. If you have picked up your supply and still want more for use in at their clubrooms or around the greens, you are welcome to collect an extra bottle or two.

Technical Skills Workshops – these are scheduled for Tuesday 1 December at 3.30pm and 6pm at the Centre Office. These are for anyone interested in sharpening their knowledge of bowls – not just new players and not those wanting to become umpires. Wendy Suttie ran a similar workshop in Ashburton which was very successful. Please pass this information on to all players. Having a good knowledge of the laws of the game increases the enjoyment of the game. Please RSVP to the Centre Office before Friday 27

November to secure your place, advising which workshop you would prefer. Space is limited to 15 people at each session. For more information check the Bowls Canterbury website or the October newsletter.

Markers – It seems that the people prepared to perform this role are becoming scarcer as we are receiving more calls from players saying they cannot find anyone to do it for them. Unfortunately, Bowls Canterbury, like clubs, does not have a ready pool of people prepared to help. If you are the player charged with providing a Marker and can't find one our suggestion is that you ask at your Club, contact the host Club as they may have some spares, contact the person you are playing against or play without one. To overcome this problem Auckland Bowls schedules extra rounds with less team per round so that those not playing mark when they have the bye. Apparently, this was not favoured by players in Canterbury, but it may be the only option.

Office Hours – Until after Christmas we are closing the office at 3.30pm each day. This does not mean we will not be in the office; we are likely to be but there will be days when Katie is either at an event or using her lieu time after working weekends. Emily may be out delivering at schools or on annual leave and Lorraine/I am/is still not working full time. If you really need to come into the Office after 3.30 give us a call, there is every probability someone will be around.

Sharing 'Good Ideas' – I would like to develop this part of the newsletter more. So I would appreciate it if when you do something that is successful please share it with our wider community so we can grow bowls in our region.

Bowls Papanui Sunday Afternoon Street Challenge – Members recruited teams of four players – there was a restriction of one bowler per team - no entry fee – free sausage sizzle – prizes for the raffle were donated - raffles they sold well – 16 teams participated – played three 40 minute games -over in about two hours. There was interest in more social events and full membership. Bar turnover was considerable, and the cost of the sausage sizzle was off set by the raffles. A very successful event where over 50 people had the chance to play the game in a fun environment. My thanks to Bowls Papanui for sharing this with us and I look forward to receiving more 'Good Ideas'.

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