

# 'ABUZZ'



## At HAWTHORN

"Celebrating our past, enjoying our present, planning our future"

June 2020

Editor Brian Schaefer

### From The President

#### HBC rides out the COVID-19 Lockdown!

Welcome back to the 'new normal' as we gradually emerge from our forced hibernation adjusting to the light, being healthier, checking our sanity - eager to play bowls again!

Remember Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March? ... We were instantly shut down with two of our sides prepping for their grand final tilts and one side already basking in a premiership glory. We saved relegations in some sides and just missed playing finals in others – it was a good moment for the Club enjoying one of its most successful

years on the greens. We immediately stopped everything and hunkered down to watch as the COVID-19 numbers were rolled out each day to remind us of our mortality. Our poor little bowls were locked away in their bags crying out for the touch of human hands!

#### Behind the scenes ...

Activities could not stop because there were important tasks to be done to ensure the Club could weather the storm and come out the other side in as best shape as possible to tackle the new challenges head on. The Board, under the able leadership of President Shaw had a dilemma regarding its change-over as there were retiring members including himself, and it was a pivotal time in the Club's history to ensure that we were going to survive. Fortunately, we have got sufficient reserves to ride the storm out in the short term, but the mid-term posed a problem if the COVID lockdown went on for a year or more. After checking legalities and the Club Constitution, the Board changed over at the originally set date on May 9<sup>th</sup> enabling the new Board to get on with the business of making plans to operate the Club through, and on the other side of the pandemic. Several virtual meetings were held and as the restrictions began to lift in late May, we were able to meet in the Clubrooms under required social distancing and sanitation practices.

Restrictions were further lifted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May enabling us to have 10 players per green practicing and playing small games. As Hawthorn has 4 greens this allowed us to get 40 players out which was our annual Winter Bowls average. Restrictions were lifted even further and by the 29<sup>th</sup> May we could have 40 players inside the clubhouse according to the principles-based approach providing they were physically separated into groups of 20. The decision was made to re-start Winter Bowls on June 6<sup>th</sup> in a COVID safe atmosphere - it was a popular and successful late start to the program! (continued p2)

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## Is there a silver lining?

The answer to that must be a solid YES as infrastructure improvements continued while we were all hibernating! All greens now have new red artificial grass banks and irrigation systems installed by Nigel so that hoses do not have to dragged over them for watering. The mini *Bellagio* is a sight to behold as water shoots out from each corner of the greens to provide an even coverage like never before.

Retiring President John Shaw continued to coordinate and manage projects to upgrade the kitchen, paint the entire inside of the club-house, lay paving alongside D green, re-build a new kitty shed and BBQ room, develop a new selection board and install hand rails as risk mitigation on D green. He was ably assisted by his 'Hawthorn Tradies' – Alan Portlock and Manny Vlachos.

John Jasson also played a significant part acquiring funding through grants to enable these works to proceed.

All of this was done in that 11-week 'window' when no one was around due to the lockdown – a magnificent effort to set us up with much improved facilities on our return. Our thanks and appreciation go to John in particular, for his commitment and passion to see the projects through on our behalf!

## Looking Forward

The new Board has met and resolved a range of issues to take us forward. Several Reports have been compiled including *Attraction, Retention & Recognition (ARR)* coordinated by Alan Reid, and the *Review of Rostering System at HBC* by Brian Harmer. Each has recommendations that are being discussed for action which will have a significant effect on operations across a range of aspects of the Club. **Governance** is one major focus of the Board going forward and all 9 Standing Committees in the Bylaws have been either continued or in some cases, re-booted.

The *Membership and Player Development Committees* to be chaired by Phil Harris and Manuel Vlachos respectively, have been reinstalled to boost those aspects of the Club's functions.

The Club's Organisation Chart indicating members taking leadership roles is set out in the following pages. Please take the time to acquaint yourself with how the Club is organised and consider becoming involved on any of the Committees. Members will be approached, but it is always much easier if you offer your services in areas of your interest. You can see the purposes and objectives of each of the Committees outlined in the Bylaws in our terrific newly updated **website** developed by David Jones.

Improvements to the facilities and a continuing emphasis on building good Club governance sets us up for a very successful time ahead. I look forward to working with the great new Board to achieve many good outcomes on and off the greens.



Graham Dodd

# Club Organisation

## HAWTHORN BOWLING CLUB Inc

Organisation Chart (v5 – June 5, 2020)

### CONSTITUTION & By Laws

#### MEMBERS

#### BOARD & Portfolios

G DODD (President), M GERLACH (Ladies Vice-President), PHIL HARRIS (Men's Vice-President), TERRY ONTO (Secretary), KEN PIGGOTT (Treasurer), TERESA HANEL (Night Hawks), ALAN REID (Grants, Governance), GRAEME ALDER (Sponsorship, Business Planning) TRUDY HOWARD (Events)  
Ex-officio - JIM BELL (Greens Manager), TRISH COOK (House Manager), TERRY ONTO (Bar Manager)

### STANDING COMMITTEES & Chairs

BAR	BOWLS	EVENTS	HOUSE	NIGHT HAWKS	MEMBERSHIP	PLAYER DEV.	TOURNAMENTS	WINTER BOWLS
T Onto	M Gerlach	T Howard	T Cook	T Hanel	P Harris	M Vlachos	G Mickan	V Magoch

#### PANELS

LADIES SELECTORS	MEN'S & OPEN SELECTORS
Chair	Chair
C Keller	B Harmer

#### OFFICIALS

EDITOR ABUZZ	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
B Schaefer	J Shaw (Mentor, Infrastructure)
GREENKEEPER	CONTRACTORS
D&D Contractors	
LADIES COACH	CLUB COACH
W Clarke (Pending)	(Vacant)

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# *Kitchen upgrades & the 'tradies'*



## **Happy Bar Manager**

Terry Onto,  
Pulling a beer on  
new taps, and  
showing new back fill  
fridge and upgraded  
frontage to the bar.



# Upgraded Kitchen

The Kitchen  
Roller Door  
and Servery



Behind the door toil  
Marilyn and Trish,  
preparing that ever  
tasty soup.



The contented  
bowlers, enjoying  
their bowl of tasty  
soup, which will  
sustain them  
during the after-  
noon of bowling.

## *Improvements Outside & on the Greens.*



**The New Shelter and Seating between C & D Greens**

**Note the new red Edging, which is on all greens**



**The New Safety Rails on D Green**



**The new Outdoor Kitchen**



**Paving going down to the Outdoor Kitchen and the renovated Bowls shed.**



# *Finally back on the Green on June 6<sup>th</sup>*



Just as well we kept up our Power walking during Covid-19 Lockdown as Vic & Rob decided we could send up 81 bowls on the first day (Saturday, 6th June), of the Winter Bowls Season, nearly twice as many as in a Pennant Match!

**After Doddy's introductions and Vic's instructions, it was good to get out on the greens again with colleagues.**



On the Greens it was noted that the topic of conversation was NOT 'the tourist places I visited on my holidays,' BUT, 'If it wasn't for COVID-19 I would be in Milan or Paris . . .'

