

Men Bowlers Forum

Dear Members,

Recently the Club convened a special forum of men bowlers to get feedback and also to have recommendations on the way forward for our bowling club. A forum of this type has to have a limited number of participants to be successful and because of this it was determined that younger and newer bowlers, along with a number of experienced bowlers, may have some different ideas which may attract bowlers to the club and retain our current group.

The Hills Bowling Club has experienced some internal conflict in recent times & has lost a number of members to other clubs.

The major point coming out of the meeting was “communication” which is not a new concept however how to achieve that in today’s world is more of a challenge.

Yes, we can, and will continue to use, the notice board at the club but that method has its limitations. The majority of notices are taken up with Bowl competition information which is numerous & very busy. It is not always an easy medium for non-competition information.

Electronic communications are the way forward and this includes the website which is being professionally updated by Ian Millar. The Club now uses email as a major form of communications and this will be rolled out to bowling members. The majority of bowlers have email addresses.

Other points discussed at the forum include

Barefoot Bowls – A suggestion was made to incentivise barefoot bowlers to join the club and start bowling.

Bowls Member Fee structure - A more flexible fee structure ie choice of 1 off payment or reduced fee but have green fees. Different fee for competition players & social players. This will be discussed by the Board in due course.

Uniforms – You will recall that in 2020 there was a recommendation on getting new uniforms, the same for men and women. The forum recommended the Club revisit the proposal and consider the following:

- 1) A new uniform for Pennant teams and for association championship events.
- 2) Cost of the uniform may be sponsored so it will be at no cost to those members who want a set.
- 3) All social bowls events to be made “mufti”, so those members who don’t want a new uniform will not be required to get one.
- 4) The Ladies club, if that is their decision, can retain their uniform for all of their events.

Friday Bowls - With the loss of Green 2 there are some issues with the format of Friday bowls. Normally we get up to 80 bowlers playing on a Friday & now if we play pairs we can only accommodate 56 bowlers. There were some suggestions to be

referred to the bowls committee for consideration, including pairs on one green triples on the other. Limit the entries to full members of The Hills club, pairs on both greens with first in entries accepted, split the day into 2 sessions. All of these will be considered.

Minimum entry Numbers:- Discussion on which events the club should run & if there should be a minimum number of entries before an event can start, eg, mixed 4's only have 5 teams . It was requested that a discussion with the Ladies Club to ascertain the interest in these events by the Ladies.

Bowler exit reasons - A question was asked as to the procedure when a bowler transfers to another club. It was agreed until recently that there was no system in place & it was thought that a system be introduced. A form has been created for any bowler seeking a clearance so that we can learn from their decision. Ken Carroll has also indicated that he has contacted the most recent departures to get their feedback.