

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPORT TO WODONGA BOWLING CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2019

I write this report with a great deal of optimism regarding the future of our club as I look back on what has been a very successful 2018 in many regards. Steady membership numbers combined with improved revenue leaves us in a positive position to begin the 2019 year.

On the bowling front the club has witnessed considerable team and individual successes. Of our combined number of 11 pennant teams, nine made the finals and we had 3 weekend and 2 mid-week pennant teams reach their respective Grand Finals. Congratulations to all members who have represented the club during the two pennant seasons. Special mention must be made of the weekend A1 and the mid-week A3 pennant teams for their grand final successes.

Two club members also deserve special mention for their feats on the bowling greens during the 2018. Kylie Whitehead won the Australian Open Singles for the second year running and also claimed the Champion of Champions title. She will now represent Australia in the world Champion of Champions competition in November. We wish Kylie every success in this tournament. Paul Davies represented Victoria and was a member of the team that claimed the Australian Senior sides Championship.

Financially the club has improved its position significantly over the past year. The capacity of club manager Kate Scriven to attract bookings and to ensure that functions are run professionally has been a huge asset for us. The many hours of work put in by the dedicated kitchen/function volunteers has also been a massive positive input towards our improved financial position.

Those members who regularly give up their time on Tuesday evenings to enable the club to continue to run our Bingo sessions provide the backbone around which our financial management is based. Without them we would struggle to survive especially during the winter months when other areas of income decline.

On behalf of the club I express our thank you all those members who have made a contribution to our success by volunteering at some stage during the past year. Some members spend many, many hours assisting. This may be outside on the greens or on the surrounds, it may be in the kitchen

or behind the bar, it may be on one of the many committees such as pennant or match, it may be selling raffle tickets or assisting with happy hour or it may be assisting to organise the many school and social groups.. Irrespective of your role as a volunteer your efforts are greatly appreciated. I would urge all members to review their contribution in this area and consider where they may be able to make a more positive contribution in the future.

Our three paid members of staff make a huge contribution to the club often providing their time and expertise well in excess of what would normally be expected of such people. To David, Kate and Caroline thank you for your contribution to our success.

The number of outside groups seeking to use the club facilities as a venue has increased during the year. We now host amongst others, a mahjong club, a card club, a motorcycle club, a football league, a fitness club and a food club. We have also provided kitchen space to Miss Macron and have been able to rent the kitchen to a caterer on a casual basis.

The work done in a number of areas by the previous board saw us derive numerous benefits during the year. A successful grant application enabled the club to purchase a number of small sized bowls sets to assist beginners, especially ladies and students, who find larger size bowls difficult to grip. Actions taken by that board also saw in place strategies that enabled us to move forward with improvements to the club management and kitchen structures.

For fear of missing some valuable contributions to the club I have deliberately not tried to name all contributors over the past year. There are however a few members who I feel need special mention. The amount of time and effort that David Broad contributed towards making the Christmas raffle an outstanding success over a number of years is worthy of special mention. David has indicated that he would like to step away from this position this year and then we will fully appreciate the value of his contribution.

Another member who has contributed so much is Col Fitzmaurice who has indicated that he will not be continuing as organiser of our Wednesday and Saturday social bowls after performing this duty for 20 years. Similarly, Hellen Harrison will be stepping aside as catering officer after being the organiser in kitchen for a long, long time.

Members will have recently seen the arrival of a new TV screen that runs as a club honour board. Lesley Duncan spent an enormous amount of time in getting all necessary information up to date and into a format that enabled it to run through the TV. With the screen now operational the blue honour boards can be removed. When that is done it will be possible to move boards from the function area into the bowling portion of the club. All our bowling material will then be together and we can look towards some modernization in the function room.

Finally, I would like to pay special mention to my fellow board members. We have been able to work very well as a united team and have functioned efficiently as a result. Unfortunately, towards the end of the year our elected Chair, Ray Beer, indicated that he would not be continuing in that role and would be resigning from the board. I would like to thank Ray for his contribution and dedication that he applied to his role. To John Evans, Tony Mark and Lesley Duncan who will continue as directors thank you for your outstanding efforts over the past year and thank you for offering your services again this year. To Bob Harbridge who has also nominated for the board we thank you and I feel sure that you will make an important contribution. To Peter McLarty, Ken Mundie and especially David Jackaman thank you for your efforts at board level over the past year. Currently there are two board positions vacant due to lack of nominations. Hopefully there will be some members willing to make a commitment at this meeting, or failing that, at a later date, if requested by the board.

The year ahead will see the club face a number of challenges with the aging of our membership a pivotal issue. We were fortunate to buck the trend of recent declining membership in 2018. In order to maintain our membership base we all need to work hard at promoting the game of bowls to all members of our society and to also promote the benefits of using or becoming a member of our club. One way to help maintain our membership numbers may be through the suggested changes to member categories that will be discussed at tonight's meeting. The board will be seeking an expression of interest from members. Any vote will not be binding

At this time last year there was some discussion regarding the structuring our club to have our financial year ending on June 30. If this becomes a reality then our annual meeting would need to be held by the end of September. Recent discussions with our accounting firm has seen this

possibility raised again. The board will need to look at the consequences of such a plan and the details of implementing such a restructure.

Although the year ahead will pose a number of challenges the board will look forward to the task of seeing the club continue to prosper. With the help and backing of our membership we can look to the future with confidence.

Ken Barnes

Acting Chairperson.