

## THE WINTER SEASON IS UPON US

October 18, 2020

Dear Members,

The Winter Indoor Season begins! (and a call for contributions for a club in need). We are now firmly passing the threshold from the summer to the winter bowling season. Congratulations to all members for successfully managing and participating in a safe and enjoyable outdoor bowling season. Special thanks to the conveners and assistant conveners: Bodie, Taka, Myrle and Jim for the draws, tournaments and competitions, to Howard and John for their magnificent work improving and maintaining the greens, and to all the volunteer monitors for maintaining the sanitation stations, sign-in desks and protocols that make our return to play possible.

Covid-19 has presented all of us with challenges and the need to adjust our behaviours and our game. A special thanks then to each of our members for their cooperation and understanding as we together negotiated our way through these new territories.

Indoor Bowling—new Challenges and new Guidelines. The Board has agreed to pursue the challenge of safe indoor bowling, commencing this week (the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>) with four draws each week (one men's and three open). A Wednesday night pairs leagues is anticipated for November. Bodie and Jeanette are the conveners.

Indoor Bowling presents us with concerns that did not exist with outdoor bowling. Being indoors, the need to maintain social distancing and our new protocols for a safe and sanitized environment are more important than ever. We have drafted and submitted new guidelines to address, but not eliminate, these concerns. They are attached for your review and consideration. We ask all members to consider these guidelines and to consider the risks that are associated with the move to indoor bowling.

It is not possible to eliminate all risk of COVID-19 in an indoor environment and we want members to make an informed decision on whether or not to participate. The indoor protocols will continue to include all members verifying their continued symptom-free health on every attendance to the club, their commitment not to attend the club when ill, and their agreement to sign a Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement respecting risks of COVID-19 infection. Members will continue to bring personal hand sanitizer when visiting the club and will sanitize their hands before entering or exiting club property, including the clubhouse. New protocols include:

- Maximum of 12 persons in the clubhouse, for indoor bowling. At least one person will be a designated monitor.
- Masks are to be worn by all persons in the clubhouse, at all times.
- Hands to be sanitized before entering or exiting washrooms.
- Doors to be left open during arrival and exiting times. Windows to be opened whenever possible during play.
- No congregation in the clubhouse except as is necessary to facilitate indoor play during scheduled games.

The maximum of 12 people will permit the conveners to designate two non-adjacent lanes downstairs and one lane upstairs. During play there will be four people upstairs and eight downstairs. If members demonstrate the ability to maintain a safe environment, the Board will consider opening an additional lane, with a maximum 16 members in the clubhouse. We ask that everyone conduct him or herself with discipline and good sense in order to maintain the maximum permitted distancing and promote a safe environment.

Phase 2 Guidelines for accommodating indoor play and the schedule of play and booking instructions are attached and copies will be posted in the clubhouse and on the website. Please read the guidelines and schedule and follow them. We appreciate your comments. Note that email sign-up starts October 19th.

**Fees and a request for voluntary contributions:** In July and August the WVLBC reopened with Phase 1 and Phase 2 (intra club play) and we asked members to pay a \$100 fee for the 2020 –2021 season. Eighty-two members (including 17 Lions Club members, eight new members and two associate members) paid those

fees. We thought we did well with that, although it is down from 181 members in 2019. The Board did not expect in July that we might have an indoor bowling season. We anticipated that the only bowling would be our abbreviated outdoor season. Now that we have sought to move on to the indoor season, the Board has agreed to stick by the bargain that we struck with our members. We are not seeking to impose an increase of membership fees on our 82 current members. A deal is a deal. New members (anyone who has not yet paid an annual fee as a continuing or new member) who wish to join our indoor season will be asked to pay the \$100 fee.

That being said, COVID-19 has brought significant financial impact to our club and diminished our accumulated funds that this club managed to save over several decades. We have completely lost our revenue streams of rentals, games, and social activities and full membership numbers and fees are down substantially. COVID-19 has imposed new expenses on the club, for instance, there has been nearly \$1,000 in sanitation supplies. We have continuing substantial operating costs related to clubhouse and grounds maintenance. We have sought to ameliorate these costs where possible. The exceptional efforts of Howard and John have brought us savings of nearly \$4,000 on green maintenance over what we paid last year (although we also incurred the exceptional cost of \$13,000 for a new aerator that provides us with ability to obtain our savings on greens maintenance). We renegotiated our waste management costs and recently our Internet costs to realize savings of ~\$1,000 per year. However, it is not enough.

Revenues for the fiscal year are down by more than 50% while expenses are down only 30%. We are operating at a loss and as we continue through the winter months our losses will become worse. We are drawing on our capital to carry on. Current reserves are down \$14,000. On October 31<sup>st</sup> we will distribute the Directors' report which will include Jim's full review of our finances. It is enough for now that you be aware of the financial impact that COVID has had upon us. Between diminished membership, diminished membership fees, lost revenues and continuing expenses we are now in a position of seeking member assistance through voluntary contributions. This is it – we are requesting all members to voluntarily contribute to the club as their finances allow. We encourage you to consider a minimum \$100 contribution, particularly those participating in winter bowling. If you can contribute more, bless you. Also, we would like to thank those members who have already contributed a total of \$500. For those wishing to

contribute, please make your cheques payable to West Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club, and provide them to a Board member, or put them into Jim's slot in the office. The Board thanks you for your consideration.

Thank you everyone.

Gordon Maynard, President, WVLBC