

Dear members. 2018/19 will be a year of change for the club.

We now have a Board of Directors who are united and fully committed to making the club as best that we can in a very challenging industry. As we look around us we see many clubs such as ours struggling against all sorts of impacts from government regulations and social impacts affecting revenues. We are a multi-million dollar business with strict compliance requirements in the areas of gaming, liquor, health & safety, licensing, and corporation's law.

In 2017/18 we invested in some major capital items including airconditioning, kitchen equipment and new chairs in the gaming area.

Earlier this year the Board agreed on a number of long term strategies to improve the operation of the club. This year we will see some of these strategies become realities.

So what changes will we see?

Our current Constitution was published in 2012. ClubsNSW recommend a review and modernisation of the Constitution every 5 years. The Board established a Constitution Review Committee which has gone through every section of the Constitution and has presented a series of recommendations to the Board. Over the next 6 months we will be holding member information sessions with the aim to present a new Constitution to a Special General Meeting in March 2019. The main change to the Constitution will be to simplify and rationalize the various types of membership.

The Board had recognized the need to make significant improvements to the club. In reality this means a new clubhouse with modern facilities for all members, both bowling and social. Investigations have commenced on the best options for the future with the most important factors being the continued support for lawn bowls and the provision of a superior licensed venue in The Hills. No major changes will happen without the approval of members. This is a very long-term project that will require significant expertise in all areas of planning and development.

Whilst talking about clubhouse improvements, I need to thank the many volunteers who helped rebuild the bowls office. We have also completed the extension to the smoking area near the TAB. When this is completed we will be making the decking area smoke free and an alfresco dining area. This is what members have been wanting for some time.

We need to improve our marketing to tap into the growing population in our immediate area. Our Club will only succeed if we grow our revenue base by attracting new members and then providing the services and facilities to keep them coming back.

Barefoot bowls numbers will grow in the future. We are receiving a lot of enquiries in the lead up to Christmas.

This year we ran a very successful Sports Lunch for the first time. This event has shown us that we can run large events and so in 2018/19 we will be doing more of these, starting with an Oktoberfest evening in late September featuring all things German from the food to the beer along with some fantastic entertainment.

Members, 2017/18 has been a pretty tough year for the Club, but we are excited about the future and we ask all members to get behind us to make us the best we can be.

I would like to finish by thanking everybody involved with running of the Club including the staff, management, volunteers, and Directors.

Ken Carroll
President