



The TOUCHER

March 2021

President's Message

We are anticipating to begin bowling on our new artificial greens mid May to the beginning of June, and we are looking forward to another enjoyable season albeit still within COVID-19 Guidelines.

Your Board Members have been very busy over the past few months planning for the upcoming season and working on a number of initiatives.

This addition of the "Toucher" gives you a good overview of what has been accomplished, and I would like to thank those that participated in getting us to where we are as we move forward on a number of fronts.

Please enjoy reading the "Toucher", and if you have any questions don't hesitate to be in touch.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you on the greens.

Bruce
President

Message from the Games Chairs: 2020 Season Games Re-Cap

The Games Committee began planning for our 2020 Bowling season in the third week of January 2020, understanding that the lease on the Lonsdale property was ending on July 31st. While this created quite an obstacle, it was nothing compared with what eventually happened.

On March 20th, with a worldwide pandemic in full swing and everyone hunkered down at home, it was decided to cancel the 2020 bowling season. No membership fees would be charged and all 2019 memberships would continue through to March 2021. In April ViaSport announced that some sports, lawn bowling included, would be allowed a phased return with strict guidelines to be developed by each club. Phase one allowed for only practice and training. Although there were 3 phases outlined, there was no guarantee when, or if, we would be moving to the second or third phase. The Executive and Games Chairs worked through May to develop Phase 1 Guidelines and Club protocols to submit to Bowls BC for review. After approval by Bowls BC, we were able to begin our 2020 Bowling season in a much-changed format on June 11th bowling had to be pre-booked, no more than 4 bowlers per rink and usable rinks were reduced from 16 to 8. After some much appreciated assistance from Ken and the greens crew we were able to increase to 10 rinks a few weeks later. After two weeks of bowling under Phase 1, Phase 2 guidelines and a draft club schedule were presented to the board with final approval received on June 29th. This proposal allowed for games, including draws and some limited club tournaments, to be played in either a Singles or Pairs format only.

Safety was paramount in planning, there were Waivers to be signed and kept track of, monitors to check all arriving members in and ensure guidelines followed, medical forms to be checked and retained for each session, online booking tool initiated and managed, washroom and lobby cleaning arranged, sanitizing stations and systems for each green and all equipment used. All bowling still had to be pre-booked (on-line or phoned in) whether for practice or draws, which meant all draws were finalized on the Monday for the week to come. This would have been an incredibly short season, not to mention all the hours expended to make it happen, had we been moving out July 31st, luckily it was announced on June 25th that we would have one final lease extension until the end of October.

Draws began on June 30th with Tuesday Men's Pairs, July 1st Women's 3 bowl Pairs, July 2nd Thursday Night Mixed Pairs, and Friday July 3rd Women's Aussie Pairs in the morning, Men's Aussie Pairs in the afternoon. Tuesday July 7th was the first Pony Night for 2020. New members began training with coaches on July 20th and joined in to Pony League starting on August 18th.

Our Junior members practiced through both Phases and capped off their season with a Pizza in the Park event, which included custom T-shirts and special games arranged for players and parents with assistance from club helpers and coaches on August 25th.

Draws and open bowling continued throughout September and right through to October 22nd. Pony Night concluded on September 29th with a hard fought Battle of the Sexes finale. In all the years this event has run at the club, the men have always won. Not to be in this year of 2020. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and some 4th year women managed to claim the win over the men, perhaps the tide has at last turned!

All season the Thursday Night Mixed Pairs had been the most popular event and so it was decided that this would be our final event at the Lonsdale site after 97 years. Even with the weather less than balmy (toques, tights and hand warmers were necessary), we had better than a full house attendance (a couple of people shared spots so everyone could play) for a final champagne toast to the club, and a fun evening of bowls.

This season would not have been possible without the hard work of so many of our club members. To everyone who graciously gave of their time to take bookings, develop guidelines, manage safety systems, keep us stocked with sanitation supplies, maintain greens and grounds, organize games, monitor attendees, score keep and flip for tournaments, clean the washrooms and bowling equipment, follow guidelines happily, self monitor medically, and just show up and leave when you were supposed to, THANK YOU!

Editor's Note:

We have received word in the last couple of days that Bowls BC and viaSport have agreed to allow Triples in lawn bowling. This can become a game format this summer if the club can ensure that all bowlers can effectively and continuously maintain the physical distancing of 3 metres (10 feet). The Games committee will have more on this subject in the upcoming weeks.

Pat McKenzie & Andrew Fitzgerald

Volunteers Needed

Last year's bowling season would not have happened without the help of many volunteers. Thank you, once again, to everyone who stepped in to help.

We will be looking at a similar season this year, although we are planning on holding a few more weekend tournaments, as long as COVID safety guidelines allow it.

The games committee are looking for volunteers to carry out the following duties:

-female monitors for men's draws (Tuesday morning and Friday afternoons)

NVLBC website has a Buy and Sell Page

Do you want to sell an old set of bowls? a bowls bag? some equipment?

We have created a page on the NVLBC Website for our lawn bowling community to buy and sell lawn bowling items. The link to the Website is below.

www.nvlbc.com/buysell

Your personal information will remain confidential as we have two Buy & Sell coordinators, Judy Cox and Anne Fitzpatrick, who will collect your information, relay the details to the Webmaster for publication and connect potential buyers with you.

To make a posting, simply email buysellnvlbc@gmail.com and provide the following information:

1. Photograph of what you are selling,
2. Description or brand, style/model (e.g. Size 3, Henselite Classic bowls, black with dimples) of what you are selling or wishing to buy,
3. Price information
4. World Bowls Stamp expiry date. If it cannot be read, please let us know.
5. Your preferred contact method and information (email, phone, text message, app)

Bossy

The boss felt he was not getting the respect he deserved from his staff so he brought in a sign which said - **WARNING - I AM THE BOSS. DON'T YOU FORGET IT.** He taped it to his door before he went to lunch and when he returned, there was a note underneath his sign saying **PLEASE PHONE YOUR WIFE, SHE WANTS HER SIGN BACK.**

Footwear Policy for Artificial Greens

Recently we have had lots of conversations regarding footwear for our new and upcoming artificial greens. Unlike grass greens, artificial greens do not heal if they are damaged and the replacement costs for artificial greens are very expensive. We estimate that artificial greens, if properly maintained, and cared for, can last as long as approximately 15 years before having to be replaced.

In an effort to minimize any footwear damage to our new greens, the Board has developed an artificial greens 'Footwear Policy', below:

- Footwear worn on the Club's artificial greens must meet the following criteria:
- Footwear is to be dedicated to bowling activity, not worn for street use. Bowling shoes are to be changed into at the Green, not worn to travel to the Club or changed in the parking lot.
- Footwear must be clean and free of all dirt and debris.
- Footwear is to be compatible with recognized bowling shoe standards as outlined below:
- Shoes must be flat soled with no separation or height differentiation between heel and front sole. (ie flat from toe to back of heel).
- The sole may possess a shallow tread pattern or indented grooves to improve traction, without damaging the green. A channel in the centre of the sole is acceptable; protuberances that extend out from the sole are not acceptable. Edges around the sole, and around any channel, need to be rounded.
- Sandals with a heel strap are acceptable, as long as the back strap is firmly fitted when worn. Flat-soled wedge shoes (shoes that increase in height from toe to heel) are not acceptable.

A recent Email was sent to all members outlining places and distributors that can supply/sell footwear, suitable for use on our new greens.

Please be advised that for the vast majority of our members, the bowls shoes used on our grass greens will be acceptable for use on the artificial greens.

Before purchasing new footwear, if you have concerns about your present footwear and would like an opinion with respect to acceptability please send a photograph of the soles of your present footwear to Andrew Fitzgerald andrewfitz59@gmail.com or Pat McKenzie p.a.mckenzie@shaw.ca.

Annual General Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, it has been decided to postpone our next AGM until further notice. When it is determined when and how our next AGM will be held you will be notified.

On the Lighter Side:

Things were not getting done at the bowling club and the Secretary read out the following at the meeting :-

“Once upon a time there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to do and Everybody was asked to do it

Everybody was sure Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job

Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

And so Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.”

Fees

Last year the NVLBC, Bowls Canada and Bowls BC all waived their membership fees. All 2019 NVLBC memberships were extended for the 2020 season at no cost.

This year, Bowls BC has notified us that Bowls Canada will be charging a fee for 2021, which all clubs will have to pay their portion. Bowls BC has decided not to charge their usual membership fees for the 2021 season.

As NVLBC will be conducting bowling for the 2021 season, the Board has decided to charge our members a reduced membership fee, as outlined below;

- Full membership: \$ 150
- Junior membership: \$ 40
- Social/Associate membership: no cost
- Coaching: \$ 30

The Board has developed an on-line registration and payment procedure for 2021. Options for registration and payment will be sent to all members once all the bugs have been worked out. You will now have the option of registering and paying on-line.

Recruitment

All bowling clubs might suffer a loss in membership because of COVID-19. We are attempting to give our members as much bowling as we possibly can under the existing COVID restrictions and requirements. We have been told that we can solicit new members for the 2021 season, and, as all you are probably aware, the best advertising for bowls and our club is through our members.

Bowls will provide people with an opportunity to get some outside activity, be social and generally get over the COVID isolation blues. We think that now is a great time to promote our sport and our club.

If you know anyone that you think could benefit from becoming a NVLBC member, please contact them and promote our club.

Any person interested in trying our sport must contact Pat Skinner at membershipnvlbc@gmail.com. Due to COVID we are not permitted to have prospective new bowlers just show up at the club.

Prospective bowlers will have to contact the club and make an appointment for their trial/demonstration. They will be required to follow all the COVID procedures that our members are required to follow.

When you are promoting our club, do not forget to mention the new artificial greens.

New Club Update

If you have either driven passed or walked past the corner of 23rd and St. Andrews, you will have noticed that there are two very large flat squares on the property. These are the locations of the greens. Most of the sidewalks have been poured and we are in the final stages of getting prepared for the laying of the e-layer (the rubberized layer under the artificial turf) and the two layers of turf. The turf has been shipped from the UK and is somewhere onboard a vessel making its way to deliver the turf. While we were hoping for an earlier finish, it looks like the greens may be finished and ready for use about May 15th to June 1st.

Our clubhouse is a different story. We are working with the City staff and the architects in the final stages of clubhouse design. It is anticipated that construction of the new clubhouse will not commence until the fall of this year and may take as long as one year to complete. We are looking at possibly 2 summer seasons before the clubhouse is ready for use.

We will have temporary facilities located on the lawn bowling grounds for use until the clubhouse is completed. We are presently working out the details of these temporary facilities. The good news is that we WILL be bowling this summer.

There will be fine-tuning of our procedures as we progress throughout this year and we become familiar with the benefits of the new facilities and the difficulties that COVID and the lack of a permanent building will cause. We will work these out and offer a very good year of bowling.

I would like to mention that the present Executive and Board have been working many, many hours getting prepared for the upcoming season. The lack of a permanent building this year will make the task more difficult, but, it is doable. The effort and commitment of your Board members involved in the planning and execution of bowling has been extraordinary.

This is a story about two bowling brothers Bruce and Gordon Murray. One day, Bruce rushed his pregnant wife over to the hospital. As the doctors were preparing his wife, Bruce's brother Gordon arrived as well. Bruce entered the delivery room and during the proceedings he fainted. When Bruce woke up he was in a bed with a doctor standing above him. "Mr. Murray," the doctor said, "you are in the recovery room. Don't worry, your wife is fine and she had twins a boy and a girl. Because you were unconscious, your wife requested that Gordon name the children" "What! My brother to name the children! Tell me Doc what names did he choose?" "He named your daughter Denise" Hmmm! That's not too bad thought Bruce. "What did he name my son?" "He named your son Denephew."

Although the names may seem familiar, the story is supposedly fictitious.

One More; I had some extra space: Bowling balls

A little old man boards a bus with a bowling bowl in each of his front pockets. He sits down next to a beautiful young lady, and she can't help but glance quizzically at the man and his bulging pockets. It's an uneasy few minutes before, finally, the little old man can take no more. "Bowling balls," he nods reassuringly. The lady seems a little shocked, and stares on. Moments later, she says: "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"