

2 July 2019

*Dear Valued Club Members & Patrons*

### **BOWLING CLUB**

*As you are no doubt aware, the Club industry in NSW is experiencing significant changes which have adversely impacted on the ability of Clubs to continue trading and, unfortunately, this trend is most evident in Bowling Clubs.*

*In the Sydney metropolitan area more than 45 Bowling Clubs have closed or amalgamated in the past decade. Indeed, Bowling Clubs that have been forced to close in our area include Brush Park, Concord, Ryde, Eastwood and Epping.*

*When the Administrator returned the Club to us in August 2016, he recommended that we close our Bowling Club because its falling membership made it unsustainable. Despite his advice, we have continued to support the Bowling Club and have made every effort to keep it open for the last three years.*

*Now, however, Bowling Club membership has continued to decline rapidly while its overall running costs continue to increase. Whilst we have built our general membership numbers up from a low of 2,416 in 2016 to its current high of 4,018 and reduced operating costs significantly to enable us to continue trading, membership of the Bowling Club has declined to a point where we now have only 38 male and 16 female bowlers.*

*A thorough evaluation of all aspects of our Bowling Club membership, use and costs has confirmed that the Bowling Greens are massively under-utilised and their use has decreased to a point where the cost/benefits cannot be justified. To illustrate, in 2018 the average Wednesday playing numbers was 20 per week and Saturday playing numbers was 21 per week. Unfortunately the first four months of 2019 has seen further reduced numbers with Wednesdays averaging 17 and Saturdays 18.*

*In meetings over the past twelve months with the Bowling Club Presidents we have looked at ways of increasing membership numbers and reducing costs to improve the Bowling Club's viability, but despite a number of suggestions being put forward and discussed, we have been unable to identify anything that would improve the current untenable situation.*

*Indeed, both the Mens and Ladies have independently tried membership drives and offered incentives, but the number of any new members gained has always been surpassed by the number leaving.*

*We also floated the idea of amalgamating our Bowling Clubs with another to achieve sufficient numbers, but that was not workable either.*

*Under these circumstances and despite our deep and sincere regret for how the closure of the Bowling Club will affect its members, our Board has made the difficult, but responsible decision to close the operation of the Bowling Club effective Monday 2 September 2019 in order to ensure that our Club as a whole will be able to continue trading.*

*This is not a step we wish to take, but it is one we must take based on the facts that confront us.*

*Laurie Kennedy  
President*

*Peter Simmons  
Vice President*