

This year has certainly been different! All because of Covid-19. The protocols that were put in place to keep us safe, such as, masks, hand washing, physical distancing, no benches, no spectators and having to book your bowling times as well as numerous other “do’s and don’ts”. It all seemed so complicated and overwhelming. I guess it was at first but everyone figured it out in short order and did a grand job to keep us safe. But we must remember that this whole Covid-19 thing was new to everybody, even our health and government leaders, and perhaps some of the protocols and other instructions frightened us. But everything fell into place as we learned not to touch the jack, only you could touch your bowls, sanitize the rakes and ground sheets and even the pen that you used to sign-in. What started off as a questionable bowling season turned out to be a reasonably good experience as we passed through the Return to Play phases. We started off slowly with 5 weeks of ‘practice bowls’ before we were allowed to play ‘pairs’. When we entered Phase 3 we were actually allowed to go to triples, with the reconfiguration of our green, but the club executive chose to stay with pairs and not to increase the number of rinks until we were comfortable and felt safe. Everyone did a good job at playing pairs and if the OLBA phases do not change for next year I recommend that we reconfigure our green, to what the OLBA allows us, so that we can get more members out at one time. I also recommend that we bring back jitneys so that you don’t need to book a playing time ... just show up. This will also make more space for the bowlers that didn’t feel comfortable and didn’t return this year (after all we are in a vulnerable age bracket).

We have proven that we can have fun while following these play-safe protocols.

This year could not have taken place without everyone’s cooperation but there are some that worked extra hard and did an exceptional job, for the good of all, and need to be recognized.

Dorothy - we really appreciate your total commitment and dedication to making our bowling experience work this year. Taking the calls, scheduling the rinks, the sign-in process, setting out the ground sheets and the sanitizing of equipment, day after day after day. Thank you!

Kitty and John - you did an exceptional job on the green this year. You put in many hours and I don’t think that I have ever seen it run this fast. Thank you!

Kitty and Joe Stone - a very special thank you for the donation of the new riding lawn mower. What a generous gift you have made to the club. I know that the club will realize a cost savings for years to come with the use of this lawn tractor. Thank you!

Reg and Ted - you put in a lot of extra hours this year cutting the perimeter grass and keeping the grounds looking good. Thank you!

Mary McKay - for the donation of all the sanitation liquid that we used this year. I don’t know what the exact cost was but I do know that it was a large amount. Thank you!

Cori - has worked for several hours to computerize the bowler tracking information. Thank you!

Betty and Vivien - the effort they gave to cleaning and sanitizing the washrooms, although it may seem to some not a glamorous job, in fact ranks very high on the Covid-19 priority list. Thank you!

This coming week, beginning Sunday, September 27th., will be the official end to this lawn bowling season.

Dorothy will be shutting down her booking line as of Saturday, October 3rd. Normally we would offer bowling up until Thanksgiving but the weather forecast doesn’t look good, with a lot of rain from here on in, and since the aerator will arrive at our club any time after October 4th. allowing us to put our green to bed for the winter.

*** But, if the weather man is wrong and you see a sunny day on the horizon and have a group that wants to bowl then call me and I will let you in. (home: 705-320-8757 cell: 905-242-5711).

Notes.

- As most of you know ... the Fall Annual General Meeting has been rescheduled for the spring of 2021 (possibly May 9th.)

- A very important action at the AGM is to elect members to your executive. The positions up for election are:

- President

- 1st. Vice President

- 2nd. Vice President

- Tournament Director

- House Director

- There are also some other important volunteer positions that need filling for next season.

1) Youth Coordinators (2 people)

2) Sponsor Sign Coordinator

You do not need to have the expertise just the ability to listen and learn and the willingness to try and improve the project.

President Keith

Make every day count!