

Proposal for pursuing potential Club Unification of *Soldiers Point Bowling Club Limited and Soldiers Point Women's Bowling Club (Sub Entity of Soldiers Point Bowling Club)*

Background

On 21 January 2021, both the President and Chief Executive Officer of Bowls Australia (BA) jointly wrote to the President of Women's Bowls NSW and the President of Bowls NSW. That letter stated that the Board of BA regarded the unification of both men and women's bowls in New South Wales (NSW) as critical for the future of bowls in NSW and hence Australia.

Both Bowls NSW and WBNSW supported the concept of unification and on 31 May 2021 all NSW members voted to unify.

Administrators of the new entity: Bowls NSW Limited (BNSW), consider change is necessary to ensure the future sustainability of the sport in NSW. Although highly recommended, unification is not compulsory and is a decision for individual clubs. Although, there may come a time where Bowls NSW Limited may enforce this unification across all member clubs.

Almost 100 clubs have started or completed the unification process. Here at Soldiers Point Bowling Club Ltd and Soldiers Point Women's Bowling Club, we could benefit from considering unification. It is important that there is transparency throughout the whole process.

Investigating the possibility of Unification

The club will establish a committee made up of equal numbers from both the men's and women's club to pursue the matter.

This committee would be tasked with the responsibility of reviewing and making recommendations on all matters relevant to running the bowls club and the playing of lawn bowls. It is anticipated that this process will take some weeks. At its conclusion, a meeting will be held to present its findings and recommendations back to you the members.

During this meeting, the committee will be in a better position to answer your questions. You in turn, will then be in a better position to make an informed decision on whether or not unification should proceed.

No doubt, some will think "if it is not broken don't fix it". However, there may be a better way of doing things. There is no denying there are going to be issues of contention.

For example:

- Constitution and By-Laws / Regulations
- Uniforms and dress regulations
- Fees
- Green time
- Management structure etc.

All of these issues will need to be considered and addressed.

On the other hand, potential benefits may include:

- One management structure
- One budget line for 'Bowls'
- One club with united objectives
- One constitution and set of By-Laws/Regulations capturing any and all nuances
- A fully integrated match calendar
- Improved communication lines
- A greater understanding and respect of each other's needs
- Minimising misinformation
- Agreed future goals
- A greater variety of ideas and suggestions from both groups
- Improved chances of sponsorship with a larger membership base

**Please remember that we are not asking you to vote for or against unification.
We are simply informing you that we will establish a committee to review it.**

Stephen Doran

President

Soldiers Point Bowling Club