

## **NEW GREENS and the CARE REQUIRED**

### ***What have we got?***

Montmorency Bowling Club has recently completed the installation of a new True Draw Needle Punch top bowling green and the repair of the bottom Bowlsweave (Greengauge) woven bowling green. The cost of these initiatives has included outlay of a very significant amount of the club's capital and a commitment to a commercial loan from the Bendigo Bank (Eltham Branch).

The installation of the new top green involved re-construction of the complete base and the replacement of the totally inadequate draining system. The bottom green repair task required replacement of the base levelling layer and the provision of some supplementary drainage to guard against flooding.

Early reports suggest both tasks have been completed successfully and, in particular, that the aim of having the top green bowl more like a grass green has been achieved.

### ***Are there any concerns?***

There is certainly a need for proper care and maintenance to protect our investment, to comply with the conditions of warranty, and to ensure long-term enjoyment of our much improved bowling facility.

In particular, members need to realize that while we now have a surface that plays just like grass, the surface is especially vulnerable to damage from lack of care in movement and bowling on the green. Furthermore, unlike grass greens, damage to our greens cannot be so easily repaired by filling voids or top dressing depressions. If damaged, our greens will require lifting of the bowling surface and costly repair by specialized contractors.

### ***What do we need to do?***

**Our prime aim is to enjoy our bowls, while taking care to avoid risk of damage.**

From the supplier's formal warranty and their subsequent advice at the hand-over meeting, new guidelines are being developed for:

- **Maintenance tasks and frequencies of same**
- **Management and programming of bowls activities, and**
- **Recommended care in behaviour, movement and bowling on the green.**

Formal detailed guidelines for each of the above-mentioned areas will shortly be completed and submitted for approval by the MBC Board of Management. In the interim, the **draft guidelines** developed to date and incorporating the essential warranty recommendations/ conditions are attached for members' information and understanding. Members are asked to carefully study the draft guidelines, to co-operate in their implementation and to communicate any suggestions for improvement to the Board of Management.

***Member should also realize the guidelines cannot be all-inclusive and should be mixed with a liberal dose of common sense. If you have any doubts – ask!***

## DRAFT GUIDELINES

(Based in supplier's warranty conditions and recommendations)

*Remember, these guidelines cannot be all-inclusive and should be mixed with a liberal dose of common sense. If you have any doubts – ask! If reminding a member of any of these guidelines do so with appropriate courtesy and sensitivity.*

**Rink Rotation (YES) East- West (NO)** The recommendation is that we play in one direction only and frequently move the rinks sideways. This will help avoid wear in one spot and, by playing in one direction, will also help protect the integrity of ditch rinks. Members will not be permitted to play on rinks other than the rinks set to the rotation program or to shift the rink markers without permission. (Rotation program to be developed)

**Alternation of Greens.** It is recommended that social bowls be played alternatively on the top and bottom greens. This will help compact both greens and preserve the longevity of both surfaces. (Program to be developed)

**Children.** Children under 12 years will not normally be able to carry or deliver a bowl without dropping or dumping. Accordingly, children under 12 will not be permitted to bowl unless

1. They are under the close supervision of a member
2. Are using special (small size) bowls, and
3. Have appropriate permission

**Wheelchairs.** The supplier has specified as a condition of warranty that wheelchairs should not be used on the top green until at least 2 months after the installation date of the green (to allow the base and the new bowling surface to settle) and then only to be used in accordance with procedures (to be drafted by MBC) that specify entry and egress by ramp, appropriate tyre specifications and care in movement requirements equivalent to those recommended by State or National Bowls authorities. (Bruno has been asked to assist draft these MBC procedures).

**Footwear.** Footwear must be approved flat soled shoes, without heels or sole patterns. Sneakers or other leisure shoes will not normally comply with these specifications and must not be worn on the bowling surface.

**Avoidance of Dropping or Dumping Bowls.** To avoid creating depressions in the green, bowls must not be dropped on to the greens. Instead, they should be placed on the green or on the surrounds and transferred to the green. **Dumping bowls** must also be avoided. If you are prone to dump when you are delivering your bowl, please see a Coach for assistance or, if necessary, consider using a Bowling Arm.

**Bowls Polish.** Grippo or similar products may be used on the bowls but it is important that those bowls be polished prior to use on the surface. Use of products on the fingers should also be kept to a minimum. (consider using a wet cloth).

**Vacuuming & Blowing.** The surface should be vacuumed on an “as required” basis, but in any case at least once every two weeks. Always vacuum in the same direction as the

seams, ensuring that each run overlaps the previous run. Never stop moving the vacuum with the motors running unless you ensure that the head is lifted from the surface. The vacuum cleaner is designed to remove fine debris and dust from within the surface, larger material may be removed by using a blower. When using the blower care must be taken to ensure that the nozzle is appropriately horizontal to the surface and, importantly, at no time allow the blower to blow down in a near vertical position.

***Washing & Algaecide.*** Once a year, wash the entire green with a light detergent and water solution. This will maintain a porous surface, breakdown any surface tension and any build- up of environmental pollutant, to maintain the maximum drainage effect.

***Stains & Contaminant.*** To prevent staining of the surface, please keep *food, drink, lollies* and *chewing gum* off the area. Most stains can be removed by using common dish washing detergent in warm water. To remove chewing gum, rub with an ice cube to harden and then peel off. Bird droppings are best treated by letting them dry and then brush off with a light scrub with detergent and warm water. At no time are solvent based cleaning agents or Petro based chemicals to be used.