

The Elm Park Jack Newsletter – Spring Opening Edition



All spruced up and ready for another season of bowls

Opening day Tuesday

The first day of bowling for Kerrisdale club members in 2021 will take place on Tuesday, May 11.

All paid-up club members are welcome to book an afternoon time slot in any of the six open draw dates that are available each week on the club's website. The practice draws are held every Tuesday thru Sunday, beginning each day at 1:30 pm.

This season, we will be able to accommodate 24 bowlers at each open draw, including groups of triples play, if desired. However, there will be only four rinks and a maximum of six bowlers per rink in play at any one time. Bowlers must adhere to physical distancing of three metres at all times.

To register for an open draw interested bowlers must go to the club's home page and click on the *Book your open bowling button*, which will take you to the online booking page, or click on <https://www.krlbc.com/simpl-e-schedule> for a direct link.

Please remember that club dues must be paid before that member will be allowed to take part in the daily open draws.

It's membership renewal time

This season your membership subscription might be more important than at any other time in the 106-year history of the Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club.

With membership hovering at approximately 40 individuals before the coronavirus hit more than a year and a half ago, registration numbers fell significantly in 2020. Therefore, it is more imperative than ever that this season the club reverses that trend before it is faced with the prospect of having insufficient funds to carry out the required maintenance to keep the club operational.



Peter Cook

Treasurer Peter Cook has been actively seeking funds from various sources to help mitigate this budget shortfall. Now it's our turn to do our part and, if we haven't already, renew our membership today.

Please read this brief message from our club treasurer:

“In a typical year we would enjoy a season-opening day in late April where you would fill out the membership form and pay annual dues. Unfortunately, we are not yet back to “normal”.

We do expect to bowl this year with club events but we may not get into the full swing of play until summer. There will be no inter-club events this year.

Attached to this letter is a Membership Application form for 2021 (<https://www.krlbc.com/joining-our-club>). Please print and complete the form, include a cheque for annual dues and return them to the club either by mail or drop them off at the clubhouse.

We do not have an electronic payment option. If you prefer to pay cash please call or email me (pcook@telus.net) and we can arrange to meet.

As a consequence of reduced playing opportunities the Board has decided to assess annual dues at 50 per cent of the normal rate for 2021.

However, please be advised that, as play progresses during the year, the Board may decide either to assess the final 50 per cent of annual dues or to apply a playing fee.”

Which club to choose?

Playing a normal season of outdoor bowls got a tad more difficult for clubs like the Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club.

A recent directive from Bowls BC, issued by viaSport, has created a further hardship for struggling clubs like Kerrisdale by not allowing any club to receive associate membership fees from bowlers, who designate another Vancouver and District club as their principal club.

The loss of those additional registration fees will no doubt have a significant bearing on Kerrisdale's bottom line and has prompted past and present club treasurers to warn that dwindling memberships may not be adequate to fund the costs of maintaining the green in the future.

Below is the message from the Bowls BC president to all bowlers:

“In an effort to limit exposure to COVID-19 viaSport has ruled and confirmed that, effective immediately, bowlers may only play at one club.

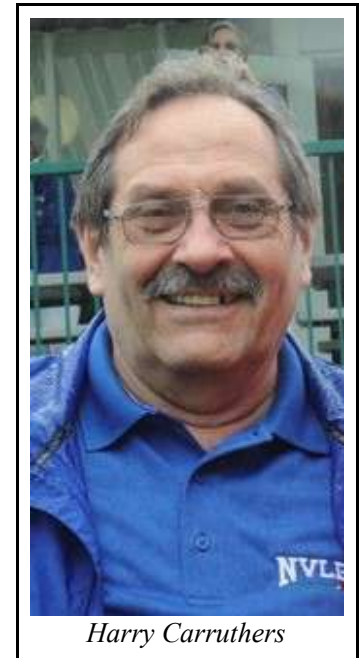
ViaSport will not allow bowlers to bowl at two locations, whether they are members of the two clubs or not. Consequently, each bowler must decide now which one club they chose to bowl at this summer and only bowl at that club from this time forward. It does not matter which club the bowlers have joined first or which club the bowlers have paid their Bowls Canada fees to. Those factors do not enter into the bowlers decision which club that they chose to bowl at during this summer. The decision is entirely up to the bowler.

All bowlers who belong to more than one club must, immediately chose which club they will bowl at.

For bowlers who have joined more than one club and who have already bowled at a club that will not be their bowling club of choice, the bowler must immediately cease bowling at that club and wait for a period of 10 days before bowling at the club of their choice. This waiting period is in lieu of not being able to change clubs at all.

Bowls BC is entering into discussions with viaSport to, possibly, allow bowlers to change clubs when their chosen club closes for the winter and the bowler wishes to continue to bowl at a club with artificial turf. We are hoping that we can successfully negotiate a club change at that time, however, that decision will not be made until much later in the season. We will keep you informed of any developments in this regard.”

Harry Carruthers, Bowls BC president



Harry Carruthers

One worrisome implication from this order is how it may affect bowlers, who regularly enjoy winter bowling at the Pacific Indoor Bowling Club when the outdoor season ends. Let's hope this matter is resolved before the summer concludes. PIBC will also need a full paid-up membership to survive COVID.

Elm Park Triples cancelled again

The fledgling Elm Park Triples league can't catch a break.

For a second consecutive season, the newly organized Tuesday morning moneymaker has been forced to cancel it's May start, following COVID-19 restrictions that continue to disallow any inter-club play from taking place.



Last year's fun pairs

The brainchild of former club treasurer David Smith, the Elm Park Triples began its inaugural season in May of 2019 but has yet to shake that sophomore jinx despite a willingness by a group of Kerrisdale club members to carry on the league when conditions allow.

What draws would you like to see?

The club is totally open to club member's ideas on when and what times open draws should be offered at the

Kerrisdale green.

The six afternoon sessions offered by the club and currently running from Tuesday thru Sunday are not written in stone.

In order to get up and running as quickly as possible, monitors were found and dates were decided without input from all club members. So here's your chance to provide us with your lawn bowling wishlist.

Is there a desire by some members to have a morning or perhaps an evening draw? Let us know by replying in kind to the *Elm Park Jack* newsletter email.

One intriguing idea put forward, suggested coming up with some sort of intra-club competition when games between members will be allowed, probably some time after the May 25 long weekend.

Last year, if you remember, the club hosted an all-day pairs tournament for Kerrisdale members in August that was thoroughly enjoyable.



Repairs have been made from the March windstorm