

*The Elm Park Jack Newsletter – 4-Step Re-opening Plan Edition*



*Good-bye to mandatory monitors, not quite*

For the next few weeks it will be business as usual at the Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club.

That's the decision of your club executive, following the government of BC's recent announcement of its 4-Step Re-opening Plan. With the province officially into Step 1 of its COVID recovery plan until June 15, there will continue to be a number of restrictions in place for club bowlers before we can once again welcome inter-club competition and leagues to Elm Park.

The good news for Kerrisdale bowlers in the opening step of the plan is that the club can now hold games and competitions for its members only.





*Bowls, a rite of spring*

However, there are a number of the plan's recommended first steps that will not be implemented at this time. In keeping with Kerrisdale's current COVID safety plan, the Step 1 items listed as “no longer mandatory” will remain a requirement at this time while bowling at Elm Park.

Those items include: physical distancing to continue outdoors; pre-registration for bowling times will also remain in place; and Kerrisdale will keep the limit of bowlers outdoors to 24. The sanitizing of shared equipment will also be continued.

However, the number of rinks now in use will increase to eight. Other requirements outlined in Step 1 include: the continuation of COVID waivers and symptom screening forms to be filled out; the ongoing wearing of masks when indoors; while the booking of hall rentals and bowlers playing at more than one club will both be re-evaluated at a later date. As well, no spectators will be allowed under Step 1.

It is to be noted that although some of the 12 items listed under Step 1 of the recovery program are defined as “no longer mandatory”, it is up to the discretion of every club board to determine whether or not relaxing the requirements could increase the spread of COVID and its variants among its membership.

If all goes well, Step 2 of the planned requirements would kick in on June 15 for another two-week period. Many of the second step's requirements mirror those listed in Step 1, with the exception of the allowance of up to 50 spectators.



*Step 1 allows for games and competitions*

Requirements such as: pre-registration for bowling, physical distancing while outdoors, unlimited number of players outdoors, number of rinks in use and the sanitation of shared equipment will again be at the discretion of the club board.



*Come out and bowl*

What happens following Canada Day remains undetermined at this time. However, should COVID case numbers continue to progress in a downward direction, and with many of us now awaiting a follow-up vaccination shot, it is hopeful that we can soon welcome back some of our club members who are currently caught in the middle of the two-club question.

Step 4 of the planned re-opening is scheduled to be announced after Labour Day.



### *Parks Board come through with new light standard*

Just three months after a terrific wind storm in February brought down half a cedar tree onto the roof of Kerrisdale's clubhouse, the city's parks board staff has provided a replacement.

In the last week of May, city crews put in place the new lamp pole and LED lights on Thursday, May 27 and had rewired it for full nighttime illumination the following day.

It is worth noting that had it not been for the lamp pole taking the brunt of the tree's fall, the roof of our century-old clubhouse may have been irreparably damaged. A well placed stroke of good fortune perhaps.

Therefore, while the north-east corner of the green looks a tad bare and considerably glaringly more open, without the presence of that once enormous evergreen towering overhead, the gun-metal grey light standard will always be a reminder of dogged steadfastness and what might have been.



### *Kerrisdale LBC needs you*

One month into the 2021 lawn bowling season and it is quite likely that this year will be much like the last.

That is, games will be kept to intra-club competition for a second straight season and full participation with fellow Vancouver and District clubs seems like another year away.

There is one big difference however. This year, more than any other in the history of the

century-old Kerrisdale club, is potentially pivotal to its ongoing viability.



*Peaceful Elm Park*

The problem stems from an ever-dwindling membership base that has dropped almost in half over the past 16 months largely due to the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, the number of paid-up members is hovering just short of 30 individuals, putting the short-term sustainability of the 106-year-old club in serious jeopardy.

Treasurer Peter Cook has done a commendable job spreading the word about our club's membership drive but ideally what the club needs right now is for each and every

member from 2019 to renew their subscription today as a gesture of support for all the wonderful years Elm Park has given them in the past.

It would be a cruel blow indeed, if the Kerrisdale bowls club became a fatality to the COVID scourge out of an indifference from its membership.

The Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club asks everyone to come together at this important time. If you could possibly manage the full membership fee of \$110, regardless of your intention to bowl or not, the club would be eternally grateful.



*Lots of opportunities to come out and enjoy an afternoon of bowling*

### *Open draws*

Open draws at Elm Park have drawn well in the first month of permitted bowling.

To date, Tuesdays and Sundays have proved the most popular days for open draws among club members, attracting more than 46 and 44 keen bowlers, respectively, including a month-high 35 bowlers taking to the green on Sundays in May.

Saturdays also proved popular with 38 Kerrisdale club members, while Thursdays and Wednesdays had approximately 10 lesser devotees per week. The club is also experimenting with a Wednesday evening session, with so far modest results.