



Dear friends:

Usually when spring arrives, we're anticipating the start of bowls season with great enthusiasm. This is a different world than it was a month ago when many of us were travelling abroad, participating in short mat, and a wide range of other social activities. The most recent government restrictions on social gatherings have changed our world drastically. The Covid-19 virus is for real, and we're seeing its impacts worldwide. This past Wednesday evening, the Board of Directors of Bowls Canada Boulingrin made an epic decision to cancel all National Championships in 2020, as well as National Bowls Day (June 6th) and the North American Challenge in mid-September in Windsor, ON. This follows the decision by World Bowls to cancel their competitions in April and May of this year. We recognize how devastating this news is for many of us who strive to compete on a higher level or just love to roll bowls. Your Executive echoes Bowls Canada Boulingrin's position: "Our priority remains the health and safety of our athletes, coaches, officials, employees, volunteers, fans, partners and all associated with the Bowls Canada family. We have been closely following the situation as it unfolds, following the advice of our federal and various provincial governments, health authorities and the Canadian Sport Medicine Advisory Council. We recognize that many of our members fall into the most at risk demographic and decisions were made with a duty of care to protect all members."

Today the Board of Bowls Saskatchewan met, and decided that all provincial play downs in 2020 will be cancelled. The decision to cancel the Grassroots Tournament and the Bowls Sask Tournament (both scheduled for Sept.) will be made at a later date. Bowls Saskatchewan will provide more information as it becomes available. The Executive of Nutana Lawn Bowling Club met shortly after that meeting on an emergency teleconference call to create a contingency plan for this season. Bowls Canada has emphasized the importance of maintaining our facilities, and especially our greens, during this upcoming season, whether we are running leagues—or not. This will have budgetary implications, and we hope that you will still continue to pay your annual membership fee so that we can maintain the facility for our return to the greens sometime this season or ultimately in 2021.

If we all self-isolate to curtail the spread of this virus, we might be able to flatten the curve (or see it drop) between now and the end of April or May. We can be hopeful. Realistically, we are doubtful that we will be able to hold our Semi-AGM in person, but may be able to either facilitate it by teleconference (which is how your Executive is currently meeting) or hold it in-person early in June. We anticipate we will not have our Open House and Learn to Bowl classes, and Opening Day may not happen until early June at best, which is when our league play and the Wednesday night recreational league usually begin. We will update the website (www.nutanalawnbowlingclub.ca) frequently to ensure you know what's happening, and Judith will send out regular e-mail updates as well.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves and self-isolate. Make sure you're part of a small group that's touching base with each other every couple of days to make sure everyone's looked after. And if you need something, pull out the membership list and contact any of us on the Executive, who will be eager to provide assistance. If we all do our part, we might be able to turn this pandemic around and get back to a normal routine. We need to stay apart, but we can still work together.

Kindest regards,

Anne Mathewson
Nutana Lawn Bowling Club,
President