



May 12, 2020

Dear Friends:

We are currently watching the Province of Saskatchewan gradually re-open the province, but as a recreational facility owned by the City of Saskatoon, we are in a position where our gates are closed for any recreational activity. Fortunately, we were able to gain access for our groundskeepers to enter the facility to tend to our greatest asset, the greens, but under very strict usage protocols. Due to restrictions on the size of social gatherings, we regrettably had to cancel this year's Wednesday Night Triples League. Even if we reach Phase 3 in the re-open plan, that will only take us up to 15 persons who can be present at any one time.

However, efforts are underway to obtain permission for a return to play. Bowls Saskatchewan, on our behalf, will be approaching the cities who own our facilities in Saskatchewan with a "return to play strategy" that's very similar to what we've seen lawn bowling associations in other parts of the world present to their governments. We are hopeful that our members will be playing this season, on a rotational basis, and using a sign-up tool that will allow people to play based on times when they're available to do so. For example, priority for evening timeslots would be given to those who are employed during the day. Our annual clean-up day is also on hold, and will be scheduled on a weekend prior to the week when we can resume play. Our website is your best source of information, so please check it frequently.

In my March newsletter I reiterated Bowls Canada's hope that club members would continue to support their lawn bowling clubs, even if the prospect of bowling this season is uncertain. As I mentioned earlier, we need to maintain our facility, especially our greens, and there's a cost associated with that activity. At last night's meeting of your executive, a reduced fee of \$100 for the 2020 season was put forward, and adopted. In any other season, \$135 would be the fee for a full membership. Because we are hopeful that we will see a return to play this summer, \$100 would reflect a prorated fee. If we are not permitted to play, we're hoping that a contribution of the lower membership fee will reflect your desire to support the club and protect its assets for future seasons. There will be no fee for our junior bowlers in 2020. Should you wish to pay your membership fee, you can do that through *Interac*® e-transfer using the link: [nlbc\\_payment@yahoo.com](mailto:nlbc_payment@yahoo.com). You can also send payment by cheque to the address shown at the bottom of this letter. Please complete the attached membership application and submit it along with your cheque, or email it directly to [erinhiggins@hotmail.com](mailto:erinhiggins@hotmail.com) if you're using the *Interac*® e-transfer payment method.

Please continue to be diligent in following the Public Health directives. Just because the province is starting to allow activities to resume on an as needed basis doesn't mean we can become complacent or careless in our practices. It's only by continuing the practices we've adopted over the past couple of months that we'll be able to move more quickly into Phases 3, 4 and 5 where we can socialize in larger groups. The majority of our members are in the vulnerable sector by virtue of pre-existing medical conditions or age, and we want to be sure that everyone feels safe returning to this great game. Let's continue to exercise behaviours that will permit us to participate once again in activities that give quality and meaning to our lives. We can do this! Thank you for your faithful support!

Yours truly,

*Anne*

Anne Mathewson

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