

Unification FAQ's & Timeline of Events

What is a Constitution?

A constitution is a basic set of rules for the daily running of our Bowls club. It details for our members the name, objectives, and methods of management and other conditions under which our club operates. In general it is there to:

- Explain to members and non-members what our group is about.
- Provide guidelines for the daily running of our group.
- Help to sort out internal problems.

How will the day-to-day Social bowls be affected?

In general, the effect will be minimal to nil for each social bowls day. There is no reason for any day-to-day operations to change. The elected Management Committee will be able to discuss and implement changes as they see fit. There is no reason, for example, for the current Thursday Ladies Day structure to be altered. There is NO obligation for all bowls operations to become open gender.

What if I am part of a current sub-committee, like the Ladies Social Committee or Umpires Committee? Will I be able to continue in this position?

The unified Management Committee will have the powers to co-opt members into sub-committee positions as they see fit. Our Club highly relies on volunteers to carry out certain roles in order for our bowls operations to be effective. This will continue to be the case under a unified Constitution.

What is the Sunset Clause?

The Sunset Clause is included to ensure an initial balance of input and Committee numbers between the two current Clubs - the Men's Bowling Club and the Women's Bowling Club. After a period of 2 years, the Sunset Clause will ensure that references to a balance of gender will be removed from the Constitution. From that point on, elected positions will be based on merit only.

There are roughly twice as many men as women members, why is everything equal?

We are two Clubs amalgamating into one Club for the benefit of all members. Having equal representation for the first 2 years allows members to get to know how members from the other Club work.

If something in the Constitution is "wrong" can it be fixed?

The Constitution can be amended at any General Meeting. Whilst the Unification Committee and Board have put a lot of work into this document to have it "right" the first time, something may not work and it can be amended as necessary.

Are the Bowls Staff involved with the Management Committee or Selection Committee?

All employed Staff of the Registered Club are ineligible to stand for any elected position.

What happens if not enough people of one gender stand for positions on the elected Committees?

Those positions will initially remain unfilled. The Constitution clearly details how Casual Positions are filled in cases such as this.

How is the Chairperson of Selectors determined?

Once the 5 selectors are elected, they will then vote for one of their own to become Chairperson. This person could be either male or female.

Can the Management Committee make up their own rules?

The Management Committee is restricted by the Constitution in their powers and can only act within its limitations. The Committee may make By-Laws, but these need to be approved by the Board and then placed on the notice board for a minimum of 28 days. The Committee will then, depending on the support from the members, either pass the By-Law into effect or abandon/re-draft the By-Law.

How do we achieve unification?

Both the Men's and Women's Clubs need to pass a resolution at a General Meeting to adopt the unified Constitution. If either men's or women's Club does not pass the resolution, then we will stay as separate Men's & Women's Bowling Clubs.

I support unification, but I don't support the way the draft unification constitution is written?

Please raise your concern(s) in writing and submit them to the Bowls Office, before Wednesday 20th March so that the Unification Committee can discuss your concerns and then on Saturday at the information/feedback session, they will hopefully be able to give you an informative answer to your concern(s)

Are there any changes to the Club Championships?

There are two amendments to the Club Championships

1. What was the Open Minor Pairs will become the Men's Minor Pairs. This means that members can only play in one minor pairs (ladies or men).
2. The Ladies Consistency Singles has been removed. Ladies who want to play in the Consistency singles can enter the Open Consistency singles.01

What is the timeline going forward?

- **Monday 11 March**
 - Notice of timeline, updated constitution, FAQ sheet to be shared to members (website, notice board, team app, email etc), copies of constitution and By-Laws to be available to members from Bowls Office
- **Wednesday 20 March 5pm**
 - Any questions that members want answered as the information session to be submitted by.
- **Friday 22 March**
 - Unification meeting to discuss Information session
- **Saturday 23 March 10am-11am**
 - Information/feedback session for all members

Assuming all is good from the information/feedback session:

- **Tuesday 26 March**
 - Notice of Men's General meeting – resolution to adopt the Unified Constitution and by-laws
- **Wednesday 3 April**
 - Notice of Women's General meeting – resolution to adopt the Unified Constitution and by-laws
- **Saturday 27 April 9:30am**
 - Men's General meeting
- **Thursday 2 May 1:30pm**
 - Women's General meeting

Assuming the unified constitution is passed by both Clubs:

- **Friday 3 May**
 - Notice of AGM for unified Club
- **Sunday 19 May 8:30am**
 - Nominations for Office Bearers open
- **Sunday 2 June 5pm**
 - Nominations for Office Bearers closes
- **Tuesday 18 June 9am**
 - Voting for Office Bearers opens
- **Saturday 22 June 5pm**
 - Voting for Office Bearers closes
- **Sunday 23 June 10am**
 - AGM for unified Club