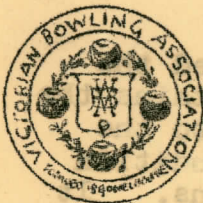


30AM



J. P. MONRO

Secretary

TEL. CENTRAL 6097

*Fourth Victoria Buildings*

*243 Collins Street*

*Melbourne*

Dear Sir,

The Victorian Bowling Association, whose objects are the management and encouragement of the game of bowls throughout Victoria, is very anxious that provision be made in recreation areas for sites for bowling greens to meet the great expansion of the game when the War is over, and the population of the municipalities increases.

Of the 78 bowling clubs in the metropolitan area the greens of 52 are situated on municipal property or government land; and this would appear to establish the fact that bowling greens are favorably viewed by the municipal authorities. It is recognised that, of all sports, bowling provides healthful and pleasant recreation for the greatest number on the smallest area. On a plot of 139 ft. by 110 ft. (the minimum dimensions of an eight rink bowling green) 64 players can be accommodated. Another reason why a bowling club has a claim for consideration by a municipal council is that almost all the members are ratepayers or tenants in the municipality. A further one is that a bowling green and its surroundings (Clubhouse, paths, lawns flowerbeds and hedges) are invariably well-kept, and are thus a definite help in the improvement of the municipal property; and a still further claim is that bowling clubs are permanent institutions. The Southampton Bowling Club in England has been functioning on town property since 1299 A.D., and the oldest bowling clubs in Australia are still operating after 80 years. Another aspect which should be viewed with favor by the municipal authorities is that each bowling green provides regular employment throughout the year for one or more persons who are usually residents of the municipality.

In many cases great help has been accorded by municipal councils to bowling clubs when about to be formed. For instance, the Footscray City Council constructed a bowling green in Hammer Reserve for the newly formed Yarraville and Seddon Bowling Club.



The Council bore the full cost of construction, provided the mower, roller, and other equipment for the green, maintains the green and provides the greenkeeper, at a total charge to the Club of £136 per annum. This green is in splendid condition and has been used for important Association competitions. It is a credit to the municipality. Similarly, the Brunswick City Council has been of great assistance to the two bowling clubs (Brunswick and West Brunswick) in the municipality. A few years ago the Council provided the money for the construction of the West Brunswick nine-rink green and the pavilion, and more recently for the installation of electric light. The Council has now agreed to an area being made available to the West Brunswick Bowling Club for the formation of another green of six rinks, making fifteen in all. The money found by the Council is repayable by the Club in easy instalments with interest at the rate charged to the Council. Similar action in connection with the provision of funds has been taken by the Melbourne City Council, the Williamstown City Council, the Kew City Council, Hawthorn City Council, etc.. The green of the City of Hawthorn Bowling Club was constructed by the Hawthorn City Council which bore the full expense, and maintained the green until the present Club took the green over about twenty years later.

The assistance to bowling clubs is not confined to metropolitan municipalities, but in the country there have been some striking instances. The eight-rink green and the pavilion at Sorrento were constructed by the Shire Council, and were on completion handed over to the newly formed Sorrento Bowling Club, free of all liability. At Mildura, where the annual bowling tournament attracts hundreds of bowlers and their wives, the Council recently laid down four bowling greens each of six rinks, bearing a large portion of the cost and then handed the greens over to the Mildura Bowling Club to manage. The Council provides a certain amount towards meeting the wages of the greenkeeper. The Healesville Council owns the bowling green at Healesville, and financially assists the club using the green, the existence of which is undoubtedly an attraction to that tourist resort.

In other States and countries the municipal authorities have provided many sites and constructed many bowling greens. In Glasgow there are over 100 bowling greens in the chain of public parks. There are over 70 municipal greens in Manchester, and in the area of the London County Councils nearly 100 bowling greens have been laid down in public parks, including one in Hyde Park, London. Many instances can be given of provision in the Australian States, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the United States.



The game of bowls has become so popular that almost every bowling club reports a greatly increased membership, in many cases a full membership, and a waiting list. This proves that there is an urgent need for additional bowling greens, and it is the duty of the Victorian Bowling Association to assist in the provision of such. In New Zealand there is a bowling club for every 4031 of the population; in Victoria one for each 8967. My Association is aiming at one bowling club for each 4000 of the population. In your municipality the position is shown on the attached statement.

The Executive Committee of this Association would appreciate the favorable reception by your Council of their proposal that areas be made available for the formation of bowling greens, and that financial assistance be afforded in meeting the cost involved in the construction. It is suggested that this is a matter which might well be included in any programme of Post War Work which will probably be drawn up by your Council. The Victorian Bowling Association will be happy to assist in the formation of a bowling club, and in providing expert advice as to sites, lay out, construction and maintenance.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Enc.