

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**AGM: 2020**

This has been a year we didn't expect and couldn't plan for. Until the Covid Virus hit in February we were trading reasonably well, but in the next few weeks people became so nervous about going out to Clubs and trade dropped to the point where it was almost a relief when the Government said we had to close. Because as a small Club there are only so many cost savings we could make.

Of course closing meant more problems managing the Club especially for Diane in the Office and David Bain who had just taken over as Treasurer. We had to renegotiate all the Supply and Service contracts, fortunately most companies were understanding and helped as much as they could.

Then there was the negotiating for Government Grants and Tax Breaks, they all came through eventually but some took a while and of course with some we had to spend the money before we received it – which means with no income, things were difficult for a while and there was a time when we were grateful that most of our Bowling Members renewed their Membership even though they didn't know when they would be able to bowl again.

When we did re-open, the Club traded well for the first month then the problems in Victoria made people nervous and trade dropped again, but at present partly because of Government Grants etc., and cutting back costs, we are in a better position than we expected after being closed for over two months – but we still have to keep a close watch on things.

During the close down, it did give us a chance to look at how we were doing things and we have made some changes and more are planned. Some will happen by the time you read this, but of course we are still restricted by Covid Regulations and the fact we cannot book function for more than 10 people – is a big loss to the Club's income.

Through all of this, we are still focussing on the future Development. There are still ongoing negotiations between Capitol Bluestone and the Company who would like to include a Rehabilitation Hospital on the site. We are also waiting for news on what financial arrangements Capitol Bluestone will put in place to support the Club during the Development process – we hope to have that by the Annual Meeting in October.

I would like to thank the Board, Staff and Members for their support though what has been a difficult year and hope that the Virus problems improve in the next few months and allow us to plan for the future.

Fred Knowles  
Chairman