



## **MANNINGHAM BOWLS GROUP**

In September 2021, Bowls Victoria approached all the Bowls Clubs in the Manningham LGA to determine if there was any interest in them jointly submitting a grant application to Manningham Council for a Community Partnership grant. Doncaster, Donvale, Greythorn and Templestowe clubs met and agreed that there was insufficient time to prepare an application for this Grant Program but agreed the concept of working together was a good one – hence Manningham Bowls Group (MBG) was formed.

### **OBJECTIVE**

Since the main interest of Manningham Council is in Community Activities and since the best way for bowls to grow is to attract new players, the main focus of MBG is on growing the participation in bowls by promoting Community bowls. This approach aligns precisely with the objectives of both the Council and BV, and so is seen as a winner by all. It will produce more players, which will, in the end, benefit the four clubs involved. It is not intended that MBG be involved in Pennant as this is the realm of BV and is not the prime concern of the Council.

### **PREPARATION**

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by all four Clubs, a logo has been designed and the Group is in the process of developing a Constitution (based on that available from BV) as this is required for MBG to be registered as a Not for Profit Association, to be able to open a bank account, create a website and a social media presence.

### **PROGRESS**

MBG has already met with the Mayor and the appropriate Council Directors and staff. All have expressed great support for the concept and its objectives, especially since the concept is seen by BV as a model which could be used throughout the state. This has meant that the profile of bowls has increased dramatically within all levels of the Council, and they now accept that bowls is a great Community Sport, which can be enjoyed by all people regardless of age, gender, religion, cultural origins and physical ability – something no other sport can claim.

The changing attitude within the Council is demonstrated in the fact that they have asked MBG to prepare a draft Strategic Bowls Plan for the Council to adopt as a Council plan. Discussions have already taken place with BV on this subject to ensure the plans of all parties are aligned.

### **UPCOMING EVENT**

Manningham Council recently called for expressions of interest in grants to support Community activities. MBG was not only successful in receiving the total value of grant applied for, but was awarded in excess of 15% of the total monies allocated. This will enable the 4 clubs to jointly conduct a “Grand Family Funday” on 30<sup>th</sup> October, as this is National Grandparents Day. Apart from providing a lot of fun activities for the whole family it will promote multi-generational participation and the interest in bowls as a whole family recreation. And this is just the start.

In a very small amount of time MBG has achieved a great acceptance by the Council that bowls is an all-inclusive sport and should be supported. This will progressively mean that all bowls clubs will receive more support from the Council, provided they continue to actively support the actions of MBG, which is after all your group. If you have any questions about MBG, please feel free to ask your club’s MBG representative or contact MBG direct on [manninghambg@gmail.com](mailto:manninghambg@gmail.com) .