



Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club

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Proposed Amalgamation between the Lindfield Bowling Club and the North Shore Bridge Club

Amalgamation Overview: Why It's Being Proposed

The proposed amalgamation between Lindfield Bowling Club and North Shore Bridge Club is driven by a shared vision — to safeguard the futures of both clubs. While there are many advantages, the main purpose is long-term security for members and the facilities. By coming together to form one club, bowlers will benefit from stronger management and financial support, while bridge players will finally have a permanent home, free from the uncertainty and challenges of tenancy.

The new entity will be known as **Lindfield Bowling & Bridge Club**, bringing together two proud traditions under one roof.

Financially, the amalgamation is essential. For several years, North Shore Bridge Club has effectively underwritten the bowling club's operations through rental payments. While the bowling club has remained technically profitable, it would face an unsustainable annual loss of around \$60,000 without this support. Under the new structure, the Bridge Club will no longer pay rent but will instead continue to underpin the combined club's financial strength through its profitability — ensuring the ongoing viability of both bowling and bridge activities.

Membership and Fees

Membership arrangements will be streamlined and fair. Bowling members will move to a new structure of **\$200 per year**, plus **\$20 per game** green fees, effective from the date of amalgamation. Bridge players will continue paying **\$16 per game**, and increases are capped so that bowling fees can't exceed bridge fees by more than 25%.

Members are encouraged to try both activities — bowlers can play bridge and vice versa — simply paying the standard game fee for the additional activity.

Those who are already members of both clubs will transition seamlessly to a **combined membership of \$250 per year**, keeping all their existing rights and benefits.

Financial Outlook and Facility Improvements

Both clubs are in sound financial health, with no debts beyond normal operating expenses. The only existing liabilities are deposits held by the Bridge Club on behalf of its members, which will transfer to the new club. The Bowling Club however is facing declining and aging membership as well as falling attendances.

Exciting improvements are planned. The first guaranteed project will be the **installation of synthetic grass on two bowling greens**, reducing maintenance costs and ensuring all-weather play. Future projects under consideration include expanding car parking, upgrading bathroom facilities, and enhancing the bar and kitchen areas. These priorities will be determined by the new Board of Lindfield Bowling & Bridge Club.

All spending will be overseen by the Board, based on budgets submitted by the bowling and bridge sub-clubs.

Facilities, Activities, and Traditions

The bowling greens will continue to be maintained as long as there are sufficient playing numbers, and two new synthetic greens will halve the cost of greens maintenance. Participation levels will be regularly reviewed, with a focus on increasing bowling numbers.

Importantly, the traditions that members hold dear — from winning rink prizes and birthday celebrations to carnival days — will be preserved. Both bowling and bridge will continue to host external tournaments and events, as they do now.

Bar hours, catering, and social activities will continue at least at current levels, with the potential for extension and improvement as resources grow.

Governance and Management

The Bowling Club Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary have been in the roles for the past 8 years and have had no success finding members willing to take over these responsibilities. The amalgamation will provide a large pool of younger and capable people willing to fill these roles.

In the first two years, the new club will be governed by a **seven-person Board** — four representatives from bridge and three from bowling. The Chair will come from the bowling community, and the Deputy Chair from the bridge side.

After this initial period, the Board will be elected by all members, but will always include at least two representatives from each sub-club to maintain balance. If one sub-club does not nominate enough candidates, the other may fill those positions.

Bowling activities will operate as the **Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club**, and bridge will continue as **North Shore Bridge Club**, both functioning under the umbrella of Lindfield Bowling & Bridge Club. This ensures both communities retain their identity and autonomy while sharing resources and management.

Employment and Service Levels

All existing staff — permanent and casual — will be offered continued employment in the amalgamated club, with no redundancies planned. Service levels are expected to improve as the clubs combine their financial and operational strengths.

Legal and Regulatory Matters

The amalgamation fully complies with the **NSW Registered Clubs Act**, the **Corporations Act**, and all other relevant legislation. Regulatory approvals will include ASIC registration for the name change, and Lindfield Bowling Club’s existing liquor licence will continue to operate for the new entity.

To protect members’ interests, the new club cannot sell or dispose of any real property for **ten years** after the amalgamation.

Practical Considerations

Parking arrangements will remain unchanged, as the Bridge Club already uses the facilities. Both clubs’ cultures and traditions will continue, guided by the shared motto “**We Are One**”, symbolising unity while celebrating each club’s heritage.

Scheduling of events will continue to be managed collaboratively by the sub-clubs, as it is now. Members should experience minimal disruption — aside from some short-term inconvenience during building improvements — and can expect an overall enhancement of facilities and services.

Timeline and Voting Process

General meetings for members to vote on the amalgamation will be called with at least **21 days’ notice** once the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is finalised. Most changes will take effect on the **Amalgamation Date**, once all approvals are secured, with facility improvements unfolding over the following three years.

Bowling Club members will vote on the amalgamation, constitutional changes, and the name change, requiring a **75% majority** for approval. Bridge Club members will vote on the amalgamation and transfer of assets and membership, requiring a **simple majority**.

Members who belong to both clubs may attend both meetings. Bridge members can vote online or by proxy, while Bowling members must vote in person, as required under the Registered Clubs Act.

Risks and Safeguards

The MOU sets clear standards for green maintenance and includes monitoring systems to ensure accountability. Synthetic greens will further secure the future of bowling.

Comprehensive warranties, dispute resolution procedures, and legal safeguards are in place to protect members.

The only real risk lies in the amalgamation not proceeding. If that happens, the bowling club faces a gradual decline in facilities and participation, and must find new volunteers for key leadership roles. Meanwhile, bridge players would remain tenants and exposed to the ongoing uncertainty of relocation.

Next Steps

Members are encouraged to stay informed by attending information sessions, reviewing the MOU (which will be available 21 days before voting), and speaking directly with Committee members. Questions can be raised at information or general meetings.

Voting results will be announced at the conclusion of each club's extraordinary general meeting and shared with all members shortly after.