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16 February 2018

**TO: DISTRICT SECRETARIES
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS
EXECUTIVE
SVL SB DISTRICT CO-ORDINATORS
SVL SB PARTICIPATING CLUBS**

CIRCULAR 06/2018 – Small Bowls Project Update

The Stuttaford Van Lines Small Bowls Project is still underway, albeit with slow progress. Please understand that we could not start the process until a minimum number of sets and orders were received – therefore the actual machining process only started in September 2017.

The main reasons for the delay since then, are as follows:

1. To keep the costs down, the engineering is fitted in between profit-making projects for the engineering firm.
2. A number of times, the machine itself has been damaged due to Districts sending in cracked bowls and unmachinable bowls like Dunlop and Taylor Lignoid bowls. These bowls have caused extensive damage to the machine on more than one occasion:



Trevor Davis has now sorted through all the sets at the container and has had to dump at least 2 bakkie-loads of sets (between 150 & 200 sets) sent in that do not match the specifications outlined in the protocol.

3. Some of the black-sets sent in contain an additional substance (looks like silica sand) that have caused delays as they take a lot longer and cost a lot more to machine down to size – one blade per 2-3 sets of black vs one blade per 20 sets of brown bowls and therefore all machining of black bowls has been stopped until we can identify which type of black bowls are causing the problem.
4. Despite the protocol clearly stating that no mixed sets of bowls could be accepted, further delays have been caused by the machinist starting to machine bowls in the set, only to discover that once machined, the colours did not match, thus wasting time and money machining bowls that could not be sent back out to fulfil orders.



Executive Committee:

President: Robert Forbes, Vice President: Charles Levy
Members: Heather Boucher, Trevor Davis, Ian Stayt and Andrew Strong

A decision has been made to finish the first sets to final stage (± 200 sets) and send these back to Districts proportionate to the original orders received, so that Districts, who have been waiting for a long time for their bowls, receive at least part of their orders as soon as possible. We hope to have this first assignments of bowls going out by early April. By then, we will hopefully have a better idea as to when the remaining orders will be fulfilled.



Please do not constantly ask “When” – we are trying to get this project done as soon as possible and when we know, we will let you all know.

Should any district prefer not to wait, we will return the funds paid and if required, the number of sets sent in as well – note that as indicated at the start, no district will necessarily receive the original sets sent in. Please note, however, that any future orders will be invoiced at whatever price is being charged at the time of ordering.

Furthermore, all concerned need to remember that this is a World First and every day throws up new challenges which need to be met. Bowls SA will be forever grateful to Paktool for sticking to the project despite these many challenges and set-backs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Ravenscroft'.

**JOHN RAVENSCROFT
OPERATIONS MANAGER**