



Notice to Members: Appointment of Club Directors

The NSW club industry is currently facing a perfect storm of challenges that demand innovative and strategic leadership. Increased competition from both traditional clubs and emerging entertainment venues has intensified the struggle for market share, pushing clubs to differentiate themselves through enhanced customer experiences and unique offerings. Additionally, the landscape of gaming legislation is continually evolving, presenting clubs with the need to adapt swiftly to comply with new regulations, which have substantially increased the clubs' costs. This situation is further complicated by negative media coverage surrounding gaming activities, and the increasing pressure on the clubs and directors personally, to ensure they are addressing the issue of gambling harm. In light of these factors, clubs must not only focus on operational efficiency but also on building a positive community image.

To successfully navigate this tumultuous environment, the need for a highly skilled and diverse board is paramount. A board that brings a variety of perspectives and expertise can better anticipate market trends, regulatory shifts, and community sentiment. Diverse leadership can foster innovative thinking and creative problem-solving, enabling clubs to respond proactively to challenges rather than reactively. Furthermore, a board equipped with various and diverse skills such as governance; knowledge of state and government legislation, in particular the Corporations Act and Registered Clubs Act; accounting; strategic planning; legal and contract knowledge; community engagement; government relations and processes and risk management (to name a few) can develop comprehensive strategies that not only address current challenges, but also position the club for sustainable growth in the future. In essence, the composition of the board is crucial in steering clubs through these complex dynamics, ensuring they remain resilient and competitive in an ever-evolving industry landscape.

The Board of Oak Flats Bowling and Recreation Club Limited have been navigating the need to ensure club facilities are maintained and upgraded, diversifying income streams given the recent and future changes to gaming legislation, whilst simultaneously reviewing past accounting practices, upgrading flawed and outdated finance and other systems. We are also reviewing all our policies and procedures, and contracts, which uncovered concerns that require attention. In this process, the need to increase the skill set of the board was identified as a strategic objective to ensure the club navigated the challenging operating environment.

Oak Flats Bowling Club

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This notice serves to advise members that the Board of Directors of Oak Flats Bowling and Recreation Club Limited has resolved to appoint two Director's to the Board, as authorised by the:

REGISTERED CLUBS REGULATION 2015 – REG 31

Appointments made by governing body.

The legislation notes:

(1) The elected members of the governing body of a registered club may appoint up to two persons as members of the governing body.

(2) A person appointed under subclause (1):

(a) may be appointed for a term of no more than 3 years, and

(b) must be an ordinary member of the club at the time of, and for the duration of, his or her appointment, and

(c) is not eligible for re-appointment under subclause (1), including reappointment after the end of that term.

(3) Within 21 days of an appointment being made under subclause (1), a notice must be clearly displayed on a notice board on the premises of the registered club and on the club's website (if any) that states:

(a) the reasons for the person's appointment, and

(b) the person's relevant skills and qualifications, and

(c) any payments to be made to the person in connection with his or her appointment.

Appointed Director's

On Monday 16th September 2024, the Board of Oak Flats Bowling and Recreation Club Limited resolved to appoint two directors to the board, being:

- Ms Kerry Chikarovski AM
- Mr John Dorahy

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Kerry Chikarovski AM

Kerry Chikarovski is a former Australian politician who served as Leader of the Liberal Party in NSW and Leader of the Opposition between 1998 and 2002, the first woman to hold the post.

In 2021, Kerry was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the parliament of NSW and to the community. Kerry will be an outstanding addition to the club board due to her experience in public service and her deep commitment to community engagement.

In addition to her political acumen, Kerry brings a wealth of experience in leadership and governance. Kerry has substantial board experience having served on the board of various sporting, government and not for profit boards, hence a working knowledge of applicable legislation.

Kerry's reputation and network within the community will be invaluable to the club, given her relationships with local and state businesses, government entities, and other organisations, and her addition to the Board will enhance the club's visibility in the community.

John Dorahy

John Dorahy is a former Australian professional rugby league player and coach, also playing NSW Country, NSW State of Origin and for Australia. His years on the field and coaching have honed his skills in teamwork, discipline, and strategic thinking, all of which are required for effective governance.

His background fosters a connection between sport and stakeholders, enabling him to advocate for their interests while promoting the overall vision of the organisation, and being a keen lawn bowler, this will assist in the club's future.

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John also brings a wealth of experience in business, leadership, and governance, in both the club industry and local government. John is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Wests Illawarra Club Group and was a Director of Leagues Club Australia, hence experience and a working knowledge of the legislation applicable to NSW clubs. He also has substantial business experience in both the club and hotel industry with his experience and understanding of gaming meeting a critical skill for the club board.

John also brings substantial knowledge and connections with local government and the community. John was a long serving Councillor with Wollongong Council and Deputy Lord Mayor.

We are honoured that both Kerry and John have agreed to the appointment of Director on the Oak Flats Bowling and Recreation Club Limited Board. Details of their appointments are:

Term: both will be appointed for an initial term of six (6) months with a review by both parties in March 2025. The Board will then consider extending the term to the permitted appointed maximum three (3) year term.

Members: Both are members of the club at the time of the appointment

Both Kerry and John will receive director honorariums as approved annually at the club AGM

Please join us in welcoming both Kerry and John to the Board of the club.

Debbie Organ
Chief Executive Officer
17th September 2024

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