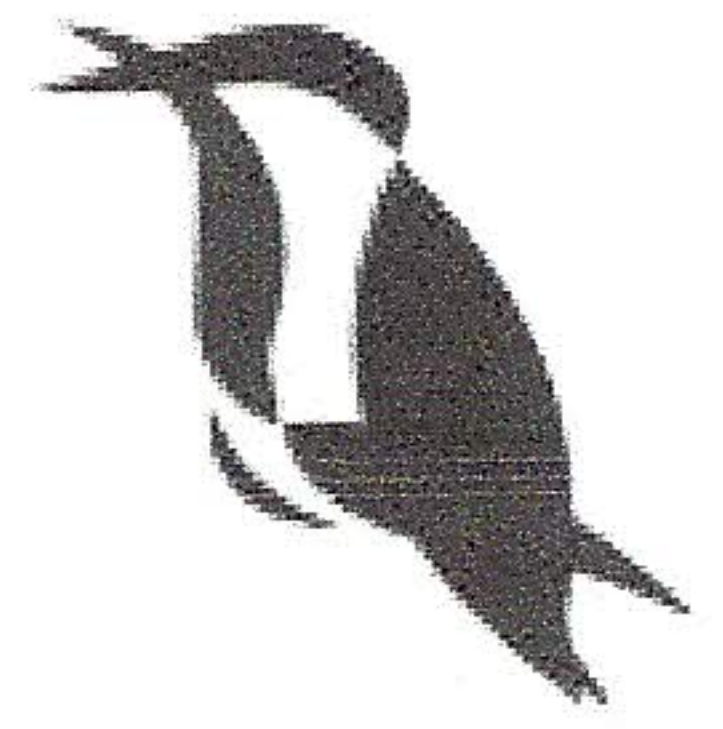




ELTHAM RECREATION BOWLING CLUB

Newsletter No 38: February 2011. Editor: Garry Battershell



From The Chairperson

The Constitution sub-committee of Peter Carter, Meryl Spargo and Leon Sinnot have been working on more details of the proposed new Club Constitution. Written and verbal feedback from members has been very influential in determining the direction of this work. The final draft will be agreed by the Board at its March meeting and a copy will be sent to all members.

A Special General Meeting will be held on Sunday 27 March to finalise and approve the new Constitution prior to the Club's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 1 May.

Our new grass green is making good progress despite some weather extremes. The planting was delayed for a week by a forecast of very heavy rain that would have washed the couch shavings into the ditches. After "planting" (it was really spraying) Eltham enjoyed two weeks of consistent warm weather, essential for germination and rapid growth. During this period the sprinklers were in operation every two hours to keep the ground damp. The Club obtained special permission from Yarra Valley Water for this heavy daytime watering.

Small green shoots could be seen if you looked closely.....and then we had 100 mm of rain over 24 hours. The green was already wet by design and the 100 mm of rain overwhelmed the drainage system and turned the green into a lake for a few days. The soaking promoted some algal growth that covered the green when the water finally drained. Mike Jones sprayed to kill the algae which dried into a crusty surface that looked pretty awful. After more rain and a dose of fertiliser there is now plenty of "green" to see. The coverage looks very even and healthy.

We now need plenty of sun to promote growth and good coverage but it looks very encouraging.

Brent Arnott.....Chairperson

Saturday Pennant

The final match is being played this Sunday. Come back to the club after your match and join the fun. A party of hot food will be provided and special arrangements have been made to ensure food will be available for teams playing away from Eltham.

Sponsorship

I have an "old fashioned" attitude to sponsorship. While it is very generous of local business' to donate valuable money to the club, I try to make sure that I can recommend these businesses to Eltham members with confidence. There are a few business' that are prepared to sponsor local sporting clubs that I have not approached because my personal experience as a customer has not been satisfactory.

With that introduction, let me share some more details about two of our loyal sponsors that you will find in our handbook.

Slocum Floorcoverings has become an Eltham institution over the past 40 years. During that time, competitors that have relied on intensive television advertising have come and gone from Eltham. Slocum's has relied on word of mouth recommendations and some selective local sponsorships and the business has prospered. Slocum's have supplied two homes of carpet for me and are in the front position for our next buy because of our past happy experiences. Slocum's is owned by fellow bowlers Ian and Linda who have earned our support.

Another business deserving our support is Comfyhome who have supplied heating and cooling to Eltham for more than 20 years. Like Slocums, competitors have come and gone and Comfy home continues to prosper because of its complete range of the major brands of heating and cooling systems combined with reliable technical advice and a sincere approach to customer service. After talking to the owner, Des Ryan, I understood why local people like to deal with him.

Like all of the business' advertising in our handbook, if you are anything other than delighted with your customer experience, let me know and I am confident that a happy solution can be achieved.

Brent Arnott.....Chairperson

VLBA News.

The end of the year Christmas Dinner was a great success. The raffle brought in \$573.00. Thanks to all who helped with both

This years' bowling is progressing well. All three of our Tuesday Pennant teams are doing well.

Ladies Championships coming up are, "Triples" on March 3rd and "Pairs" on the 24th March. PLEASE ENTER, as we NEED as many entries as possible.

Thursday, March 17 will be a General Meeting, our last. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

Our Condolences to Marj. Baussman on the recent passing away of her husband.

Jenny Millar.....VLBA President

ERBC Secretary's Report.

1. George Peterson and Terry Bain are welcomed as members of the ERBC. Both members are known at the Club. George has been playing Saturday Pennant since the Christmas/New Year break.

2. Items of interest from the February Board Meeting are;

Jim Yarwood has resigned from the Board. Noel Spargo has filled his position as a RVBC representative on the Board. Peter Carter outlined the Constitution Sub-Committee's progress since the January Board meeting and led the Board in a discussion of Draft 8.0 of the Regulations and Appendices. (The Board had considered Draft 6.0 of the Constitution at its January meeting). The Directors decided that a hard copy of the Constitution, Regulations and Appendices would be provided to all members (one per family where applicable) at least 14 days prior to the March SGM at which members will consider the new Constitution.

Two "smoking area" signs and two "no smoking on the green and surround" signs are being organised.

Fourteen members were involved in the UltraFeedback Health Focus Group. Directors who were involved in the Focus Group felt it was a worthwhile experience and also a good fundraiser (\$700) for the Club.

Bowls Victoria has established a Bowls Disaster Relief Fund to help Victorian Bowls Clubs affected by the Floods. It was decided that the ERBC should contribute \$200, this amount is on top of an amount raised at a Club Special Event. The Board decided to support our Club Champions should they decide to enter a Mixed Pairs event for Club Champions at the Berwick Bowling Club in April.

"Eight" badges have been organised for Di Debney, Gary Marshall, Veronica Merino and Don White. The badges will be presented on Presentation Day.

The three items the ERBC proposed for the Nillumbik Council 2011/12 Maintenance Program were fence repair, repainting car park lines, refurbishment of the external toilets.

The Board decided that the ERBC should support the Box Hill RSL Bowling Club as they attempt to convince Whitehorse City Council to allow them to consolidate from two sites to one site.

The 2010 Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by all who attended and the Christmas Raffle, held in conjunction with the Dinner, raised \$573.00.

Risk Management – see article in this newsletter prepared by Meryl Spargo. ("Safety Practices...."-below)

The Club will purchase 8 of the (trial) rakes at a cost of \$110 each, for use on the synthetic green.

The Board decided to investigate if the Club flag can be printed on both sides.

Leon Sinnott.....ERBC Secretary

Safety Practices Around & On the Bowling Green.

Following advice from our Insurance Company, I have been asked by the Board to pass on the following information. Most of it comes from the latest "Official Bowls Australia Club Coaches Manual P. 32 with a couple of additions.

Placing the mat on the bank. Place it correctly, ensuring it is flat on the surface of the bank, without part of it hanging over the edge. This will reduce the risk of someone tripping over it, or slipping by stepping on it.

Closing and storing bowls bags. By correctly closing bowls bags, and stowing them under seats and away from walkways, we minimise the chance of a player catching part of their clothing, or tripping over the bag.

Bowls scoops, bowls lifters & umbrellas. These items should be placed out of the way on the bank when not in use. When placing a bowls lifter on the green it should be placed under a bowl when not in use.

Be aware of what is around. Being aware of what surrounds you will help reduce the chances of falling or tripping over bowls & equipment.

All of the above are obviously commonsense, but worth repeating to maintain our awareness.

Meryl Spargo.....Assistant Secretary.

