



# ***ELTHAM RECREATION BOWLING CLUB***

**Newsletter No 39: May 2011 Editor: Sue Arnott**



## **Garden Developments**

The garden on the creek side is almost finished apart from requiring a few more new plants. The main work was in pulling out all the agapanthus. This was not easily achieved as agapanthus gets quite well attached after 27 years. Each lineal metre took well over an hour to remove. The area now has a brick border with a covering of mulch and is starting to look quite good.

The plan for the west garden above the crib retaining wall is to remove the ivy and terrace the area up to the fence. This area has been neglected over the years, probably because it's so difficult and dangerous to move around in, as the ground slopes steeply up towards the fence. Introducing a few new levels has made moving around much safer and easier. It should also help to reduce the flow of stormwater onto the bank surrounds.

We're about half of the way along the fence heading north but from here the going gets harder as the slope up to the fence increases. To save a bit of time and work, the uprights that hold back the sleepers are just bits of steel we've found laying around. They don't look too flash when initially put in but they are soon hidden once some dianellas (the reedy looking plants) are planted in front. There are no more bits of steel laying around the club to be scrounged so we're appealing for help. What we're after are bits of pipe, angle, star pickets etc. at least 4-5' long. Now is the time to get rid of the scrap bits you've always thought you'd have a use for if you kept them long enough.

Thanks to all those who have helped so far with special thanks to Graeme Lewis and Peter

Osborne who have supplied many plants from their personal collections.

**Cliff Lynch**

## **BCIB Mixed Pairs**

On Sunday April 17 Ros Camera and I were the Eltham representatives in a new tournament that is expected to become an annual event. Berwick Bowling Club invited all Victorian clubs to enter their current men's and women's club champions in a mixed 2-4-2 pairs competition and Eltham was one of the first 42 clubs to accept. Interestingly, most of the clubs were non-metropolitan, with the players representing Horsham having the furthest to travel.

Our first game was against Cheltenham on Berwick's middle green (they have four 8-rink greens, 2 bent grass and 1 tift dwarf in front of the clubhouse with a synthetic next to it - only the 3 grass greens were used). It ran nicely at about 13 seconds and after 12 ends we found ourselves the winners 10-7. The second game was against the locals on the tift dwarf which was running a second or two faster. The locals had their own cheer squad and clearly expected to win. They jumped at us the start with a very nice 3 and at lunch after 5 ends were leading by 2. We got level twice and a few times were holding good multiples only to have them taken away on the last bowl. We won the 11th. end to be only 1 down with 1 to go. Ros and I both had a close bowl as we changed over for the last time. Two was enough to win and with some short ones in the way they were hard to get at. It was no time for heroics so my last 2 bowls were both put behind as insurance. The

Berwick men's club champion (division 1 player, group side representative etc.) opened things up a bit with his first bowl but was narrow with his second resulting in an excellent 1 shot win to us.

The last game was against Wurruk (it's a suburb of Sale) on the east green which was running painfully slow, perhaps 11 seconds if timed with a watch with flat batteries. In their defence the organisers did say the green was in its first year and they'd had a lot of rain during the week. Despite losing 6 ends straight in the middle stages (all ones, luckily) we got multiples on the last 2 ends for another 10-7 win.

Three wins was a pretty good result but with 42 teams there was always going to be quite a few 3 game winners. Our net 7 shots up saw us finish in 6th or 7th place. The winners from Clayton were 30 shots up (who the hell did they play?) so we were a long way from the money. I'd recommend the event to next season's club champions as it was well organised, against good players, with a decent feed for lunch and with a good run on Eastlink Berwick is only about 45 minutes away.

**Cliff Lynch**

## **From the Retiring and retired VLBA President**

Looking back:::

We had a good year.

First we were able to successfully fill our three Tuesday Pennant teams, thanks to our male bowlers.

Blue and Maroon Day, in September, was held as a Pennant practice day.

Gala Day, in October, was a great success.

The Christmas Raffle and dinner was very successful.

Return to Pennant in the New Year, resulted in two teams retaining positions and the third team finishing on the top of the ladder and

going on to win the first post Sectional. CONGRATULATIONS.

Congratulations to Ros Camera on being VLBA club champion and also to all winners in other VLBA club championships.

Thanks for a great "last" VLBA year

**Jenny Miller**

## **Soul Searching**

It was 10 past 10 o'clock Good Friday Morning, and Graham and I were in bed toasting our toes in the watery sunshine streaming through our bedroom window, safe in the knowledge that our fellow bowlers would all be in church doing the right thing. The 'phone rang.

It was Cath Andrew. On the job and arranging enjoyment for many of us, Cath was asking would I please butter the Easter Buns for the Easter Saturday Triples. "Of course I will Cath."

I hung up worrying about Cath's immortal soul, but hopeful that unlike Graham and me she had taken herself and her husband Peter off to early morning Mass.

Graham and I went back to our non-religious books and settled back into our "lazy day" mood. The 'phone rang again.

This time it was Gary Marshall. He had just blown off the green and cleared the extensive mess that the Thursday night winds had caused to our rinks. He had come across a bowl left behind in the ditch and was asking if Graham could go down the Club and make sure it was locked in the Clubroom as he did not have a key to do the job himself. Gary gave a description of the bowl and the logo but at the time we could not think whose bowl it could be. We thanked him and he hung up. I worried about his immortal soul. Here was another bowler catering to our enjoyment and neglecting his own welfare.

Graham and I had by this time forgotten how lovely the sun was on our toes and decided that although we would not be going to Church, we

would, in honour of my Mother's beliefs, cook Fish for Good Friday's Lunch.

Graham said, "I bet I know whose bowl it is." So, we rang the bowler and discovered that his immortal soul was also in jeopardy as he was not in Church. He thanked us and arranged his day so that he would have time to collect his bowl from the Club.

Graham, by this time, was in a most unreligious mood, and greatly distracted by the fact that Gary Marshall had "gone down and done the green" and neglected to go to Church. So he rang him. He said, "Gary, I left a message to say that there was NO duty on Good Friday, and why aren't you at Church?"

Gary assured Graham that he was attending to his religious beliefs and apologised for "doing the Green" and hung up.

Graham and I arose from our bed. We set the table, cooked the smoked cod, went about making an excellent cheese sauce, strung the beans, cut the carrots and steamed the potatoes and decided it was a heavenly way to spend Good Friday.

We hope that your Good Friday was a Happy One.

**Ann Climas**

## **Secretary's Report**

I would like to thank Meryl Spargo, the ERBC Assistant Secretary, for her assistance during the past season. I would also like to thank Scott Jarred, ERBC Treasurer, for co-operative manner in which he performed his role. For example, I appreciated the timely manner that he was able to provide cheques that were needed to accompany correspondence mailed to Bowls Victoria.

I would like to welcome new member, Treenah Wadham, to the Club. Treenah joined the Club after participating in the recent forty/40 Competition.

**Items of interest from the March Board of Management Meeting are -**

The name of the (new) Bowls Region of which we are a member is the Yarra Bowls Region.

The 2011/12 Bowls Victoria Affiliation Fee has been increased to \$35 per member (up from \$32). Bowls Victoria stated that the increase was due to increases in affiliation fees from both Bowls Australia and World Bowls.

**Items of interest from the April Board of Management Meeting are -**

Larger signs to indicate where smokers may and may not smoke at the Club will soon be installed.

A synthetic surround will be installed around the grass green. Quotes are currently being obtained.

The Club has two new umpires - Ann Climas and Carol Schilling-Collins recently obtained their Level 1 Umpires Accreditation.

The Board decided to recommend to members at the upcoming AGM that all Fees ( both membership subscriptions and other fees) remain the same for the 11/12 season.

The Treasurer prepared a one page "budget form" that Committees and Sub-Committees will be required to use during the 11/12 season.

A letter is going to be sent to Yarra Valley Water about the offensive odour coming from the "stinkpipe" near the old clubrooms.

Tiger Turf have agreed that the synthetic green needs to be stretched again. The manufacturer of the carpet will contribute to the cost of the work.

The Board decided to recommend to members at the upcoming AGM that 3 sides be entered for Tuesday Pennant and 5 Sides be entered for Saturday Pennant for the 2011/12 bowling season.

"Unsuitable for Drinking" signs will be placed on the 3 taps that are connected to the rainwater tanks.

**Leon Sinnott**

## **Wednesday Winter Social Bowls**

Wednesday Winter Social Bowls commenced on Wednesday 4.5.11 at 10.30 am. Members, and visitors, wishing to bowl must write their names on the sheets provide at the Club or telephone the Club between 8.45 am and 9.30 am.

Dress is mufti. Cost is \$7.50, \$2.50 if the winter levy has been paid.

Two games of bowls will be conducted, one before lunch and one after lunch. Lunch – home made soup, a bread roll and a piece of fruit – will be provided between the games.

**Cath Andrew, Joyce and John Gee, Jim Williams, Zoe and Leon Sinnott.**

## **Forty/40 Bowls Competition**

The 6 week, forty/40 Competition finished on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. The brief questionnaires completed by the participants at the end of the competition indicated that they enjoyed the competition and were impressed by the friendly atmosphere at the Club. Most indicated that they would participate in any forty/40 Competition held at the Club. A number of participants asked for Membership Application Forms.

The results of the forty/40 Competition were  
First (\$500): Wafas (Jack and Stephanie King, Emily and Michael McGenniskin, Aaron Ingram)  
Second (\$250): High Rollers (Nick McCulloch, Aaron Walton, June Beer, Frank Camera, Roslyn Camera)

Third (\$125): Ditches and Bitches ( Janene and Neville Pauley, Peter Nugent, Dorothy Stoneham, Rhonda and Wayne Byrne)

Note: only one Pennant Bowler could bowl in a team/triple on a given night.

All teams won at least one match in a competition that was played in a friendly, happy manner by all the participants.

The Club has decided to run two forty/40 Competitions during the 11/12 daylight savings period; one pre Christmas/New Year, one after Christmas/New Year.

**John Elliott, Maureen Luke, Cliff Lynch, Leon Sinnott.**

## **Editorial Changes for Newsletter**

At our recent A.G.M. Sue Arnott volunteered to take over the reins, and become Editor of our club newsletter. I am pleased that she will be able to breathe new life, and a new perspective on club communications. I would like to thank all the many contributors over the past 3 years for their contributions and time in writing articles. Thank you also to those who have been supportive of my efforts, as editor these past 3 years.

**Garry Battershell** Retired Editor

Thank you Garry for a very comprehensive handover and for a job well done. Sue

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Triples**

We got lucky this season and despite having 7 events, did not have to cancel an event due to weather. For the season the winner of the aggregate total winners was the team of Bob Cairns, Graeme Lewis and Cliff Lynch on 225. Runners up were Kevin Luckman, Hugh Robertson and Noel Spargo on 220. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place from Heidelberg Golf B.C., Pat Buckley, Bruce Irvine and Ted Moore on 210.

Thank you to Marj Bausman for her provision of afternoon tea throughout the triples season. During the season nearly everyone must have won a prize of some sort.

My thanks to Cath Andrew and her numerous helpers, and to those who have helped out in the bar and in preparation of the green.

**Garry Battershell**

## **From The President**

The Club has had another successful end to the season. A final social function with some bowling, eating, door prizes, presentations, and a DVD of some season highlights was followed the next morning by our AGM.

At the AGM fifty four volunteer members were elected to fill one hundred and fourteen positions in our new organisation structure. All of the new committees have been meeting to choose a new convenor, where appropriate, and to have preliminary discussions about the next twelve months.

Autumn social bowls seemed to last for one week before the weather switched to winter social bowls. Both the Wednesday and Saturday programs started with enthusiastic attendances.

The recent change to the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act seems to have caused plenty of confusion. The change means that that from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 it will be possible for Bowls Victoria to organise a female only or male only competition. This change to the law does not mean that Bowls Victoria *WILL* make any changes to the current mixed Saturday and Tuesday pennant competitions. We expect an announcement from Bowls Victoria to be made in the next few weeks.

The State Emergency Service has applied for a planning permit to make extensive changes to the area of land on the northern side of the Club's boundary fence. The result of the plans that have been lodged with Nillumbik Council would be to prevent all access to this area by club members for car parking, heavy vehicle access through the double gates and access to the area currently used for garden waste and ditch sand. If the proposal is approved without amendment, it will force some difficult and expensive changes to how the Club operates. I

have lodged a formal objection on behalf of the Club.

**Brent Arnott**

## **UMPIRE'S CORNER**

Bowls is a unique sport in that at Club level the Umpire is often a playing member of one of the teams concerned in any dispute.

This situation means that an Umpire has a particular responsibility to be impartial and accurate.

The laws are there to make the sport a fair competition for all bowlers. To become an umpire requires many hours of study, attending tutorials, undertaking a written exam and measuring test of ten exercises. The results of these examinations are sent to Bowls Australia.

When approved by the State Body those that have successfully passed all these tests becomes a Bowls Australia Umpire or Measurer. This results in an Umpire who can really divorce themselves from Club loyalty and uphold The Laws of Bowls.

Every time you play, there is always something that has to be considered from a Law of Bowls prospective. Be it the jack that hits a fellow bowler's shoe or the wrong bias bowl causing chaos on an adjoining rink.

Do you have questions that you would like answered?

At Eltham Bowling Club we have Umpires that have worked as Officials at The Australian Open and have been on District Bowls Victoria Umpire Panels. We are proud of them and their knowledge and expertise are at your disposal.

If you have a query about the Law of Bowls relating to something that happened on the rink, or an answer to something that you would like to know about, please send your queries to the Editor of the Newsletter. We will print the query and answer them via this column. Your name will not be used.

So, send them in.

We will enjoy it, we hope you will too.

**Ann Climas**

For the Umpire's Committee.

**Editor**

The Eltham Bowling Club has been featured in the most recent (May 2011) copy of "In Focus" bowling magazine with the story of our very successful 40/40 bowls competition. This magazine can usually be found down at the club. Alternatively you can find it online by googling "Bowls in Focus" and then click on the magazine cover to turn the pages through to page 26/27.

The next newsletter will appear in the middle of August, just prior to the beginning of the next summer bowling season. Could I please have your contributions by the end of July.

**Sue Arnott**



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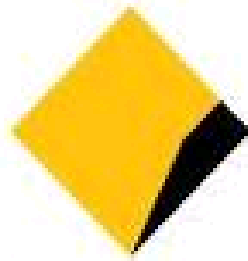
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