



# **ELTHAM BOWLING CLUB**

**Newsletter No 68: November 2014 Editor: Frank Camera**



If you have any suggestions on the layout and possible content material of this newsletter please e-mail me at [frankc@aanet.com.au](mailto:frankc@aanet.com.au)

## ***President's Report:***



On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November I attended the Bendigo Community Bank presentation ceremony with Board member Colin Hines and our hard working Sponsorship coordinator Brent Arnott. We were presented with a cheque for \$1200 contribution towards our Defibrillator and \$1000 for the Bendigo Bank Triples Tournament sponsorship. It gave me a good insight into the fantastic work the Bendigo Community Bank is doing in supporting many local clubs and community groups.

To date the local Bendigo Community Banking group has given back to our community over \$3.5 million in just 13 years. We can all try to return some support and the simplest and best way is open bank accounts with the Bendigo Community Bank in Eltham.



The Bendigo Bank Triples Tournament was a good day, all players enjoyed the competition, the fantastic lunch put on by our catering group, and of course the good weather. Thank you to Cliff Lynch for coordinating the event and to everyone who helped put it together. Congratulations to the winning Eltham team of Damien Jardine, Wayne Byrne and Neville Pawley.

On Saturday afternoon both the men's and women's Club Singles championships finals were played. Both games were very well played and the good group of spectators enjoyed the very high level of competition. Congratulations to the winners and first time champions of the club; Wayne Byrne and Iris Azzopardi. Congratulations also to the runners up in Terry Bain and Vicki Williams for the great effort in reaching the finals.

Thank you to Terry Bain for his coaching sessions and keeping players involved with lots of interesting and different drills, I hope all those participating are understanding the benefits of regular training.

The new club jackets and vests are looking very good and everyone is very happy with the quality and design. Thank you to Di Debney and the group for all the organising and coordinating work.

I ask everyone to be vigilant about locking the Club gates if they are the last out and please let me know if you find the gates left open.

***Ros Camera, President EBC***

### ***Secretary's Report:***

Welcome to our newest member Roger Cousens. Roger has come to us from Kew Heights B.C. and is gradually getting back into playing bowls after a short layoff due to injury.

Car parking issues- We have had meetings with Council Officers as well as representatives from the both the Football club and Cricket club. The council is looking at long term plans but for the "short term" they propose to upgrade the car parking area at the bottom of Pitt Street and provide a pathway up to our club with a new gateway to enter the club from the east side of the clubrooms.

Three sessions have been organised to provide familiarisation for using the defibrillator and we encourage as many members to attend one of these sessions as possible. See list on the notice board.

We also propose to have a list of those members who have a current first aid certificate to be displayed near the defibrillator. Please contact the Secretary if this applies to you.

We have now received the club jackets and vests as ordered by members. After many problems with our previous supplier of shirts it was decided to use a local manufacturer that uses locally made material. So far we have been impressed with the improved service and quality. We will also display an order form for any other members who have expressed an interest in purchasing a club jacket or vest.

The club is applying for a variation in our licence that will enable more flexibility for taking bookings for functions. A sign is currently being displayed externally at the club.

The club has been in contact with our synthetic green installer and it has again been agreed to have this green stretched in the warmer weather.

It has been agreed to in principle to have an award for the best Saturday Pennant Player and best Tuesday Pennant Player. We are asking for members' input for a suitable criteria and ask that members contact either the President or Secretary with their ideas on this award.

### BAREFOOT BOWLS AT THE CLUB:-

Once again we have taken a number of bookings before Christmas.

There is a range of dates with 3 Fridays-( 5/12 and 12/12- assistance needed from 6-7.30p.m.), 1 Saturday( 13/12- 5-6.00p.m.), 1 Sunday (7/12- time to be confirmed.) & 1 Thursday -( 18/12- 7-8p.m.)

If you are able to assist one of our club coaches with providing these bowlers with some very basic bowls "coaching" could you please contact Treenah Wadham, who is co-ordinating the help, on 9439 5220.

Treenah will have the actual times needed, mostly for an hour or so and you don't have to be an "expert" bowler to help out - Meryl Spargo (Barefoot Bowls Co-ordinator)

MISSING AT CLUB- 1 SET OF INDOOR BOWLS (8) AND 4 INDOOR JACKS- We use these sets as extra bowls outside for children and also these bowls provide us with an alternative to playing BFB inside, as happened last Saturday (15/11/14) because of rain. This is when we found that one set was missing. If you have used one of these sets and stored them other than where they are usually kept, could you please contact Meryl or Noel.

**Meryl Spargo, Secretary EBC**

### ***Fund Raising Committee:***

We again have a wonderful Christmas hamper raffle to be drawn at this year's Christmas dinner on Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure you have returned the tickets and money before then. Could you also check the list on the table in the clubroom and if possible donate something towards the hampers.

We also have another raffle going that will be drawn on the final day of pennant in February. This is for the three small wooden boxes that can be seen on display most days when there is bowling happening.

**Jan McDermott, Riekie Sloggett, Maureen Luke and Di Debney.**

### ***Twilight Bowls at Eltham***

Twilight Bowls is up and running each Friday at 6pm. A great organised game of bowls for everyone followed by a very sociable pizza dinner if you wish.

Notices are up in the club rooms under SOCIAL BOWLS and also in the veranda glass covered noticeboard. You can also ring the CLUB from 4pm. to 5-30pm.

**ALL MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME.**

***Jenny Millar, coordinator***

## ***Coaches Corner:***

At least one member has been heard at the club suggesting that the Monday and Thursday skills sessions with our coach are for the top 2 teams only. This is totally incorrect, the skills sessions are for all members, whether pennant players or just social bowlers - without exception.

### ***THAT ALL IMPORTANT SECOND SHOT***

“Games are often lost because many players do not understand the basic concept of building the head”.

“The basic objective must be to get that important second shot. If you are holding, it is imperative to draw a good second to eliminate the possibility of your own bowl being removed from the head.”

“If you are not holding it is important to draw second shot to minimise dropping a high number”

“It is not always necessary for the lead or second to hold shot at the completion of their turn. It is much more important that both bowls from each player are contributing to the make up of the head and in a position to benefit the third and skip. “

“There is always the situation where the skip expects every player to gain shot each time they stand on the mat. There is no attempt to build the head and everybody is called to attack at every opportunity... generally with the result of dropping big numbers on several occasions.”

These quotations are from an article written by a Queensland coach, passed on to me by Eric Butcher, that all bowlers could learn from.

Great bowling and practice good habits.

***Terry Bain***

## ***U3A Bowls at Eltham:***



In late October and early November the Club hosted a very successful U3A introduction to lawn bowls group over 4 Wednesday mornings. These were run by Ros Camera with Frank as assistant and involved 8 very willing new bowlers. Each session consisted of some coaching of the finer points of the game and

ending with some fun games involving the skills learnt. All the participants enjoyed the sessions, were bowling fairly well by the end of the term, and everyone agreed it was a great game.



## ***Match Committee: Club Pairs Championship***



The Club mixed pairs championship was decided in a very tight game on a nice Friday evening in October. It was shot for shot until the eighth end, when Brent and Sue managed to get a small break of two shots. It could still have gone either way in the final end, but a very narrow miss by Ian Jones left Brent and Sue the winners of their second mixed pairs championship by 4 shots.

*The happy winners  
Brent and Sue Arnott.*



*The two teams to come out of the  
Sunday round robin games to  
play off in the final on the Friday;  
Brent and Sue Arnott with Bev  
Sharp and Ian Jones.*

***Gary Marshall, Match Committee convenor***

## ***New Umpires and Measurers Wanted!***

We still need more members interested in doing the markers and measurers' courses as a possible lead up to an umpiring accreditation. Chris Riddell is a bit lonely there at the moment! And well done Chris for volunteering, great to have you in the group.

**Current accredited umpires at Eltham: Frank Camera, Brent Arnott, Ann Climas, Noel Spargo, Carol Schilling-Collins, Greg Lambert, Maureen Luke, Meryl Spargo.**

## ***Open day at Eltham:***

The main annual Open Day was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Once again we asked members to help out by bringing along a friend or relation.

It was a nice day for a bowl and particularly well attended by both current and prospective members. And as usual we also had a free BBQ and soft drinks available. Out of seven TRY OUTS we now have three new members. A big thank you to all those members who came along and helped to make it a success.

Jenny Millar, coordinator

## *Norfolk Island, the REAL Story:*



After talking about it for several years, John Baker, Colin Hines and I, accompanied by our wives, finally decided to enter the 2014 Norfolk Island 3 bowl triples tournament. Norfolk Island is a hilly, sub-tropical 8 x 5km lump of land directly north of Auckland and

almost directly east of Brisbane. It's a good place to revisit your childhood as the place looks pretty much as a small town would've looked in the 1950's.

The tournament started on Monday August 19 with sectional games continuing until Friday morning followed by 3 rounds of finals extending until Saturday afternoon. Along with most other teams we had a practice on the Sunday afternoon before the first game. As we settled into a post-practice drink a calcutta was being run up the other end of the clubhouse. "Lynch! Is the Lynch team here?" came the cry from the calcutta MC. Some indecipherable squeals from our lady companions confirmed our presence. "Are you any good?" "Hopeless" was Colin's reply. "Any bids for Lynch?". Silence from the other end. "Twenty dollars", piped up Rina. "Thirty", said Colin. Rina shot back with "forty" before it dawned on the mental giants on our table that we were bidding against each other. Several teams went for over \$200, many others for around \$100 so at \$40 we were not the least favoured but very close to it. The total calcutta pool was well over \$2000.

In the sectional games we'd had some good wins with just 1 narrow loss to a team from Ballina and a draw with a New Zealand team (Diamond Bay, I think). Our last sectional game was against the local guns. After a very tight, high quality game we managed to sneak away with a 5 shot win to finish top of our section.

Our quarter-final opponents were a NSW combination which included the winning skip from last year. Our first 2 ends were excellent, picking up 6 then 4, and we were never threatened thereafter.

Our semi-final game was against a trio from Bargo in country NSW. After 8 of 18 ends we weren't looking too flash at 7/1 down having played well but not well enough to win more than 1 end. As we were only conceding singles there was still hope. The run of singles was broken when we scored a 5 then some more multiples towards the end. I can't remember the final score but I do know the other skip's only shot on the last end was to kill it. He missed so we were into the Saturday afternoon final playing for \$2100 for the winners – by far the biggest prize we'd played for.

Our opponents were another New Zealand team from a small country club. In the semi they'd beaten a Norfolk Island team which included as skip the island's singles player from the just concluded Commonwealth games. "They're all very steady players", was his warning. Bugger. I was hoping for a team of haphazard mugs.

We had a good start but were caught at 5-all after 5. After a run of good ends we were 10 up after 13. Our loyal and persistent cheer squad consisting of Helen Hines (who in 30-odd years of marriage had previously seen no more than a dozen of Colin's bowls), Brenda Lynch (a potential new member who's been having secret lessons at Blackburn with U3A) and Rina Baker (former club champion and bowls aficionado) were in fine voice although a little too excitable at the

prospect of getting their hands on our likely winnings which (they felt) was as good as in their purses.

It is not a reference to our cheer squad to say a game is not over until the fat lady sings because at about this point the steady player comment kicked in and the New Zealand blokes started dobbing them much closer. With 5 ends to go we were 8 shots up. At 2 to go our lead was still 5 although becoming shaky. Then came a disastrous 3 and 2 to the sheep lovers and we were into a playoff end.

True to recent form their lead and second had a bowl each next to the jack before John hit them and the jack sprung out to near the boundary on the backhand side. We had shot with one about a metre away but their second's last bowl was a ripper finishing about a foot short. I had a good look at it and convinced myself I could beat it. That changed when their skip's first bowl was also a foot short but right on my line. The only way then to beat it was drawing through the pack on the forehand. I had 2 goes at that but clipped bowls each time. Having "proved" it was undrawable on the forehand and with the backhand also blocked, the only shot then left was to drive the jack out of bounds.

The best way to do that was to call on Rob Parella as super-sub. Unfortunately, Rob wasn't available so I had to play it. I had a vision of releasing a million miles per hour rocket which scorched through a gap to launch the jack over the clubhouse. Taking a moment to reflect upon this caused me to remember that I almost always spray my rarely played rocket shots so something more controlled was called for. I was happy when I let it go, but not so happy when it collected a short bowl. Well done New Zealand. You were overdue to beat Australia at something.

The overall experience playing there was very good. With the tournament and calcutta winnings we pocketed (or pursed in some cases) over \$600 each. We all played well except when it really mattered the most. The bowls were mostly of a high standard, the locals were friendly and the island was well worth a look. Even the wives had a good time. Would we play there again? Possibly, but the talk for next year is to lose the final in a playoff at the Sunny West Bowling Carnival in Fiji.

**Cliff Lynch**

### ***Pennant Game Milestones:***

<b>John Baker (350)</b>	<b>Ernie Richards (350)</b>	<b>Bev Sharp (300)</b>
<b>Cath Andrew (150)</b>	<b>Christine Guest (100)</b>	<b>Bob Halliday (100)</b>
<b>Scott Jarred (100)</b>	<b>Kaye Taylor (100)</b>	

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### ***Quote of the Month:***

***Common sense is like deodorant, the people who need it most never use it.***

***- Unknown***

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The next Newsletter will be due late December. Please send any items of interest to [frankc@aanet.com.au](mailto:frankc@aanet.com.au)