

Eltham Bowling Club

March Newsletter

President's Report

Well the Pennant season is coming to a close, at the time of writing this, Saturday Pennant has one round to go, with 2 teams definitely in the finals and an extreme outside of a third falling over the line. Midweek Pennant has three teams in the finals, with the 4th just missing out. A couple of teams will be relegated, but I would like to commend the players in those teams, as it is hard to put the effort in each week, when you are getting beaten and they did so. Good luck to those playing finals and all we ask is you do your best and compete in a sportsmanlike manner.



I would also like to pass on my and your thanks to the selection committees, for those who have been on one, know what a hard task this is and for those who don't should appreciate that juggling absenteeism, personalities and skill levels is challenging work.

You should all now be aware that we have made the decision to engage Tiger Turf to install a new woven synthetic green. This Board decision was only made after stringent investigation and research by three very hard workers Brent, Pam and Meryl. Without their dedication to the task at hand, such an informed choice could not have been achieved and thanks hardly seems enough for the hours of work involved.

The grass green is being given a lot of TLC, by Phil, who you would see, is in attendance often, to encourage the best out of the growing season. You would be aware, that Rome wasn't built in a day and the improvement Phil has achieved in the ten months he has been in the job is heartening.

While the Pennant season is winding down, bowls around the club carry on. Club championships are still being fought, social bowls in the form of Twilight and Summer social are continuing and this year's Forty/40 completion is underway under John Elliot's supervision.

Jazz by the Green is continuing its very successful run, with tickets being sold out in 5 minutes of their going on sale, so it isn't just the Pop stars who are that popular. Continued thanks to Ros and Frank especially as they continue to work hard behind the scenes of this enterprise.

You should have also seen some flyers for "Girls on the Green", an new initiative, being run to try and encourage more females to try bowls and maybe as a result join the club. Ros, Pam, Meryl, Jayne, Helen and Lisa have organized and are running these get togethers, so we acknowledge their work and hope for a continued positive outcome.

Finally, if I could remind everyone that our club is run by volunteers and we are only successful, as long as members are happy to put their hand up, to do the work and participate on the various committees. Therefore, now would be a good time to consider whether you might put your hand up and consequently grill one of those current committee members for their insights on what the job entails and remember with any of the committees, there are always the old dogs willing to teach the new, the tricks.

Carol

Greens Report

NOTES ON THE VERBAL REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING RE GRASS GREEN -14/2/18 BY PHIL GRANT- GREENKEEPER.

The grass green was in pretty bad way when he started working as our club greenkeeper. There was a lot disease- "couch mite" as well as moss and poa weed. All of this has led to lots of "bare patches".

Last December the green was renovated (laser levelled) and top dressed (usually a five-yearly process). Normally a grass green needs to be "rested" 6 weeks after such an action but since this process we have not had enough consistent really hot weather (over 40 degrees) coupled with over 20 degrees at night to get the new grass growing really well over the bare patches as these are the best conditions for this type of grass (tiff) to grow.

By having the limited use of the grass green still, he is looking at having 95% grass cover by the end of the growing season: end of March. This should make it available over the winter period (weather depending).

Has been treating the moss and will treat a number of times again in the near future. Has been scarifying the green to try to break up the moss but this is limited treatment, same as for spraying the moss, as otherwise the green will have too many "bare patches" because it takes time for the grass to grow over these patches.

Is feeding the grass a lot but of course this is also feeding the poa weed. He has been hand watering the problem areas daily and is working to a different watering schedule as compared to a domestic situation.

The current grass cover is doing well and has been mown lots of times and he is confident about how the green is going into the future.

Midweek Pennant Report

This committee is kept busy maintaining and repairing any equipment and surrounds at our club and to also find solutions to our minimal amount of storage space.

This season has been quite successful overall with three teams in finals.

Our Division 1/1 side has had a successful season ending third on the ladder, even with all the travelling that they have had to do, which has been quite difficult at times.

Our other Div. 1/2 has had a very unrewarding season, really struggling to get a few wins, but they kept hanging in there and ended on a high note winning their last game by one shot.

Div. 3 has scraped into the finals by one point (that is as close as it gets) so luck is on their side to finish well.

Div. 4 has had many changes during the season with players coming and going, so it was great that they consolidated and ended 4th, good luck to them.

Div. 1 (six a side) finished well, also nearly making the finals.

All in all, with the help of our emergencies again with whom we couldn't have done without it has turned out well.

Next season we would like to have our few injured players return, as they are missed from our teams and we want them back playing.

Our thanks to President Carol Schilling-Collins for having the ladies to her home for a morning tea catch up. We had a lovely morning and enjoyed getting together and having a chat, and a lovely spread that was put on for us in Carols beautiful home. Thank you again Carol.

Looking forward to cheering on our finals teams to success.

Di Debney

Convener Midweek Pennant

Secretary's Corner

CLUB HANDBOOKS

We have a collection of old club handbooks being held for historical reasons. At this stage we are missing a copy of the 2005-2006 Handbook. If you have a copy and are happy to provide it to the club, please see Meryl

LOCKING THE GATES

On several occasions, it has been observed that either the main gate in from the car park and the one on the east side (near the BBQ) has been either left unlocked or not locked properly. So, this is just a reminder that if you are last to leave the grounds of the club, please make sure that you lock the gate even if it was unlocked when you arrived.

QUICKA BOWLS- Post Pennant Regional competition.

Because of the limited response to the Post Pennant Regional Bowls - "Quicka" bowls our club is unable to enter a side into this competition.

Thank-you to the 3 members who did respond.

Club Annual General Meeting

Just as a follow-up on Carol's article. I will be sending out the notice for meeting and the call for nominations etc. towards the end of this month.

TWILIGHT BOWLS

Don't forget that Twilight Bowls is still on throughout March-starts 6.00 p.m.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE- Sunday 11th March

We are holding a sausage sizzle on Sunday 11th March at Bunnings.

If you are available to be an emergency helper can you contact either - Ken McGuire - Mobile 0400 659 166 or Jenny Millar 9439 3835 as some of the those who have made themselves available may be playing in a post section Pennant final if they get through on the Saturday.

Also, if you are around at Bunnings that day, come and buy a sausage to support your club.

Meryl Spargo

Secretary

A New Program for Juniors

Dear Club Members,

I would like to inform you all about a new pilot (trial) program, aimed at attracting some new junior bowlers to our club that was approved by the EBC Board recently, and will run over approximately the next 2 years.



A few initiatives of the trial include:

Running 2 x 6 week skills programs at the club - One in Spring, the other in Autumn with both being available to new and full club members to register their grandchildren and/or children on for free (I'll provide more info at a later stage)

2 separate junior memberships (Social & Competition) which should hopefully better meet the different needs, attitudes & interests of juniors of different ages – Will involve trialling a different membership approach for juniors. Juniors will still be integrated as usual into social & pennant games with other members

A Junior 'Social' Club Championship - Open to junior members from EBC and other Clubs

A club based Grandparents Day - Planned for later this year

It's early stages yet. I've spoken to Chris (Website) about getting some info up. John Sharp is kindly fixing up a Mascot I drew and going to find out some costs of turning it into a t-shirt transfer/iron on. I've made a pamphlet (soon to be available) that can be given out by members if a junior happens to walk through our doors wanting info. I'm waiting for Bowls Australia to get back to me about someone from there coming to the club to run a junior training clinic and to also visit a few local primary schools (if I set the visits up) with me and some of the coaches. Marketing to the public still needs to start and while I have a few ideas I would really appreciate if members with Facebook could please help out by posting something on their Facebook about the initiative (once the info becomes available on the club website).

While we can't be sure at this point how many kids might join, as the trial relates to children there are a couple of legal requirements the club must meet to ensure that the trial runs smoothly and that the club is operating to child safety standards. One of these is ensuring that the Club has enough members with a 'Working With Children Check' (WWCC). I will need to approach several members directly about getting a WWCC but I do ask that all member please have a think about getting one also, and let me know if you already have one or would be willing to get one. WWCC's are Completely Free for Volunteers and I am happy to assist with the online forms (we can use the clubs computer) and do some post office runs, if needed. The Check last for 3 years and you will receive your card in the mail. I'll need to take a photocopy of your card to put into a junior folder that will be held in the Club's office.

Any questions please feel free to ask.

Cheers,

Jayne (Caleb's mum)

The Footy Tipping Competition is On Again This Year

Entries need to be in by 5pm on March 22nd, 2018. See entry sheet on Club Notice Board.

Entry Fee - \$25.00 for the season. Money to be received no later than 5pm March 22nd 2018 at the Club House.

Round tips to be in between 4-6pm on Thursday before the round. This year the prize for tipping 9 winners for the round will Jackpot if we do not have a winner for that round.

Last Thursday in the month will feature a Happy Hour 4.30-5.30pm with discount beverages and snacks including occasionally, Cripps's world famous sausage rolls (a treat not to be missed).

Tipping Committee consists of Peter Claringbold, Paul LaMotte, David Cripps & Bruce Hill.