



# **ELTHAM BOWLING CLUB**

**Newsletter No 44: January 2012    Editor: Sue Arnott**



## **GREENS**

Our grass green has been officially reopened and has exceeded all expectations. It is currently running at 13 seconds which is a pleasant surprise. Coverage is good and the levels are excellent which will enable our green keeper, Michael Jones to cut the grass closer over time which will speed up the green even more.

The grass green has been approved for pennant play but anyone who visited the Club between Christmas and New year will have been shocked by the size and extent of the ripples on the synthetic green. There were numerous ripples that affected all seven rinks and it is very doubtful that we would have been able to play a pennant match on it in that condition. We are therefore reluctant to commit the grass green on Saturdays by returning "home" matches to Eltham in case we need it as an emergency option if the synthetic is unplayable.

The fabric supplier and Tigerturf agree that the next step is to stretch the top fabric in the north-south direction. A representative of the fabric manufacturer will be in Australia in late January to supervise the stretching.

After more than a year's "rest" we now need to re establish a regular rolling roster for the grass green in addition to the blowing and vacuuming of the synthetic green. For the benefit of members who have joined during this rest period, we employ a part time green keeper to provide technical advice but most of the care of the greens is done by members. We will be asking all able bodied members to take part in this regular job. If this is your first time on the roster, ask one of the Greens Committee (see Handbook) for a quick lesson.

## **FLOODS**

Christmas day was very dramatic for many of our members and the Bowling Club. Local rain gauges recorded over 100 millimetres on Christmas Day which caused numerous incidents of flash flooding in Eltham and nearby suburbs.

The drains on Bridge St near the bridge became blocked and storm water flowed from the road into the back car park and into our maintenance shed and grass green. The grass green was under 15 cm of water for some hours but has obviously recovered well. Our equipment did not do so well. Two lawn mowers have been declared a write off after being submerged and an insurance claim has been lodged but as we pay the first \$500 of any claim, it was an expensive storm.

## **CLUB UNIFORM**

Bowls Victoria policy on club uniform has changed creating an opportunity for us to make a change. It was previously a requirement that all members of a pennant team wear the same uniform but that is no longer the case. Our uniform sub-committee has recommended that the club change from the current white/cream pants to blue pants and the Board has agreed with this change. There will be no change to the shirt which is required for pennant play.

Because it is now possible for some members of a team to wear blue and some to wear white/cream, we can make this change over time as people choose to buy new pants. There is an item in this newsletter from the uniform sub-committee giving details of an opportunity to save 20% on the cost of blue pants by being part of a bulk order.

**Brent Arnott**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Scroungers** on Saturday 7th January, as the name implies, means every bowler is out to score for themselves and have a lot of fun doing it! The winners for 2012 were Colin Hines, Cath Andrew and Mike Theodore (again!!)

Thanks to all who participated and to Nyra, Di, Garry, Bruce and Ann for their input into the event.

**A Welcome to the grass** on Thursday evening 12th was consummated with consumption of 72 sausages, several glasses of wine and a few beers and a "blessing of the grass" followed by 36 bowlers testing their shoulders on the new surface. Thanks to Graeme Climas and his team of grass growers, Brent for his short speech, Bruce for spontaneous team selection, Sue for the salads, Peter for the sausage cooking and gofer, Nyra.

## ON THE CALENDAR

**Third Monday Triples** is continuing until April. Next season we hope that many more teams will be involved as the grass will allow more of our club to participate and encourage an increase in numbers from other clubs in our region.

**Australia Day** Thursday 26th January. This year we will endeavour to have bowlers on both surfaces for a 3 game medley of pairs, triples, singles and fours. Look for the notice to enter. Starts at 10 am - bring your lunch

## COACHES COUCH

Yippee - the club video camera is back in working order at last. If you think you might benefit from seeing your bowling action complete with faults on video don't hesitate to contact Noel Spargo to arrange a suitable time. Usually these sessions will be on a Thursday afternoon. Practice drills will be making a return in the near future. If you have any specific aspect on which you would like advice please approach one of the club coaches. You will find their names listed on page 18 of the club handbook.

Coaching Panel

## UMPIRES OFFERINGS

Information on how to measure correctly and bowls scoring decisions that can cause difficulty are covered in the following piece.

**Q.** Whilst measuring during a game of bowls the person doing the measuring accidentally moves the jack, what should happen?

**A.** If the jack is displaced by the equipment being used by a **player** during measuring, an **opponent** should put it back to its former position. (law 33.4.1)

If the jack is displaced by the equipment being used by the **marker** during measuring, the marker should put the jack back to a position agreed by the opponents. If the opponents cannot agree, the **marker** should put the jack back to its former position. (law 33.4.2)

If the jack is displaced by the measuring equipment being used by the **umpire** during measuring, the **umpire** should put the jack back to its former position. (law 33.4.3)

Note: nowhere in this law does it say that the end shall be declared dead.

Note again: The Marker's workshop is coming up soon, so don't forget to put your name down if you are interested.

Umpires Panel

### **Club Championships**

Since the last newsletter, three more club championships have been completed.

The mens pairs final was between John Sparke/Cliff Lynch and Steve and Lee Williams. Team Williams got off to a dream start picking up six shots on the first end. Sparke/Lynch mounted a determined fightback but as the game progressed Williams/Williams settled.

The match became a tense struggle between draw bowling and driving. John placed many bowls close. Steve played a dominant role either drawing or driving in a typical display of control. Skippers Cliff and Lee were almost cast in supporting roles trying to gain the final advantage.

By the 10<sup>th</sup> end the pattern was established. Driving was gaining the upper hand over consistent drawing. Putting bowls close was not nearly as difficult as keeping them there till the end and Williams and Williams were worthy winners.

The Over 70 final was between Bruce Goodman and Ernie Richards. Spectators were treated to a typical Ernie match. Bruce was bowling well but as he commented "how can I have a resting toucher and end up two down without any drives on that end?" In the end Ernie was too accurate too often.

The ladies singles final was between two new contenders, Rina Baker and Cath Andrew. The pattern of this match was based on "it only takes one great bowl to win the end". The significance of the occasion seemed to affect both players in the hot conditions making the game more difficult. Over the length of the match Cath bowled very well but Rina consistently corrected well and played at least one "ripper" bowl each end. An exciting match won convincingly by Rina in the end. Great to see two new players emerging to challenge our historical ladies champions.

### **ANTHONY "TUPP" DEVINE 1930 - 2011**

In late November Tupp passed away suddenly. A very large funeral was well attended by many Bowling Club friends along with other friends of local sporting groups and family. His numerous grandsons spoke well of their experiences with their "Pop" and were a very emotional part of the ceremony which was held at St Francis Xavier in Montmorency.

During the fledgling years of Eltham Bowling Club Tupp was a committed and constant participant in the upkeep and maintenance of the greens and grounds which saw his name included as "clubman" on the Honour Board. He was well known for the can collections which were frequent. His bowling achievements were crowned by a triples championship in 1994/5.

Whilst Tupp had retired from competitive bowling, determined efforts were underway to have him put a few bowls down socially again but sadly that is not to be. Tupp was frequently seen around the club each week collecting Joyce to drive home after bowls. We are delighted that Joyce will keep the Devine name current at the club and she has resumed bowling with Tuesday Pennant.

## **We've got the blues - pants that is**

The great pant discussion has finally reached the finale. There appears to be overwhelming support for the club **to adopt Royal Blue along with white pants as its uniform. Bowls Victoria has allowed the VLBA clothing to be worn until 2013.** So we can proceed with the Royal Blue but will not register this as a club colour until that time. Provided the pants have a Bowls Aust logo they are OK.

**Royal Blue, white (or cream), pants will be acceptable for pennant on either Tuesday or Saturday as soon as you have them. (Tuesday ladies with navy are also still OK)**

The aim is to have the club in Royal Blue only sometime in the distant future (maybe 2 or 3 years). This would mean no longer purchasing either white or navy for use as official club uniform.

Doncaster Bowling Shop has agreed to offer us a 20% on a bulk purchase as a one off on Royal Blue pants. This includes trousers, tracksuit, shorts, and for women slacks, shorts and capri pants.

Special offer: Mens tailored pants \$55, tailored shorts \$45, Track pants \$40, Track shorts \$36 - Ladies pants \$50, ladies capri \$45, Ladies shorts \$40. Purchases made outside this offer will be at usual retail prices.

We will have sample sizes loaned to us for a short time at the club for members to try for sizing. The days set aside for this are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 3 and 5pm, Thursday and Saturday 4pm until 6pm. If these times are difficult for you, ring Nyra, Di or Sue and a suitable time can be made. We have the samples for the next three weeks and would be happy to note your preference and place the order.

The aim is that the Club will be officially wearing Royal Blue pants by a future time yet to be determined by the Board.

**Di, Nyra and Sue**

### **BOWLS VICTORIA APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are needed to help with the running of the Australian Open in February. There are a whole range of jobs not requiring specialised skills that need to be covered. The "perk" of volunteering at this event is you will see some super skilled bowling when you are not rostered elsewhere and looking after the scoreboard means you can watch while you work.

If you think you may like to give it a try either go to the Bowls Victoria website or ask Ann Climas who can give you all the details. Website is: [bowlsvic.org.au](http://bowlsvic.org.au) or Ann's phone number is 9431 5463

#### GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

1. No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats
2. When your mum is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair
3. If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person
4. Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato
5. You can't trust dogs to watch your food
6. Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair
7. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk

#### GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree
2. Wrinkles don't hurt
3. Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts
4. Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground
5. Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside
6. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy

#### GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

1. Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional
2. Forget health food, you need all the preservatives you can get
3. When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there
4. It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions
5. Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician
6. Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone

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