



ELTHAM BOWLING CLUB

Newsletter No 56: August 2013 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

President's Report

Is it that time of the year already? With the pennant season just around the corner, please check the pennant practice lists on the notice board.

News from the board:

Welcome to James Owen and Carole Stafford. Both new bowlers and new members of the EBC.

Our decking extension is progressing and should be finished in time for the opening of the pennant season (31/8/13). This has been a project that the board has been planning over the last twelve months and it will be good to see it completed.

We have also purchased two portable bench seats for play east west on either green.

The other project that has been completed over autumn is the new garden on the west side of the clubrooms. This project was undertaken by the garden sub-committee and Graeme Abblitt. The large trees have been selected to provide interest as well as shade for this side of the clubrooms. These trees are an ornamental pear with the shrubs being white azaleas and white and pink camellias. I am sure that you would agree that this area at the entrance to our club looks much better. The members of the garden subcommittee have also been busy during the winter maintaining the rest of our garden areas.

The situation regarding a senior coach at our club has been disappointing in that we have not been able to make an appointment to this position.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our opening day on Saturday 31st August at 2 p.m. Which will also see 3 more of our members receive their super veteran badges.

Secretary's Report

There are still a few members who have not yet paid the new season fees. Could this be finalised as soon as possible as unfinancial members are not covered by the club insurance and will not be able to play in any official games, including Pennant.

On Saturday 29th June following social bowls we had a farewell gathering for Leo and Nyra Crimmins who have since returned to New Zealand. It was very well attended and a joyous occasion, although sad to see them go we all wished them the best for their future back home in Christchurch. A big thank you also to Gail and Gary Marshall, who donated the lovely painting which the Club had framed and presented to Leo and Nyra as appreciation for their contribution to the EBC for the past 5 years.

Opening Day for the 2013 – 2014 season is Saturday 31st August at 2:00 PM

Committee Reports and other News:

Special Events coming up in August and September.

Put your name down on the notice boards at the Club for the following events :

1. Opening Day: Saturday 31 August 2 pm for a game of bowls and a yummy afternoon tea. Entries close Thursday 29 August.

2. 3rd Monday Triples: This 7 month competition starts on 16 September. Get a team together. Format is: 2 games, 2 bowls, 15 ends, Casual dress, \$15 per team per day, with good daily prizes and cumulative season prizes. It is an excellent afternoon of fun, competitive bowls with bowlers from several other clubs participating. Entries close 12th September with Bruce Goodman.

Cath Andrew, Special Events Committee

Garden Committee

During the winter we have been preparing the gardens for the spring growth. Plants have been pruned and already the spread of plants at the Susan Street end is quite thick. Many of the plants are already flowering and by the time the season starts, the gardens should be quite colorful.

One of our most annoying tasks is the weeding at this time of the year, as the weeds keep coming back as soon as we pull them out.

We have also put some time into the state of the retaining walls. Even though the garden is terraced, erosion is still a problem when it rains heavily, so we have packed soil into the eroded areas and hope that the plants establish their roots very quickly and slow the flow of water.

To ensure the safety of bowlers, we have, from time to time, cleaned the synthetic grass of clay and moss at the Susan Street end.

To make way for the new decking, we regretfully cleared the garden in front of the clubhouse, but we do appreciate that the decking will be a great addition to the clubs facilities.

The gardening group meets at the club at about 8.30 am every Monday morning. All helpers are welcome. (The morning teas are good too – thanks Rina.)

Next time you are at the club compare this lovely old photo of the Susan Street garden with what is there now!



Graeme Lewis, Garden Committee

WEDNESDAY WINTER SOCIAL BOWLS.

Another successful season of Wednesday Winter Social Bowls is drawing to a close. The last day will be held on Wednesday 28.8.13. The weather on most Wednesday's has been very pleasant and this has resulted in more members enjoying the bowling and the light lunches provided. The soups cooked on the last three Wednesday's have been Tomato, Bean and Pasta; Pea and Ham and Pumpkin and Cumin.

The \$100 Competition for the most resting touchers during the season is still wide open.

Currently, after 14.8.13, Cliff Sedgman and Bob Harris share the lead with three resting touchers each, while Dennis Woodward, Neville Jenkin, Bob Halliday, Wendy Lyons, Cath Andrew, Bruce Goodman, Eric Fabri, and Kevin O'Brien have two resting touchers each.

The Organising Group thanks Paul Lamotte and Les Engblom for opening the bar for us on a Wednesday.

Jim Williams has indicated that he is going to cease his involvement in helping to organise Wednesday Social Bowls. He has been involved in organising both Summer and Winter Wednesday Social Bowls for approximately 10 years and hence has helped organise in excess of 400 bowls events for the club. He is to be congratulated on this contribution. He has been ultra reliable, organised and a pleasure for all of the Organising Group to work with over his 10 years.

Leon Sinnott for the Organising Group (Cath Andrew, June Beer, Joyce Gee, John Gee, Zoe Sinnott, Mike Theodore, Jim Williams)

FORTY/40 BOWLS.

The Forty/40 Sub-Committee will be conducting two six week Forty/40 Bowls Competitions this bowling season, both on Friday evenings between 6.00 pm and 7.30 pm. Forty/40 is a fast paced exciting game of bowls. This innovative game is fun, social and competitive. It is a game for teams of 3 players (2 bowls triple format), which consists of 12 ends (2 sets of 6 ends; each set taking around 40 minutes each). Forty/40 bowls has been designed primarily to introduce participants to the game of lawn bowls. Teams may have one Eltham Bowling Club member in each team.

COMPETITION 1. This Competition will be held on the following dates;

February 7th (Introductory Night), 14th, 21st, 28th and March 14th, 21st, 28th.

This Competition will be conducted in the same manner (same rules, light meal provided, etc) as previous Eltham Bowling Club Competitions.

COMPETITION 2. (or the Modified Competition). This Competition will be held on the following dates;

October 11th (Introductory Night), 18th, 25th; Nov 15th, 22nd, 29th and Dec 6th.

In this Modified Competition: The kitty will be rolled, not placed; there will be no rotation of bowlers; the power plays will remain.

Also, for the Modified Competition: The bar will be open but participants will be asked to make their own meal/food arrangements. A minimum of 6 teams are required for the Competition to proceed.

Entries for the Modified Forty/40 Competition have been called and close on Friday 20th September 2013. Please see Leon if you have any questions or require an Entry Form.

Entries for the Forty/40 Competition 1 will be called for in mid November 2013 and close mid January 2014.

For both Forty/40 Competitions;

teams will be handicapped and may be divided into two sections.

the cost will be \$5 per bowler per week, plus a one off \$10 Bowls Victoria Registration Fee.

there will be weekly and overall prize money.

Forty/40 Sub-Committee: Graham Climas, Dianne Debney, John Elliott, Maureen Luke, Zoe Sinnott, Leon Sinnott, Steven Spargo, Kay Taylor.

Saturday Winter Bowls

With only one more Saturday social bowls to go I would like to thank Jenny and Bob for their help with organising the days, and to the regulars who came every Saturday and made it a great success. The numbers were the best we have had in the three years we have been running it, consistently around the 40 plus and up to 47 in June. And a special mention to the keen 16 who turned up on a very wet Saturday. The rain was so heavy we resorted to an immensely enjoyable game of carpet bowls.

Lorna and John Sparke

Editor's Note: And a special thanks from all the hardy winter bowlers to Lorna and John, who also worked very hard to make it a great success. FC



A regular visitor to Saturday winter social bowls, Roy Turner, with Jim Waugh and Jim McKenzie.

Although not able to bowl these days Roy still loves the game, and if you are lucky to be on rink 1 where Roy watches from, you will always hear a compliment or two for all the good bowls put down.

And it also looks like another lucky person is to receive a framed "Turner" original.

Match Committee:

Notices are on the Championships board in the clubhouse for all the club events starting before Christmas. Please check these and add your names to the list as soon as possible. The committee would like to see as many players as possible in every event. The club championships are for all bowlers, whether in it to win or just to get some good competitive games which would help your skills and competitive edge. Please note that some games are a little flexible in that they allow a few weeks to complete each round so you are not restricted to a particular day.

Ros Camera, Coordinator

Saturday Pennant:

Saturday pennant practice matches have been organised for the first three Saturdays of September and the Sunday after the Grand Final. Please check the Pennant Board for the availability list and tick your name off for each game if you are available. We would like all players to play in these games if possible. The selectors will try to speak to all players before the season starts but if you have any special requests please do not hesitate to approach us any time we are available at the club. The normal policy is that you put any comments or requests to at least two selectors together. We would also accept e-mails and written (signed) notes. We will also be holding a special meeting on Thursday 5th September at 5:30 pm, following practice and a free barbeque, to explain the new performance card, new reporting sheet and expectations for practice.

Frank Camera, Selection Committee

Midweek Pennant Organising Committee:

Practice matches for Midweek Pennant will be on Tuesdays 3rd and 10th of September and the first Pennant game will be on the 17th September. The list for these games is on the notice board in the clubrooms, please indicate your availability for each game. We would like as many players as possible to participate. Please note that there will also be a rollup session and information meeting on Thursday 12th September starting at 9:30 am. We will be reviewing the new Pennant Performance card, report sheet, new inclement weather rule and any other changes to the format and conditions of play for Midweek Pennant.

Ros Camera, Selection Committee

Bar Committee Report

The bar is a very important feature of our club and a big money maker for us all. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank to all of the committee for the wonderful effort they put into doing specific chores to keep the bar up and running. Also I would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who work behind the bar during parties, Wednesday and Saturday social bowls and during and after Pennant.

Without all these wonderful people we wouldn't have such a successful bar. If anyone is interested in helping out behind the bar and would like to get their RSA (Responsible Serving of Alcohol) certificate, please contact me and I will make all the arrangements.

Lorna Sparke

Greens Director

Regular maintenance work has been carried out over winter on both greens and will intensify now with opening day fast approaching. The grass green should come out of dormancy and start to look a little greener with any sort of warm weather soon, and will hopefully be rolling better than ever this season.

The greens committee will be looking for more volunteers soon to help with the preparation of both greens throughout the season. (Yes, rolling, vacuuming and line marking do not happen by magic!!) If you have time to help out during the week, or on Pennant mornings, please speak to John Baker. It is not very hard work and we do have a good time doing most of the small but essential tasks.

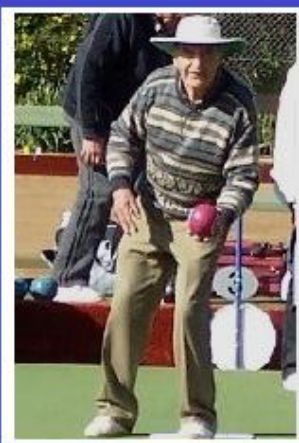
Frank Camera, Greens Committee

Social Bowls Special Member Profile for August: Jack Diamond



Jack Diamond moved into his present home in Eltham 51 years ago and has been an EBC bowler since 1988, and is still a very keen social bowler despite having restricted vision. He has been a regular winter Saturday and summer Wednesday bowler for many years and can be easily spotted on the rink with his home made sight boards and white “lolly pop” for the skip. Jack played Saturday Pennant for many years and was so keen that when he broke his left arm years back he taught himself to bowl right handed and continued to bowl well. He was also the ERBC secretary for two years, from 1994 to 1996.

Jack was lucky enough to win a set of new bright pink bowls this year and they are regularly seen close the kitty on almost every end. It’s a lucky skip who draws Jack as his lead for the day. The photos below show Jack, in order, discussing tactics with the skip, his “lollypop sighter” (note the position of his first two bowls!!), the home made rink sight boards and Jack in action.



Fundraising Committee

The trading table will again be in operation from opening day for the new season. The committee would like members to think about donations of suitable craft items and good books and always have a quick look when you are in the Club, you never what you might find for yourself or the grandchildren. Thank you all for the great ongoing support.

Jan McDermott

The following interesting piece of EBC history was taken from the original handwritten Secretary's book, it is the minutes of the first meeting of the Lady Associates of the Eltham Bowling Club, held on Friday May 6th 1977.

Eltham

[illegible]

And, finally, on an August trip to Central Australia...



A few views of the Alice Springs Memorial Bowling Club. It was part of the Community owned Memo Club in Todd road which closed recently due to lack of patronage. But the bowling club is still very active with about 70 members and has one of the best looking tift dwarf greens I have seen. It is the only bowling club in town, the nearest neighbouring club is Tennant Creek, 508 km away. Obviously they do not play a regular Pennant competition like we do but they do have an annual competition with Tennant Creek and Katherine (1183 km). Apparently the high wired fence is to keep the members in when selling raffle tickets!

Quote of the month:

“It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it.” – Maurice Switzer

Next Newsletter will be due late September. Please send any items of interest to frankc@aanet.com.au