



Eltham Bowls Club
THE ELTHAM BOWLER
 February 2023 Newsletter



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2022 – 2023 Morrison Kleeman Men’s Club Champion – Joe Bartolo

The final of the Men’s club championship was an interesting game of mainly draw bowling by both players, 2021-22 champion, Joe Bartolo, and two time winner Hugh Robertson.

It was a game of three parts with an excellent start by Joe, then a great fight back by Hugh in the middle ends, and then a very good finish by Joe to win 25 – 15.

Both players rolled quite a mixture of long and short ends but to no real advantage to either player.

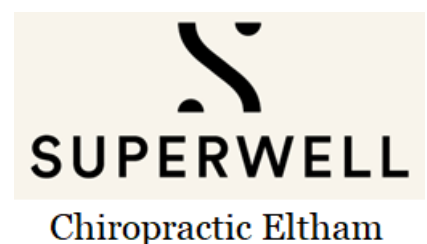
Hughie congratulating Joe after a tough final game.



2022 – 2023 Morrison Kleeman Women’s Club Champion – Helen Smith

The women’s singles final saw last season’s champion, Helen Smith, play a relatively new contender in Chris Jacques. Helen started really well and made the job very difficult for Chris. Chris made a couple of late surges to try to close the gap but Helen was just a little bit too experienced for Chris and ran out a 25-13 winner.

Helen and Chris after the game.



2022 – 2023 Morrison Kleeman Novice Club Champion – Eddie McMillan

The Novice Final was between Eddie McMillan and John Battiston. Eddie bowled very well early and jumped to big lead 18-5. John did have a few good ends early too but with little luck. He then started to put a few winning ends together and got the score back to 18-11 but Eddie was too good and closed the game out 21-11.

Eddie's win makes up for last year when he was the runner up. John will definitely be back next year with a little more experience and be trying very hard again win the trophy.

John and Eddie



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President's Report:

Hi all,

Time sure flies when you are having fun. Another pennant season is drawing to a close. Sides one and five on Saturday and sides one and two on Tuesday have made finals for this season. Good luck to the players involved. Well done to all players who have represented the club this year.

Sadly we lost George Rizzi last month. George was one of our longest serving members and will be sadly missed.

The Council has indicated that they will be removing two of the trees on Susan Street side. They have also installed two No Standing signs to the entrance to the car park. Hopefully this will make leaving the car park a little bit easier visibility wise. They have informed us that they will be policing the area so don't get caught parking there. We have had Tigerturf back to stretch the green and do some more minor repairs.

Last Sunday we held our club singles events for the Men, Woman and Novice. The winners were Joe Bartolo, Helen Smith and Eddie McMillan.

Farewell Paul Hickey, will be missed by all as a member, friend and very good bowler at EBC.




There are a number of club events still to be held so check the notice board and put your name down.

One of our most popular members is leaving the club at the end of the season. After twenty years of calling Eltham home Paul Hickey has packed up his bags and moved to Corowa. He has been travelling back since Christmas to play pennant every weekend which we have appreciated. Paul's happy go nature will be missed around the club. We all wish Paul the best in the next chapter of his life.

The ladies are arranging a Woman's Tournament on the 16th of March so if you not involved why not put a team into play.

Peter Toovey, President EBC



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Saturday Pennant:

The 2022/23 season has been one of the most difficult that I have encountered during my time on the Selection Committee.

The combination of severe weather events, Covid & players exiting the Club have been a challenge to deal with.

It was amazing that we only had to forfeit one match during the season due to player shortages. Special thanks to all members who helped us out acting as emergencies and filling vacancies; sometimes at very short notice.

We have 2 teams playing finals this season which, although not as great a result as we've had in the recent past, is still reasonable given the difficulties mentioned earlier. Good luck to the players participating in the finals. I'm sure you will do the Eltham BC proud.

Finally, I'd like to thank the members of the Committee: Ros, Brent, Peter & Helen for their input this season. Selection is never an exact science and there will always be others who think they know better or who would have done things differently. That is the very nature of team sports. But, I would like to assure members that all decisions made were given the full attention of the Committee in a fair and considered manner.

Greg Lambert
Sat Selection Committee Convenor

STOP PRESS – Sunday February 19th 2023

Our number 1 side, Division 2, win the preliminary final against Hurstbridge's top side by 2 shots, 79 – 77, three rinks up. In a very tight and close finish it all came down to the very last shot of the day. The main score was 78-77 but on the last end of day the Hurstbridge team was holding 3 shots and game, until Wayne Burns last very true upshot moved the jack back to Dave's back bowl and one shot up. Well done Wayne, but well done to the whole side to lead all day and to hang on to the last end.



It's all over on that last end as Wayne wanders down the rink after his winning shot.

Hand shake time, congratulations and commiserations all round.



Side 5 at Bundoora – Saturday Semi-Final



The fifth side finished 4th and travelled to Bundoora on Saturday to play the first semi-final. Bundoora knew their home green well and managed a good early Lead. The Eltham side fought back well though to be only 6 shots down, 36-42 after 39 ends. But Bundoora were too good at home and managed to win 75-47. Well done to the team to get there and put up a good fight. Maybe next season?



Some of the extras - the side was well supported for the game, thanks to all who came along.

The Greens



Both greens in use on a recent Tuesday pennant day. The view from the clubhouse shows the very fine looking grass green. There is still some work to be done but it is in good condition and can only get better from now on. Shane has done a lot of excellent work here and the plan now is to make run even better and become more level overall.

Here we see Shane cleaning up after some light scarifying in the pre-Christmas period. And with him are two of our hardest working volunteer members, a wheelbarrow each, Wayne Wilson and Greg Lambert.



Another hard-working day after the green was hollow tined. A very quick clean-up thanks to Fidel, Wayne Neville, Eddie, Rob, John and Greg is just out of the picture.

January Working Bee Day

Great turn out of our members for the working bee in January, Frank, Bob and John B wheel barrowed many loads of clean sand from near SES gate to the sand bay near the tanks, Carol moved a few barrow loads towards the end too. Peter Osborne trimmed the plants along fence along the creek side of grass green and plants along the SES fence too, Lesley B help pick up all the cuttings. Noel and Carol used the Billy Goat to vacuum the ditches around the synthetic green. Earlier in the week Nathan, Tim and Helen tidied the garden on the northwest corner near the SES main gate. Chris J, Di, Kaye T, Marion, Roslyn and Betsy tidied the carpark garden. Chris & Roslyn broomed the remaining sand from the carpark. Kaye P cleaned the leaves out of ditches around synthetic green to make vacuuming easier. John E and George cleaned the ditches around the grass green. Later in the week Kaye P, Helen and Morris tidied the garden on the north of the synthetic green & Morris trimmed the vine from the fence beside the toilet block and the gate. Great to see so much work being done while the weather was mild. Thank you all very much.



Helen Smith – Gardening group convenor

Midweek Pennant:

At the start of the season the selectors opted for a last minute fifth side due to the number of players available for Tuesday Pennant, not wanting a number of members to miss out on playing every week. But as it turned out we had a record number of unavailable players due to ill health, injuries and Doctors' appointments (Tuesday seems to be a very popular day for specialist doctor's appointments). The selectors would like to thank all the emergencies for filling in, sometimes at very short notice, we would not have been able to field the five sides each week otherwise.

The good news is the first side finished third on ladder and the second side finished second on ladder, both these sides will be playing finals. We wish them all good luck and of course good bowling. **Selectors: Barbara Pavic, Riekie Sloggett, Helen Smith Bruce Irvine, Treenah Wadham**

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Tuesday Night Pennant

This season the club has maintained its night pennant side. Pre-Christmas the side got off to a flying start and went into the break sitting in a great position on the ladder. Recommencing in the new year took a little re-conditioning with the departure of the team's spiritual leader Paul Hickey. Whilst our new novice champion also missed two weeks, suspiciously around the time he won his trophy, the team has stayed competitive and will once again contest finals under lights. A clash with the topside Montmorency will decide our fate of which trophy we chase. It has been great to see some notable fill-ins help out with numbers being quite tight this year, the bonus is that no one will miss out on playing finals under the trademarked "Hickey voting system." Stay tuned for details of the coveted season MVP vote counting to take place at the end of season.

Notable highlights from the 22/23 season

- Scott Jarred teasing those alongside him from the Saturday topside with his absolute dominance week in, week out. There is a petition being drafted to present to your family for season 23/24.
- Gareth arriving before 6.40pm more times than Vicki Williams.
- The hot food spread post game, in ranking order of best club. Heidelberg Golf, Montmorency, Rosanna.
- The 5 minutes of calm, wind free conditions at Heidelberg Golf for the entire season.
- Tim Smith & Dan Henery's lead battle... Chris Jacques beat them both that week.

Dan Henery

NOTICE FROM THE COACHES SUB – COMMITTEE



Pennant may have finished for the season but bowling continues in many forms. The pennant break is a good time for all bowlers to look at their game and see if they can improve on any aspects of bowling. Regular practice over the next few months could be good for your game in the long term. If anyone would like to see a coach for help with this then it is just a matter of asking and organising a convenient time.

We would also like to welcome two new members to the club; Lachie Taylor and Reg Verocchi. May you both have many years of fine bowling at Eltham BC.

Picture shows Reg receiving his new members package recently after passing the initial coaching sessions. Some of the long time members may remember Reg's parents in law who were fine club members for quite a few years; John and Teresa Dal Amico.

Roslyn Camera for the Coaches Sub-Committee

Coaching Videos: This has been put out in earlier newsletters but I'm sure we all have a little more time now to check them out in detail. This link will give you access to all 7 of the Bowls NZ coaching videos. There are 7 short videos, very good, and well worth a look.

Just click on the picture here, learn and enjoy.



Australia Day 2023

The Australia Day special event started off under a light shower but by midday the sun had come out and the bowling was enjoyable. We played three bowl triples and the winners for the day were Rick, Treenah and Chris. It was a very enjoyable day for all.



Nathan, Terry and Wendy determining the shots with Lesley watching on.

A couple of leisurely bowlers in Wayne and Rick.



Jan obviously enjoying the day.

Chris, Jenny and Treenah very attentive at the head.

And the star of the show, organiser extraordinaire (with help from Betsy and Kaye) is Maureen!!



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Match Committee

The following table shows all the championship events for the rest of the season. More details will be in the 2022-2023 handbook. Please mark these in your diary/calendar. All the entry sheets are now up *on the Championship board at the back left side of the main room.*

SEASON	2022-2023	MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS	WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS	MIXED CHAMPIONSHIPS
Thursday	FEB 23 rd			OVER 65'S SINGLES FINAL
Sunday	FEB 26TH			PRESIDENT'S TROPHY
Saturday	MAR 4TH	CENTRY H'CAP ROUND 1		
Sunday	MAR 5TH	CENTRY H'CAP ROUND 2	CENTURY H'CAP ROUND 1	
Saturday	MAR 11TH	CENTRY H'CAP ROUND 3	CENTURY H'CAP ROUND 2	
Monday	MAR 13th	SPECIAL EVENT		
Saturday	MAR 18TH	CENTURY SEMI FINALS	CENTURY SEMI FINALS	
Sunday	MAR 19TH	CENTURY H'CAP FINAL	CENTURY FINAL	
Saturday	APRIL 1ST	TRIPLES ROUND 1 & 2	TRIPLES ROUNDS 1 & 2	
Sunday	APRIL 2ND	TRIPLES Semi's & final	TRIPLES Semi's & final	
Saturday	APRIL 8TH	SPECIAL EVENT		
Monday	APRIL 10TH			MIXED TRIPLES all day event
Sunday	APRIL 16TH			MIXED SINGLES all day event
Tuesday	APRIL 25TH	SPECIAL EVENT		

Ros Camera – Match Committee Coordinator

*Try Bowls Days at the
Eltham Bowls Club*

Family, friends, neighbours....

Friday evenings, February 10th and 24th, 5:30-7:30pm
Please come along with anyone and all who may be interested in giving bowls a go. Sausage sizzle or pizzas, free soft drinks, tea and coffee.
All bowls and coaching provided.

For more details or information: Frank Camera 0427 964 254

Still another Try Bowls Day organised for all members to bring along a family member or two, friend, or neighbour. We need the members and bowlers to keep our club viable, friendly and passionate about our bowls.

Please consider bringing along anyone who may be, even just a little, interested. We know it is a great game and a very keen and friendly club.

A Tribute to George Rizzi

The following tribute was read out at George's funeral on behalf of all members of bowls club.



All members of the Eltham Bowling and many attending today would like to acknowledge the sad and sudden passing of George after his last Pennant Game on Saturday 14th January 2023

It has been a very sad time for the club to accept, teams have taken a minute of silence before the latest games to remember George as one of us.

During his 34 years at the club George made many friends and was a great example of a friendly and welcoming member that makes a good club. He served the club very well in many positions;

- Saturday Selection Committee 3 years
- Tuesday Selection Committee 5 years
- RVBA Committee 2 years

Just two weeks ago George was at a working bee on the grass green helping with preparations for Pennant to restart after the Christmas break.

George's playing record includes a magnificent total of **743** Pennant games, including Night Pennant and also winning Mixed Fours, Men's Triples and a Vice President's Singles Championship.

He was very proud of his Italian heritage and shared many a story of his past, his love of polenta and his singing in the Italian choir in recent years.

He also loved to spoil the ladies with his magnificent 'MR LINCOLN' roses each year,

He would bring a bunch on a Tuesday to cheer up the Selection Committee.

George would always get back into bowling after anything held him back for a while. He was very good at mentoring and encouraging the newer bowlers who were learning the game.



Farewell to you George, you have been a gentleman and well respected, loyal and long time member at Eltham Bowling Club.

Roslyn and Frank Camera

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A note from the Editor:

A newsletter can only be as good as the contributions. I hope you like the setup and feel you could contribute something of value and interest to other club members. Please consider this, especially if you are a committee coordinator but all members are invited to contribute. I will include any relevant, interesting, informative, helpful notes, particularly on bowls but not necessarily if you think it will be of value to all. Any contributions, comments, questions, etc. email me at frankco1@tpg.com.au

Frank Camera