



CITY OF MELBOURNE BOWLS CLUB INC. NEWSLETTER



Message from the Chair

Christmas is here again, and it seems like it was only the other day that we were opening the greens. How time flies when there are so many enjoyable days at the club. We have had a wonderful season so far, and a series of great events.

It is wonderful to be part of a club that so successfully balances the importance of club spirit and enjoyment of getting together to bowl with competitiveness in the teams. I would like to thank the skips in the Division 7 side in particular for their contributions to club spirit and support for newer bowlers. Without experienced and supportive bowlers in Division 7 the club would not be able to provide a welcoming and supportive place for new bowlers joining the Pennant teams.

I think that we can all agree that the Selectors have done a great job this year, as is demonstrated by the high rankings of all of the teams on the ladders. As we all know the selectors have the hardest job in the club as there will always be differences of opinion as to the best arrangement for teams. Hats off to the members who have taken on the role and done it so well this year!

There are so many others who have contributed so much time to running the club that I can't name them all here. Particular thanks needs to go to Maddie, Kaz, and Renee who have committed so much time to keeping the club running through the staffing changes.

I hope all members have a great Christmas. I am sure that we will see most members at the New Year's celebration at the club, but for those unable to make it have a great New Year. I look forward to bowling with everyone in 2016.

Grant Riethmuller

Match Committee Report

What a great end to 2015. So far a number of club competitions have come to an end and a number of competitions still to be started. So far all games have been played to a high standard and gamesmanship, and more importantly they have been enjoyable for the bowlers and the spectators. On the 17th December came the conclusion of both the Open Singles and the Women's Championship. There was a good turn out to watch ending with a drink and a pizza.

The Open final saw Butch (Gerard) Reed pitted against Robert Stoney, two new members into their first COMBC final. After a riveting start and middle phase, Butch was able to stem off the advances of Robert's powerful and delicate touches. Well done to both and congratulations to Butch for being the victor.

The Women's final saw up and coming star, Sophia Jing, against the powerful and experienced Hazel Gabriel. Again this was a riveting match to watch with Hazel emerging as the winner. Well done Hazel and Sophia.

Good luck to the above winners in the Victorian finals.



The last match to complete this year was the Open Pairs final. This finished on Sunday 20th December. In the final this year were current champs Gary Dowling and Jim Pallister looking very menacing in all their qualifying rounds. Their opponents were, David Loader, previous runner up in the open Singles and Russell King a previous runner up in the Open Pairs. The match started out in brilliant sunlight but soon deteriorated into heavy showers. However the match was able to come to an end with the victors being David and Russell.

Thank you to all members supporting these competitions. Yet to complete are the Novice singles and Mixed Pairs. Completion will be early 2016. Please see the information board and Team App for further details. The Triples competition will be an all day event and will be held on the 21st February 2016. More information will be sent out nearer the time. Watch this space for more information regarding ANZAC day activities.

Have a great break and see you next year.



Board Report

The Board met on 26th November and on 16th December. Some key items of interest included:

Opening Hours

The Board agreed to the following opening hours over the festive season:

- Thursday 24 December – open for members
- Friday December 25th (Public Holiday) – CLOSED
- Saturday December 26th (Public Holiday) – CLOSED
- Sunday December 27th – CLOSED
- Monday December 28th (Public Holiday) - CLOSED
- Friday January 1st (Public Holiday) – CLOSED
- Saturday January 2nd – CLOSED (unless an event is booked)
- Sunday January 3rd – CLOSED (unless an event is booked)

On the days the club is closed a qualified volunteer may open the bar and advise members via Team App.

Sunday 31st January 2016

The Board agreed in principle to hold a Beer, Bowls and BBQ event, with more information to come. Keep an eye on Team App for this one!

Greens

As members will know, and as explained in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter, there are concerns about the condition of our greens. The Board appreciates the significant efforts to improve both greens, unfortunately with limited success to date.

The treatment regime recommended by the expert consultant on the grass green will be rigorously followed, including use of mains water rather than our tank water. Follow up is continuing

on the carpet green to ensure this work is completed to the agreed standard, as well as on the recent soil tests and the resulting report.

The greens will be further considered and discussed with Council early in 2016.

150th celebrations

The Board discussed the outcomes from the workshop held with members in November and the feedback provided through the recent member survey and agreed the following:

- the 150th will be celebrated across the whole of 2016, from 1st January to 31st December 2016
- there will be a series of bowls and social events as well as physical symbols to mark the year, memorabilia and reconnection with past members and families
- festivities will commence on New Year's Eve with a special cake, balloons and some announcements about the events through the year
- the birthday on Thursday 18th August 2016 will be a members' event held at the Club
- there will be a "Back to CoMBC" ball at an external venue on Saturday 20th August 2016, with invitees to include current members, former members, descendants of former members, other clubs with whom CoMBC has worked closely, relevant current and former City of Melbourne Councillors and staff and Bowls Victoria representatives.

The 150th celebrations will be coordinated by a single committee. We invite members interested in joining the committee to talk to Madeleine Scully or email secretary@citybowls.net.au

Message from the Treasurer

Welcome to our new staff member to join the team at CoMBC.

We have hired a new book keeper who started with the club on Wednesday December 16th.

Her name is Jane Zymaris and she will be working with us on a part time basis. She comes to us with a wealth of experience. Currently she is working part time with her husband in their IT business and part time for Early Years. Jane is a registered Business Activity Statement agent and also holds a Certificate 4 in Financial Services (Bookkeeping).

Until Jane settles in could all financial queries please be sent to treasurer@citybowls.net

Renee Simpson

Pennant Bowls Update

Saturday Pennant

A great start to the season and we are very well placed to mean business. We are just a little more than half way through the season and the selectors are delighted with the progress that we have made. The last few weeks have been a bit of a blow on our holding within the ladder. Nevertheless this is only a temporary setback now that a number of bowlers will be available to play for the rest of the season.

Alas the final game of the year prior to the holiday breakup was cancelled due to very hot weather conditions. All teams in the Saturday pennant are still in with a very good chance of making the finals. Division 4 is sitting in 1st place with 121 points, a 3 point lead over Melton in 2nd place with 118 points and a 14 point lead over Werribee sitting in 3rd with 114 points.

Division 6, currently, is sitting in 4th position with a joint score of 99 points with Altona. Above us are Point Cook Village in 1st place with 130 points, Hoppers in 2nd place with 108 points and St Albans in 3rd place with 100. All still very close.

Division 7, currently, is sitting in 5th place with 82 points. Darebin City are 1st with 136 points, Brunswick in 2nd with 92 points, Kingsbury in 3rd with 90 points and Preston – Reservoir in 4th with 86. Again this is still very close between 2nd and 5th place and all to play for. Many thanks to all those members who have supported division 7 which enabled us to field a team despite having a number of weeks with vacant slots. Well done last week to Terry Banfield and his team winning with a 36 point margin.

The selectors do encourage all members to make themselves available for the last 7 matches. We are all in with a shouting chance of the play offs. Have a great break and see you next year.

Don't forget practice on Tuesday night. Greg is having a holiday break but will resume coaching on the 14th January.

The Selectors

Tuesday Night Pennant

This season, thanks to the efforts of John McLaren, (CoMBC) entered teams in Divisions 3 and 4 of the Northern Gateway Tuesday Night Pennant Competition.

The Division 3 team of Kaz Rothwell, Deb Dowling, Gay Edgecombe, Adam Gason, Colin Ham, Russell King and John McLaren is currently in third position on the ladder at the Christmas break. The Division 4 team of Sophia Jing, Dennis Connell, Peter Macdonald, James Larmour-Reid, Jeff Moore, Trevor Wright and Gary Dowling is in second position on percentage.

The Night Pennant Competition resumes on Tuesday 19 Jan 16 with both the CoMBC Division 3 and 4 teams playing Alphington at Alphington.

If you interested in playing night pennant or able to fill in on occasions speak to the Division 3 and 4 Team Managers John McLaren and Gary Dowling

Tuesday Daytime Pennant

The Tuesday Pennant side playing in Division 2 has acquitted itself admirably which was only to be expected after winning flags in the last two years. The win loss ratio at the break stands at 8/3 and stands us in good stead to have a crack at Division 1 and see what all the fuss is about. The last game saw CoMBC rout the pretenders from Melton to the tune of 53 shots. They came to town harboring the delusion that they could usurp 2nd spot on the ladder from the "Dirty Dozen" but were humiliated and may not recover from such mental scarring. The first game back from Christmas festivities sees the "Dozen" travel to the badlands of Deer Park to do battle with the ladder leaders. It will be a good pointer as to where we stand.

Jack Ainsaar, Team Manager

Greens Update

Mansbridge Carpet Green

We are still awaiting the return of Sportcrete to complete their restorative work on the green. The green's performance, despite being cleared by BV, remains unsatisfactory.

The report on the geotechnical testing of the Dales carpet green has been received and we have arranged a meeting with Civil Test's Engineer Patrick Oai, Board members, greenkeeper Darren Walls and myself in the new year to discuss the report and its recommendations.

Mills Grass Green

The green was solid tynd on 1st December following the recommendation of agronomist Andrew Peart. This followed a soil report showing elevated levels of sulphur and sodium. The green has now been treated with calcium, magnesium, potassium and phosphorus to counteract these levels. The green will be treated with a "fat boy" roller on 22nd December. This is a cylindrical barbed roller that will level the bumps in the surface. This will be followed by scarifying and top dressing at the end of the season. Although the sulphur and sodium levels are reducing, it is difficult to reduce them further when the green is watered by water recycled through the green. Tests have also shown, not surprisingly, that the tank water is similarly affected with higher than acceptable sulphur and sodium levels. Currently there is no way to bypass the tank and water the green with fresh untainted mains water. The Board has approved a bypass to the mains to be installed on 4th January.

With recent heat and rain the green has shown improvement and has been timed at 13.5 seconds. Recent wins by the midweek pennant side over Melton and the Division 7 side over undefeated Darebin have shown what an advantage this green can be to us. After the "fat boy" treatment the green will be available for bowling the next day. We encourage you all to practice on the grass green and get used to it before the resumption of pennant on 16th January 2016.

Dick Dowling, Greens Director

Christmas Celebrations

On Sunday 13th December members and their guests came together to celebrate Christmas. The decorations provided by the Social Committee helped set the scene for a very festive occasion. Spitting Image tempted our taste buds with delicious Christmas fare. It was noted that one guest couldn't help themselves and had to try some of every dessert. Brave entertained us all with their melodic tones. It was a great event with \$5 from every guest going to Berry Street – a worthwhile charity that believes every child should have a good childhood.



New Year's Eve Celebrations at CoMBC

Come and see in 2016 at the City of Melbourne Bowls Club. It is a great opportunity to share food, stories and enjoy the fireworks display.

Time - 7pm until 2am

Numbers - CoMBC members + up to two guests per member

RSVP - members are asked to RSVP on Team App

Cost - there is no entrance fee for the event

What to bring - sweet or savoury finger food to share

Bar opening hours -7pm until 2am.

Other information - to reduce mess the barbeques won't be used on the night

What a sensational way to begin our 150th celebrations.

Social Committee

Thursday Night Meals

December proved to be a month of social overload and overindulgence. There was no meal on the 10th because of two other club eating binges that week. On the 17th it was decided that Dick would order takeaway pizzas so that diners could simultaneously nibble away and watch the singles finals. We will have recovered by 17th January when Madge kicks off in the new season finishing with the Larmour-Reids on the 25th February. Alas they will not be doing their tasty paella this year. Please, members, come and support us, and you are welcome to bring your friends, your sisters, your cousins and your aunts.

Russell King



MOVE with Bowls?

Arthritis Victoria has entered into an exciting new partnership with Bowls Victoria, which will run until November 2018.

MOVE with Bowls is a three year partnership between Bowls Victoria and Arthritis and Osteoporosis Victoria to encourage current and future bowlers to stay fit, healthy and enjoying the great game of bowls. It also recognizes Arthritis and Osteoporosis Victoria as the official charity partner of Bowls Victoria.

We appreciate that many people who play bowls will have, or may develop these conditions and may be failing to get the most out their sport due to issues with pain, mobility and being able to move around with agility. MOVE with Bowls is here to help and the City of Melbourne Bowls Club has joined the program - more information to follow.



Season's Greetings from the Newsletter Team (Lynne, Madge and Steve).

The next newsletter will be published in February 2016, any contributions are welcome.

newsletter@citybowls.net

Member Survey Results

Finally, thank you to all those who completed the recent Member Survey. Your feedback is valued and will be acted on, as set out below.

The consolidated feedback is attached to this newsletter for the information of all members. It should be noted that for publication purposes we have removed a small number of comments which reference a particular member or might identify the author.

When completing the survey, a number of members indicated they would like the opportunity to meet with the Board to discuss their comments. The Board fully supports and encourages this direct engagement. James Larmour-Reid will be in contact with those members in January to discuss their feedback and other issues in more detail and to arrange suitable times for meetings with the Board.

The Board will provide all relevant feedback to the respective committees to progress and action. In addition, Board Members will be allocated the survey responses applicable to their individual Board portfolios to action.

The Board will also prepare a Discussion Paper on issues where there are diverse views. This will be circulated to members in January and discussed at a workshop scheduled soon thereafter.

Do you have any views on the vision of the Board should have for future development of the Club?

Parking

- Parking is obviously an issue for visiting teams.
- Future car parking options.
- Maintenance and care of the grass green is my major concern.

Increase Membership / Bowlers

- Increasing membership
- Improvement of bowlers in Pennant
- More full members with goal to field more teams and in higher Divisions
- Aim to field a maximum of 5 Saturday Pennant teams
- Bring in new members

Strategic Vision / Budgets

- Budgets
- Strategic Plan – this plan should be roadmap for the future – it needs to be a live document subject to regular review. Financial governance and trading performance
- Give members opportunities to be involved in updating vision and setting direction
- I'll leave the vision to the Board, but I would advise that the vision be explicit and made explicit so that everyone knows what it is. The Constitution sets out quite clearly what the purpose of the club is and the ancillary purposes that would be a good starting point.
- The vision of the Board appears to be positive and progressive
- Time to start moving forward

Community

- Being a good community citizen, consider a charity to support etc
- Develop better social interaction in local community
- Building relationships with Council and local community groups
- To become the pre-eminent bowling club and community facility in central Melbourne

Negative

- I cannot see the current Board having any vision for this club moving forward at this point.

Green

- Green quality must be first priority as it is now very substandard
- Increase revenue from functions etc to ensure greens can be brought up to accepted quality and then maintained.

Communication

- It would be good for the Board to have an official feedback loop

from its members. This could be a regular email about an issue that the Board is working on, the reason and possible way forward. Members don't always feel included (i.e. consulted) at this level of corporate decision making. Although minutes are circulated this is often takes too long for flows of information.

- Be open minded
- Become more professional

Club Definition

- To operate as a members' club and not 'an old boys club'
- Ensure the club is either a 'social' club or a bowls competitive club and focus on that aspect
- Anything to help promote the game and the club is a good thing
- Make some hard decisions that will benefit the club long term.

Other

- Set rules, regulations, have members stick with the rules relating to locker rooms, i.e. bags only can be placed in high open shelving if they cannot be accommodated in the member's locker. Painting has been carried out by volunteers but already there are marks on the walls.
- Investigate possible lease cottage in Flagstaff Gardens.
- With all the people that use Flagstaff Gardens maybe the prospect of opening a café ... this might get people that stop to watch come in spend some money and find out what a friendly club we are.
- Keep up the good work

Any specific suggestions, comments or concerns regarding:

The current Club Constitution

- Tidy it up / various clauses contradict each other / don't match
- Set up a group and consultation process in two years time
- Constitutions should never be used to diminish the prime responsibility of Boards or Committees to ensure the harmonious functioning of the club
- Not allowing staff members to play bowls for our club should be taken out.
- Allow junior memberships

Selection

- Need to look closely at selection to ensure the best side is always picked, not just pick club favourites to fill positions
- There are bowlers who are not up to the highest standard bowling in the highest division and regardless of loyalty, friendship or years of membership, this practice should end. The best bowlers should be in the top division although can see how it is important to have experienced Skips in all divisions.

Bowls Committee

Tournaments

- Some tournaments would be good and inter club competitions
- Organise a tournament.

Clarification

- Definition of where the Bowls Committee roles start and end
- As a group made up of interested parties they need to stick to their remit. The separation between the Bowls Committee and the Board is significant and needs to be maintained.
- The relationship of the Bowls Committee to the Board should be clarified

Communication

- Focus on bowls and building team spirit
- Get more involved in matters affecting bowls, the greens and Club Coach
- Issue their Minutes to the club members
- Advise competing clubs on economical parking, including free parking on weekends

Other

- Set goals for three years
- Doing a great job (x2)
- Good to see that each member is allocated a portfolio

Social Committee

Positive comments

- Excellent at putting on events
- It is a very positive Committee
- Are supported
- Doing a good job (x3)
- I have felt that they have welcomed any support, comments and ideas
- Happy to support functions whenever possible

New Events

- Could perhaps reintroduce the members dinners at restaurants and broaden focus to include things like interest groups and some smaller events with a specific focus.
 - Work with the Club Manager to hold monthly or six weekly functions – look at revisiting holding a St Patrick's Day function
 - Bring on the functions!
 - Market the facility to all the hotels within the CBD
 - Help the Bowls Committee organise a bowls tournament
- ### Negative
- Never hear from them
 - No idea who is on the social committee but I do think there are far too many committees.

Other

- Needs to be decided if the Committee exists purely as helpers towards current events or if they are also to suggest new events
- Needs to be more proactive to include all the members, at the moment it is just an events committee taking care of 4 events
- With the acceptance of budgeting, they will become stronger.
- Ensure membership and funds are priorities

150th Birthday Celebration Committee

- No (x5) to the question “**Any specific suggestions, comments or concerns regarding**”

Timing

- Need to get moving on this
- Time is ticking!! – need to advise and consult with members
- We really need to be moving on this now as it is almost 2016.

Suggestions

- This is most important as such a celebration only happens once in our lifetime. This should be celebrated over the entire year with many events and functions. There should be a big dinner dance or back to celebrate at the Melbourne Town Hall. Of course the 18 August party at the club. Also a big tournament on ANZAC Day. We can examine what Melbourne and St Kilda have done and adopt the best ideas from them.
- As the event is less than a year away, any big venues will be starting to book out. I think that the Town Hall would be a suitable venue.
- Also how has the re-engagement with former members and descendants of former members progressed?
- St Kilda had a great 150th. The theme was Dress for Success and there was a red carpet on arrival. The band was called The Party Animals and they were brilliant (one of the members also a lawn bowler). It would be good to do something with our club that is memorable and a bit different to the other events we have held at the club.
- Run a bowls tournament to celebrate 150th
- Get Council resources, money and marketing to complement
- New shirts for the 150th

- Such a big event for the club should have more publicity and flows of information updates. I certainly feel that this event should make a statement and that the Board does not limit funds whilst the club is in a period of downward economic activity. Entertainment should be from a professional with a good track record, not just a cabaret lounge singer.
- Let other clubs in the area know?

Other

- Looking forward to it – happy to help out at the time
- Don't know what date this event is nor who is on the Committee for the event
- Although there is a subcommittee looking at this area so far it is difficult to actually understand who is involved and what is being done.

Club Employees

- No (x4) to the question “**Any specific suggestions, comments or concerns regarding**”

Socialising / Bowling

- Should be allowed to socialise with members when not working
- Should be eligible to play bowls for us (x2)
- I think the Board needs to look at appropriate strategies to include the employees in a more social way following their hours worked. Although they are precluded to join in bowls I do feel that they are a good asset and compliment the members

Uniform

- Club uniform
 - Standard uniform would be nice
- ### Professionalism
- Set high expectations. New manager is a good start.
 - Very slack. Should have their designated duties enforced, not just sit at bar and serve
 - Need to be more professional (x3)
 - Ensure they have jobs to do rather than simply sitting around during times when there is not a lot of activity
 - Emphasis should be placed on customer service

Positive comments

- Always found them helpful and courteous
- Are always friendly at the job
- All good. New manager pleasant and excellent that he is full time
- We have some great employees
- They are great
- Amazing people
- All current employees are likeable and seem to be doing their jobs every time I am in the building.

Other

- Board needs to support the Manager
- I agree with arm's length view of employees
- Should never be members.
- The bar staff do need some more certainty around hours as coming in for 2 hour shifts is not financially rewarding

The Club's buddy system for new bowlers

- No (x4) to the question “**Any specific suggestions, comments or concerns regarding**”

Positive comments

- Good idea that seems to work well
- Good system
- Concept is great (x2)
- Brilliant and fully supported (x2)
- Believe it works well
- Is working good with the ones that take it up

Promoting idea

- Did not know it was in operation (x4)
- Needs to be more widely promoted
- Follow up on new members appears to be flawed
- Need to push
- I don't really know what it is (x2)

Other

- My buddy was very busy, but I am finding my way
- Doesn't seem to be working
- Have never experienced it
- Need to convert new bowlers to Pennant bowlers
- Use the buddy system with a few events in house
- There does seem to be some delay in information to new bowlers, organising an introduction.
- Noticed that a number of current bowlers are not always aware of the need to make new members welcomed in terms of the bowling. It would be good for them to join in the teams that are having a game etc.

Ways we could attract new members

Sundays

- Barefoot free Sunday bowls (x4), member's prices and band Advertise / Social Media / Website
- Have a speel for Corporate, bare foot bowlers etc to sell them the idea to join and the benefits they will get
- More use of social media (x4)
- Upgrade web site / internet (x3)
- Advertising in the local newspapers (x2) (through Shane Scanlan)
- Letterboxing
- A flyer didn't work
- Advertise on radio (x2)
- Advertise
- Word of mouth by members
- Twitter should be up and running.
- Publicity is the key
- Try Bowls Day
- Trybowls Day (x4) / Have a Go day

Other

- Walk across and build relationship with the nearby tennis and netball players and invite them to join our club
- Any person at all who comes in and wants to try out bowls should be able to do so totally free of charge.
- If not members certainly paying visitors – tourists using venue
- Events held in season
- Host a major tournament annually
- Really push the Thursday dinner as a selling point to attract new members and endeavour to have an inclusive welcoming group
- Use 150th celebrations as the foundation for a series of events
- The wine nights and dinners are a brilliant reason to get local people in
- The challenge is make it desirable to be a member. You can only go so far on 1970s bar prices. We don't want to be seen as desperate, rather desirable. Everyone loves exclusivity regardless how exclusive it is.

Negative

- Look after the ones we have
- The current Board is driving members away.

Do you know the location of the club defibrillator and how to use it?

- Yes and No (x9)
- Yes and Yes (x13)
- No (x3)

Comments

- I understand it tells you what to do
- I strongly recommend that at an event where a significant members are present a mock demonstration of its use and

“what to do generally” followed by a question & answer (x2)

Do you have any comments on the club uniform and would you like any changes?

Change fabric

- Look for better / lighter fabric (x7)
- The tshirts should be 100% polyester and UV protected
- Cotton please

Design – leave as is

- I like the way it is. (x8)
- Not fair on new members to have to pay for a new uniform after purchasing their current one
- Believe the club uniform symbolises the location of the club ideally and generally receive positive comments from other clubs – no change

Change

- Design (x3)
 - The colours are fine but the shirt print is gaudy. I would like to see a simplified shirt and an improved logo
 - I think that the look of the club uniforms needs a drastic revision, not just the design but also the colours used. I personally feel that our current uniform makes us look like paupers.
 - I have a new design that is quite good
- #### 150th
- I would like to see a shirt or patch which would commemorate the 150th / established in 1866 (x4)
 - It would be a wasted opportunity if we didn't design a new shirt for the 150th. Something stylish with our logo. Again aiming for desirability without sponsors logos. Predominately white (can we do a white BA logo) and the 150th logo on the other breast.

Other

- I have not yet got any club uniform and cannot quite answer that
- Am comfortable with current uniform
- Am told the cut of the female clothing is unsatisfactory (male cut is fine)
- Don't change the jackets or trousers at this point
- I prefer the white pants
- I like the mostly white
- The uniform is pretty ugly in my opinion but honestly I am not a fashionista so don't really care that much that I could be bothered making a suggestion

Would you be interested in participating in club house activities next winter:

(a) Cards

- Yes (x8)
- Maybe (x3)
- No (x9)

(b) Darts

- Yes (x9)
- Maybe (x2)
- No (x7)

(c) Indoor Carpet bowls

- Yes (x8)
- Maybe (x5)
- No (x5)

(d) Other

- Regular trivia
- Wine tasting
- Billiards
- Table Tennis (x2)
- Pool (x4)
- Board games (x2)
- Dinners
- Bingo
- Book club
- Film club

As a general feedback, please comment on:

How supportive and welcoming have you found our Club

Positive

- Excellent
- Very good (x3)
- Fairly good
- In general all are very friendly members
- Very supportive and welcoming once you know some people (x3)
- I think the club is very welcoming
- Extremely welcoming
- Pretty good
- Good
- Quite friendly and welcoming by a lot of the members
- As an irregular social member, cannot fault the welcome
- Very, I'm travelling 300km to play
- It's a great club with some awesome people
- The club is very welcoming
- Welcoming from the younger contingent
- 10/10

Negative

- Can do more
- It's not as welcoming as it once was.
- There are a group of people that only play bowls with each other and totally ignore new bowlers (x3)
- Some are so ingrained in their social activities they do not go out of their way to welcome new members
- Not so much from the older members but I guess that's to be expected anywhere really

Would you recommend club membership to a friend or colleague

- Yes (x21)
- No (x4)
- Not under the directorship of the current Board
- Not if a serious bowler because of the poor quality of the greens generally
- Not unless members are more welcoming

What are your main reasons for being a club member

Social

- The friendships, especially with people you would not otherwise meet
- Social interaction (x10)
- People (x3)
- Camaraderie (x2)
- Friendly, diverse company
- Friendliness of the team
- Wide range of social events
- Have a beer with other members
- Competition / bowls
- Competition (x10)
- To get to know the game (x4)
- Be more active
- Learning the basics of social bowls

Location

- Location to where I live / work (x4)
- Pleasant environment
- Nice drinking location
- Excellent venue, beautiful location
- Facilities on offer

Other

- I would like to think the club is for its members but it is quite clear the white collar brigade have their own vested interest in having an elitist club. The average members don't have the elitism and therefore don't need to be told about the running of the club.
- I thought the club would be a friendly welcoming place but I was wrong

- It is my club
- Most members want to get involved in some way or another which promotes a positive atmosphere. Bar staff are great and pricing reasonable (although currently not as good as before). I actually drink far less since the in proportional increase in price.

Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the club?

- The Board is doing a great job in very difficult circumstances. Members should concentrate on what they can do to help the club rather than complaining about what "they" are not doing / should be doing
- Be honest and open to all members, not just the select few. We are all members and have a right to know what happens in the Boardroom and within club operations
- The club needs to look at having light catering available for sale e.g. party pies, toasted sandwiches, rolls etc. I am not sure that we have the right furniture / internal layout for members understanding the space restrictions, outside heaters, setup a portable undercover outside bar on the Dudley Street side for temporary use by barefoot bowls, more umbrellas, erect shade and seating for bowlers between both greens, approach Council to gain approval for discrete signage front entrance and rear fence promoting the club, need more outdoor furniture, current office configuration is not ideal, office staff training, overhaul club IT and operating systems, build in redundancy across all our business in terms of staff systems and process knowledge, finally I think the club has recruited extremely well in the new Club Manager Zac, the Board and club members really now need to give him our total support to move the club's commercial operations forward and to do this he needs well trained competent and committed employees and to be able to have total control of all matters affecting the bar, bookings etc
- Existing members appear to be only interested in members who bowl; I have a lower back problem and cannot bowl. I would love to play pool but the committee refuse to install a pool table
- The Thursday dinners are a great initiative. Very enjoyable, good value
- I was very impressed by the way our past Secretary organised some of the areas around the Club
- There has been an increase of a bad odour in the club office area when you open up. I am of the opinion that the increase is due to closing off duct area in entrance from rear of club. This could be overcome by installing a wind driven extraction fan. There is also a build up of heat in this area which flows into cub and as the air conditioning system is not working, this is not good when a crowd is present.
- Also I have heard that sun protection barriers could be placed on the central pathway. The main water supply pipe to the building runs under this path and also there is electrical cabling to light towers. You can find them under the square pits at each end of the path. On the eastern end, the gas supply pipe runs along there somewhere and am sure if you drilled in this area you would find it.
- A system is needed for guests to functions needing to enter closed gate
- Yes, the Board really needs to get down and do things and not be too frightened to make decisions. Ensure the manager is clear to his responsibilities and gets the full support and guidance of the Board.
- There will always be dissension in clubs re selection / personalities / duties etc that need to be effectively managed to stop them becoming divisive.

