



CITY OF MELBOURNE BOWLS CLUB INC.

# NEWSLETTER

January 2015



## Message from the Chair of the Board

Hello members and welcome to the first newsletter for 2015. I hope that you all enjoyed a break over the Christmas and New Year period. From all reports the club New Year's Eve party was better than ever. Sadly this old chairman was tucked up in bed, perhaps next year.

With the season drawing to a close we are in finals contention for both our first and second sides. With some winnable games coming up it may come down to the final games and points will be vital. Our third side is in a tough division with both Palm Lake and Point Cook Village both fielding strong sides for the first time and a resurgent St Albans getting wins is difficult. Developing bowlers in a full strength side was always a key objective for this team. So let us play the remaining matches with confidence and in the good spirit that lawn bowls expects of us.

Turning to matters off the green, it was with great sense of loss that we received Martin Rule's resignation. Martin joined us 4 years ago as our first Club Manager and did an enormous amount of work in developing our staff and presenting a positive and professional image. Nothing was ever too much trouble and the amazing contacts he brought with him enabled us to have functions like the wine dinner. He could also drive a hard bargain on prices and for these and the myriad of skills he has, on behalf of you all I wish Martin the very best in his future endeavours. Apparently work on the Gold Coast beckons in the short term.

The club has lost 4 members (or former members) in a very short space of time. All of them characters in their own individual ways and all who used their talents in different ways to support the club. Some of you may not have known them and so we will send an addendum after this newsletter to give you a hint of their character. I honour and respect their achievements.

There is a special quality to a club, a reason that you each joined. It isn't just the wonderful location, for there are many bowls clubs not too distant, nor is it particularly the game of bowls for other sports are readily available to us. Certainly the 1973 prices may have tempted you in, but that does not provide an answer. I believe that comradeship is what binds us together, for nothing else clearly defines us, not age, nor religion, nor gender and not talent. So when you come to the club or when you talk to people I would like to you reflect on this. Unwarranted criticism, missing personal possessions, these aren't the actions of people seeking comradeship. To quote from 'Our Game'

While games we've won and feats we've done  
Remembrance will recall,  
The friendships made upon the Green  
Are dearer than them all.

### Non-smoking area proposed

A recommendation was put by the Bowls Committee that the club introduce a smoke free area. Under Bowls Victoria policy no smoking is allowed on the greens (nor at under age events or BV championship events). Under Victorian Law the clubhouse must be smoke free. Finally under council regulations no smoking is allowed within 10 metres of a children's play area, including the area in the Flagstaff Gardens.



**NO SMOKING**

Bearing all of these regulations in mind and being mindful that additional restrictions are foreshadowed by the council amongst others, it might be prudent to act now and introduce an area that is smoke free, whilst preserving an area that smokers can light up. After consideration of the areas that we considered could reasonably be designated smoke free, it was proposed that the area from the entrance gate to a point 1 metre after the western end of the building could be designated smoke free. This would preserve an undercover area for smokers at the western end.

Our thinking was that smoking near the gate may be too close to the playground and contravene, or at least irritate the council. Preserving an entrance way that is smoke free allows children, guests and anyone who is allergic to cigarette smoke to enter and leave the club with a minimum of exposure. By having the cut off point 1 metre after the end of the building would also mean that smoke is less likely to enter the building via any of the doors. Smoking is currently more prevalent at the western end and so this restriction would be less disruptive to members.

The Board resolved to provide this proposal to members for their feedback and comments with a view to making the final decision at the February meeting. If you wish to comment please email [info@citybowls.org](mailto:info@citybowls.org) before the February 13th and we will consider all feedback. Following the Bowls Committee recommendation it is our intention to designate an area as smoke free so that all members and guests who do not wish to be in a smoky environment can also enjoy their time at the club.

Flagstaff Gardens, Dudley Street, West Melbourne, 3003  
T: 8329 0211 | E: [info@citybowls.net](mailto:info@citybowls.net) | [www.citybowls.com](http://www.citybowls.com)

The Bowls Committee has asked me to write to you all with an update on progress of the Mills Green. I met with representatives from Premier Turf, the Council and Andrew Peart the agronomist on January 8th. The council had requested soil analysis and a survey of the levels of the green and we discussed the results. Generally they were positive and the recommendation was to apply some specified fertiliser and to continue to cut the green.

One recommendation was to scarify the green to remove some of the grass. This is a good sign as an over abundance of grass is more positive than a lack of grass. The survey detected several low spots in the green and these were generally around the edges. This week there should be some soil added to address this. A second treatment for a few extra low spots on the edges will occur in about a fortnight. I suggested to Premier Turf and the Council that they use the contractor recommended by our greenkeeper Darren to undertake the work and they have agreed. You will notice some work on the green in the next fortnight.

Finally the ditch rubber will shortly be installed and subsequently the sand in the ditches. Within the next 4 weeks it will look and feel much more like a bowling green. Whilst it isn't completed I would like to thank Darren for his constant input and support in the design and construction of the green, he was willing to listen to alternatives whilst advocating for designs based on his experience. It would have been much more difficult process without him guiding us.

Simon Inglis  
Chair

## Bowls Committee Report

The Bowls Committee is keen to explore social media opportunities and the Board recently appointed Kaz Rothwell as the club's Facebook champion. The Bowls Committee believes that the club's web site needs to undergo a complete overhaul in order to better showcase the club in terms of serving current members and attracting new members and we look forward to working with Kaz to improve this important social medium.

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The Board has approved a proposal from club member Gary Hudak for CoMBC to run a Mixed Social Bowls Competition on a Wednesday commencing March 17th after the Midweek Competition has finished. The competition will run through to Sept 15th and other local clubs will be invited to participate. The competition will start at 10.00 am. and is expected to finish between 2.00 and 2.30 pm., matches will be 2 by 9 ends with a short break after 9 ends and swap opponents - play 2-4-2 pairs - 4 bowls each. It may have to have some 2-3 bowl triples dependant on numbers and CoMBC club organisers will select the skippers from the participants and they will then draw their partner's name from a hat.

In order to lessen the stress to the north/south ends of the green the club's Greens Director has recommended that selected Wednesday matches be scheduled east/west. The entry fee will be \$10.00 and this will cover bowlers green fee and include a raffle ticket for one bottle of wine, 1/2 dozen stubbies and provision of tea, coffee and cheese platter for lunch. Full details of the Wednesday competition have been displayed on the club noticeboard. Thank you to club members Gary Hudak, Lynne Macdonald, Henry Silis and Laurie Garmston who have volunteered to help run this competition.

The club will be holding a Try Lawn Bowls Day on Sunday Feb 15th. The enthusiastic sub committee comprising Kaz Rothwell, Deb Dowling, Madeleine Scully, Roger Scott, Laurie Garmston and Gary Dowling with support from Karen Barker, Madge Diego and Henry Silis have done a terrific job in soliciting sponsors and promoting this event and responses to date have been very positive.

2015 Anzac Day Tournament – the club selectors have the lead on this event with support from the Board and Bowls Committee. The day will be run as an intra club tournament -

more information to follow.

The Try Bowls Committee is indebted to Mark Minehan from the Royal Standard Hotel, the Raddison Hotel in William Street, the Comedy Club in Errol Street, Amoconi Restaurant in Victoria Street and club member Terry Banfield for providing sponsorship

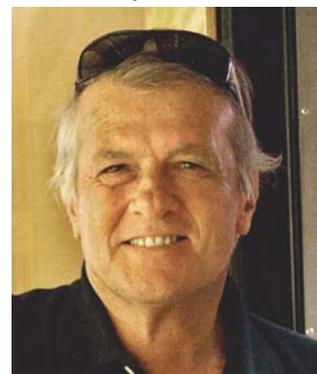


Terry Banfield and Mark Minehan

for this event. The Committee also thanks Paul Holschke (Community Development Officer, Bowls Australia), Greg Grima (club coach) and well known man about town Simon Whatmore who have all volunteered their services to help out with the day's activities. More information to follow.

### Mazda Cup

The COMBC, in conjunction with our sponsor City Mazda, will be running the 6th annual Mazda Cup competition commencing on Wednesday February 18th next and continuing on each Wednesday until the March 25th.



Laurie Garmston

Kaz has done a great job in contacting 2961 corporate contacts via email with details of the event.

We have five teams of four already committed and one individual for the competition which will be limited to fourteen teams. Each team can have one club member who will be selected by a ballot so why not line up family and friends and participate in what will be a very enjoyable competition.

## Greens Update

### Mills Green

There have been some very crucial positive developments regarding this green since the last newsletter.

Simon Martino of the Council engaged turf expert Andrew Peart to give a third opinion of the green to assist in its future progress. Peart made this very significant observation in his report as follows:-

The progress of the green appears to have stalled somewhat over the spring period and it is important that the Contractor spend more time and devote additional resources into providing a smooth level green surface with a complete coverage, including those areas around the plinths, as soon as possible.

Further Peart called for soil analysis and surveyor reports that were completed just before Christmas.

The soil analysis revealed a deficiency in four elements and Peart ordered that it be immediately fertilized with them. This and mowing once every two days have seen significant improvement in the green. Following the receipt of the surveyor's report a meeting between Council contractor Premier, Turf Expert Andrew Peart, Council's Simon Martino and COMBC President Simon Inglis was held on January 8. Seven recommendations were made at this meeting including scarifying and further laser top dressing to address levels varying up to 20mm lower in some areas. At a later meeting between Martino, greenkeeper Darren Walls and me it was agreed that the state's top bowling green laser leveller Darren Morosi be contracted.

You will have noticed this week that the rubber has been affixed to the bank walls and scarifying is being done. The green is still soft and bumpy and will remain so until after the top dressing.



Coverage is nearing 100% and hopefully the root depth is nearing the required 100mm. Darren and I are confident all our problems are now being addressed and handover could now be within the next two months, all going well with the weather. After handover Darren will spend some

months preparing the green for bowling and will be given as much time as he needs to produce a good bowling surface. I ask for your continued patience during this time as we try to prepare the best possible playing surface for you.

### Mansbridge Green

The corner flags are in place and this green has fortunately served us well during this difficult time when it was our only green.

Dick Dowling

### The Lawn Bowls Dictionary

Some Elucidations by Keith Dunstan

**Body Language** – Many believe it is possible to turn your bowl by sheer will power. There are various methods. You can stand on one foot, you can shift your bottom to the left or the right or you can do the Nureyev entrechat. It is known as body language.

**Henry VIII** – In 1495 he decreed: 'No one apprentice shall play at the Tenys, Closshe, Dise, Cardes, Bowles nor any unlawful game'. Yes, he understood its dangers.

**Selector**- Noble creature who selects the team for inter club competition. He has only four friends!

### Odd Spot

Visiting pennant player arrived at CoMBC with team members a few Saturdays ago and parked his car at the entrance gate to the club. After one of our members advised him of alternative parking spaces and informed him that he would have to leave Flagstaff Gardens the same way he entered, said visitor ignored advice and drove down the steep steps leading to Dudley Street causing the severance of his car's bumper bar and major scouring of the underbelly and chassis of his car, in addition to damage to the concrete steps – expensive day of bowling!!!!!!



Image from Clipart Panda

### Suggestion Box

Every year innovative members suggest improvements to be evaluated and possibly implemented at CoMBC, 2014 was no exception with a number of improvements now in place thanks to input from club members.

- the outside clock, environmental signage, the bowls library, the kitchen garden, the Wednesday Social competition, Try Bowls Day and soon the purchase of new ashtrays for the outside area.

Let's make 2015 another year of creative ideas from club members. Email the newsletter team with your idea and we will publish it in the digital Newsletter Suggestion Box.

## Member Space

It is with deep sadness that we mourn the passing of four past members who are remembered with great affection by all those who knew them. We will pay tribute to Paul Fox, Shep Morehu, Timothy Moore and Peter Jones in a special edition.

## Welcome to our new bowling members

Full member – Linas Kalade

Social members – Elizabeth Self and Raymond Whittle

## Coaching Tips

### Requirements for a Lead

1. Understand the etiquette requirements of a being a lead and the laws of the game.
2. Place the mat at each end in a position your skip, or your skip and you agree will suit your team. Do not alter that until told to do so by the skip.
3. Roll the jack to the length the skip decides will best suit the team. The accuracy of the length of the jack is important – within 600mm for lower grades, 300 mm for higher divisions. Your accuracy in this can give your team control and the advantage in the game. Poor control often hands the advantage to your opponents giving them the chance to change tactics.
4. Do not hold your bowl as you deliver the jack. Rolling a jack and bowling a bowl are two separate tasks and should be treated as such.
5. The object of the lead is to get more bowls closer to the jack than your opponent. Concentrate on getting your bowls close to the jack as this dictates the way your skip can start building a safe and well constructed head.
6. While a front toucher is a good start to an end, remember it is better to have two close bowls than one sitting on the jack and the other metres away. Developing a consistent action will give you consistent length.
7. Two close bowls are all that are needed from the lead. Loose bowls are a disadvantage for the rest of the team.
8. Do not try to knock an opponent's bowls away – you are not playing a game of singles against your opponent.
9. Play your bowls on one side of the rink – forehand one way, backhand the other, then your bowls should require the same width of draw and the same weight. Decide with your skip after the roll up ends which side of the rink may be better to play. Generally, it is better to play the narrower side of the rink as the margin of error is less. Do not change hands unless directed by your skip. No short bowl is in the draw – you can draw the shot around or under it.
10. Play to the conditions. Watch for any weather changes that may affect green conditions.
11. On a heavy green, play to trail the jack up to 600 mm – 'hunt the jack'.
12. On a fast green, play wider than you think and think about the weight to use before you take up your bowling stance.
13. Learn to judge how short or long a bowl is from the jack.
14. Be confident in playing either hand when asked. This can only come from regular practice and a sound well balanced delivery.
15. Learn how to switch on your concentration before you step on the mat. Say a word or two to yourself like 'my turn' or 'relax' to turn you on just before you step on the mat.



Jim Pallister

### Requirements for a Second

1. Wait behind the mat until your skip gives you directions.
2. Have command of the draw shot with little or no preference for either hand.
3. Your job is to be the backup for the lead especially if s/he has failed so almost all the second's shots will be raw shots. Remember that the object of each end is to have more bowls close to the jack than your opponents. Practice routines should therefore be mainly the draw shot at different lengths.
4. A thorough understanding of the changes is required in bowling line and weight for playing positional, trail or through the head shots and in particular for playing into short bowls to push them in for shot or through the head.
5. Make sure you at least reach the head with all your bowls, even up to a metre behind.
6. A back bowl is insurance against movement of the jack so practice bowling position bowls, particularly to the edge of the ditch.

## Bowling Road Trip

During August and September 2014 we decided to explore the east coast by car from Melbourne to Surfers Paradise. Our mission was to travel no more than 200 kms a day, explore all the towns and beaches along the way and to stay longer in any towns that took our fancy. We took our bowls and were determined to play two games of social bowls a week.

The trip took five weeks, but we had no time lines, and no pre-booking of accommodation, which usually was in caravan park cabins. Quite often where we stayed was determined by whether a game of social bowls was available to be played. We researched on the internet where the bowling clubs were, and if, and on what days they were playing social bowls. We had a wonderful time. There are some magical places along the east coast. No wonder a great number of people have made it their place to retire to. We played bowls 10 times in 8 towns and stayed in 19 towns along the way.

We had a chance meeting with Gwen Douglass at the Merimbula Bowling Club. Both Gwen and husband Ron were members of the CoMBC before returning to Merimbula. Most of the NSW Bowling Clubs have strong financial backing with income from poker machines. Most greens were grass and in excellent condition. It was not easy to play mixed social bowls as NSW clubs seem to have men's and women's games. Each gender having their own social bowls days and each determined to stay independent of the other. Thank goodness we have just one club where teams are chosen on ability not gender and all resources are pooled into the club.

One thing that was common to all clubs was that we were welcomed with open arms, so much so we often stayed an extra day to play in their next social day. Most clubs hold 2 – 3 social bowls days a week in different formats. Many of the days

attracted 40-60 bowlers. We estimated that 75% of the players were seasoned pennant bowlers, visitors and newcomers.

Both of us, being very much newcomers to the game, gained a lot of bowls experience on the trip, even if, on the odd occasion, we were embarrassed (like the day at Tuncurry when I don't think anyone wanted to play with us novices, and we were paired together and lost 54 to 4). At the end of play we cleared out before the presentations, very downcast. We suspect that our opponents were the aggregate winners of the \$20. If you get to travel around a bit do take your bowls. It gives you a chance to meet the locals and make

With our club to commence Wednesday Social Bowls in March 2015 we will have the opportunity to meet and welcome visitors to our club. Please participate, we need to make this day successful. You will also have a great fun day.

Gary and Rhonda Hudak



## Newsletter Team

In 2015 we are looking for more "human interest" type articles and photographs to include in the newsletter. We seek your support to contribute articles and photographs - club history, major celebrations experienced by members such as births, marriages, significant birthdays, winning the lottery, tournament participation or wins at other clubs, holiday bowling interstate or overseas, deaths of past or present members, anecdotes about entertaining behaviour by club members. These are needed at least a week before the end of the month to ensure publication.

Because more up to date competition ladders are available on the noticeboard, the Team App and the Bowls Victoria site the ladders will no longer be published during the season, only at the end of the season.

There will be 9 editions of the newsletter in 2015 – January, February, March, May, July, September, October, November and December with none in April, June and August.

Madge, Steve and Lynne [newsletter@citybowls.net](mailto:newsletter@citybowls.net)



Photo courtesy of Lisa Larmour-Reid