

www.montmorency.bowls.com.au

e-mail: mbc4@optusnet.com.au

THE OFFICIAL MONTMORENCY BOWLING CLUB
INC. NEWSLETTER

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Difficult to comprehend how time rushes by, however we are approaching the festive part of the year and our pennant bowling season is already 8 games into an 18 game season. Whilst the pennant sections will no doubt expand on the progress thus far of pennant, it is suffice for me to say we are providing the vehicle for a vast majority of our members to participate in both mid-week and Saturday competitions.

The club has not been active in the past three months in special projects and equipment acquisitions with the exception of a new fridge for the bar area. The bar is a vital part of our organization offering both social and financial comfort to our members and guests.

In the last few months we have had discussions with our new apparel supplier and sourced samples of both their overseas product and the Australian made product. Although very competitively priced, the quality of the overseas garments were not acceptable to the board and we have very recently placed an order for the Australian made polo shirt, which is significantly more expensive but in our opinion the best product for us. To defray the cost to members, we have decided to subsidize the cost to members so that a short sleeve polo will cost members \$50 while a long sleeve shirt will cost \$55 both inclusive of GST

For those members wishing to purchase a club vest or jacket we will place orders according to requirements at the club cost of \$110 for vest and \$120 for jacket also both inclusive of GST

As I have mentioned many times in my time as Chairperson, we are deeply indebted to ALL of our volunteers that help around the club. Unfortunately, there are two areas where we have not had the response that we need.

Firstly in relation to lunch time preparation and clean up on Tuesday pennant days, we have not sufficient volunteers to attend to this duty with the result that we will need to pay an outside source to do the task for us. This is disappointing as, if those that had the time to devote (1.5 hours) maybe twice in a season we could avoid this cost.

Secondly, the ladies are in desperate need of assistance to do the afternoon teas (pouring tea and coffee and washing dishes after tea). A very small number of ladies are doing both the bar and tea duty on a too frequent schedule. Please ask your partners if they can offer an afternoon once or twice in a season to give our regulars a break. Unfortunately, some of these ladies would be available to help us fill our pennant teams if they were not required for afternoon tea duty. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those ladies that regularly give up a couple hours on a Saturday so that the rest of us can play bowls, have a very nice tea break and get a drink at the end of the game. Please approach Judi White if your partner can assist.

Finally as the Christmas period approaches, on behalf of the board, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy festive season and remind all that is not too late to join us at the Heidelberg Golf Club for the Annual Christmas Lunch.

STEVE HILLAM - Chairperson

BENDIGO COMMUNITY BANK - Support our sponsor
Branches at Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Eltham, Doreen and Mernda

***** Printing - Courtesy of Vicki Ward MP State Member for Eltham *****

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MENS SECTION

By the time this Newsletter reaches you we will be halfway through our Pennant Season. I wrote in an early report to the Board that we were in for a tough season. Now it seems, as the season progresses, some teams are performing quite well. To the teams finding it hard going there is still a long way to go and things can quickly change. Keep at it.

As for our Social Bowls, David Hall and his great team are working very hard building up the numbers on our Mondays and Thursdays (both day and night). Their task has not been an easy one considering our Melbourne weather this Spring. It hasn't helped. I'm confident it will soon improve and hopefully we will see more of our Ladies joining in on Thursdays.

Our first Merimbula for the season was a great success with 54 bowlers enjoying the day. Quite a few of our newer bowlers participated which was great to see. Well done to Di Schliebs, Neil Greenwood and their support team on making it such an enjoyable and successful afternoon. Looking forward to the next one in February where we should see a few more new bowlers who are "learning" at the moment.

I would like to thank our "retired" Bowls Manager Alan West for his continued work assisting our Men's Section by passing on his knowledge he has accrued over the years. There is a lot to learn and he is always there to answer our questions. It is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Mick Lanigan who won the Minors Club Championship this year. It was strongly contested by Ron Higgins (one of our newer bowlers) who played a great game and did so well to get that far in his second year of bowling. Well done Ron.

In closing I wish all members and their families a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. Enjoy your break.

Rod Ward
President Men's Section

LADIES PRESIDENT REPORT

The Ladies Committee continues to be a good support to me, always ready to pitch in when needed, thank you all.

The Biggest Morning Tea held on 26th September was a huge success with \$5330.45 raised for Cancer Research. Thank you to all who contributed and made the day an outstanding one, surpassing what was raised last year.

You can now buy your tickets for the Christmas raffle, available at the clubhouse, to be drawn at the Christmas lunch on 8th December. Tickets are \$2 each, with three hampers on offer.

Marilyn Millar and her chocolate drive has raised \$9000 since its inception. Club members and visiting bowlers are making this possible.

On the last day of Tuesday pennant, 17th DECEMBER, remember to bring a gift to the value of \$10 for the KRIS KRINGLE, ladies to bring a suitable one for a lady, the men one suitable for a man. If you don't want to participate there will be a Charity donation box to contribute to.

With Christmas not too far away, I wish all members a safe and Happy Christmas.

JUDI WHITE – PRESIDENT

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

EAGLEMONT ROOM AT HEIDELBERG GOLF CLUB AT 11.30AM – ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FELLOW MEMBERS AND PARTNERS AND DANCE TO THE MUSIC BY STEVE LAWSON.

IF YOU HAVEN'T PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST IN THE CLUBHOUSE, CALL BARBARA BROWN ON 0414529289 TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE, BEFORE 6TH DECEMBER. RAFFLE TO BE DRAWN ON THIS DAY.

SATURDAY MATCH COMMITTEE

This season we have six Saturday pennant sides as a result of the positive response we had from our members to commit to playing pennant this year. Sadly, I have to say that this response has dwindled and we are having trouble each week to fill the bottom side. We have given one walkover and we have played with 2 players short another week. We are trying to give all our paid-up members a pennant game. If you commit to playing then you should be prepared to play where selected and with whom you are selected with and at whatever location. Obviously, family commitments or health reasons are unavoidable reasons for not playing. It is very frustrating and time consuming for the match committee to get the required numbers of players each week and we are asking for your support and understanding for the rest of the season.

It has been a mediocre start to this year's pennant season. The top team is on the bottom of the ladder with two wins. These two wins have been against top teams at the time. This shows that we are capable of playing good bowls and that we are good enough to get back into the mix.

The second side is second on the ladder with only one loss. This loss was on a surface that was not suited to our bowlers on the day. The other sides are in the middle of their sections and definitely not out of finals contention.

Overall this season's results have been influenced by weather conditions to some degree and also by the standard of some of the greens that we have played on. As these factors are outside of our control we have to think positively and, irrespective of the situation, we have to think we can overcome these conditions and perform at our best. I know that we are getting older but we have to think that we are as good as our opposition and, true to the Monty bowling club spirit we do not give in without a fight. I am sure that if we support and encourage our team members and form a tightly knit unit we will come out on top. Enjoy playing bowls and good luck for the rest of the season and let us turn it around and make it a good season.

The members of this season's Match Committee are Mal Eames (Chairman), Clive Gilmore, Robert Potts, Bert Bertoli and Bill Harris. Each member has been allocated a team to be responsible for which is as follows: Side 1 Robert Potts, Side 2 Clive Gilmore, Side 3 Bert Bertoli, Side 4 Bill Harris and sides 5 and 6 Mal Eames. If during the season if you have an issue with your side please direct any concerns through the appropriate selector and if you need to talk to the whole committee then, advising of such, you can come to our weekly Monday 7pm meeting to voice your concerns.

Pennant practice is between 4.00 - 5.30 pm on Wednesday afternoons. Attendances at these sessions have been good but numbers have dropped off over the last 2 weeks. These practice sessions are open to all bowlers and are very important for our development. I can only stress the importance of these practice sessions and I am asking that more members attend if possible. We have had Leigh McIlvenny assisting our coaches with some of these sessions. His next session with us will be 11/12/19. Next year dates with Leigh will be confirmed later.

Congratulations to the following members who participated in the Parliament Bowls day against Eltham and Heidelberg Golf Bowls clubs and won the trophy. The players were Val Markby, Margaret Austin, Tracie and Ross Centorino, Rosemary and Ollie Johansson, Gary Wills and Peter Rubira.

If there are any new bowlers interested in playing pennant please contact one of the match committee and we can add you to our playing list.

Great to see the top team, second team and fifth team winning on Saturday 30th.

Finally, there are 11 games to go before the end of the season which is plenty of time for us to regroup and get back on the winning list. If we believe that we can win and we have the will to win then we will get the results.

GO MONTY - MAL EAMES

A SELECTOR'S PRAYER

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO CAN PLAY SPORT. BLESSED ARE THEY WHO CAN BE TAUGHT. BLESSED ARE THEY WHO CAN ACCEPT WITH GRACE - TO PLAY IN A SELECTED PLACE.

A MEMBER'S PRAYER

GOD BLESS OUR SELECTORS - FOR THEY KNEW NOT WHAT THEY WERE GETTING INTO.

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Administratively speaking, the club is sailing along relatively smoothly. Bowls Victoria have recently introduced a new database "*Bowlslink*" and thanks to the efforts of *John Leighton* - and very capable back-up *Jeff Lander* - we are well on top of the new system, especially the on-line reporting of Pennant results. Other clubs have struggled - and are still struggling.

Car Park Lighting:

As a result of comments received about poor lighting of the car park between the bowls club and the RSL, a request was made to Banyule Council for an up-grade and as a consequence, an audit of lighting was carried out. The net result is that Council plan to allow for an up-grade in their 2020/21 budget and have requested MBC to make a submission to justify the expense of \$35,000 estimated to achieve the up-grade.

Hardly the response we would have desired in terms of a timely resolution of the issue, but seems that we can only go through the processes available to us.

Solar Panels:

Banyule Council have recently advised that they will be providing solar panels to many Council owned properties. This includes us and is anticipated to happen sometime during the 2020 -21 period.

Handicapped Adults Bowling:

Following an approach from the St John of God centre, we will be trialing a session of bowls for a small group of handicapped adults, probably commencing in the new-year. This will be a weekly activity for a maximum of a couple of hours at a time that does not impinge on normal bowls activities. I'll be providing the initial "tuition", but down the track may be appealing for some assistance.

PHIL STIRLING - Secretary to the Board.

MIDWEEK PENNANT REPORT

Midweek Pennant is certainly showing and experiencing mixed results.

There have been some very strong opposition teams in all sections and it is proving to be a really challenging season.

Absenteeism has been a major concern this year, but our emergency players have been so obliging and have helped field our teams so that our regular players can enjoy a game.

Competition has never been stronger than this year with some teams having experienced opposition Premier Division players participating and although the results haven't been always to our liking the challenge has been good. It has been very tough going for the 2 Division 1 side but the other 6 sides are showing mixed results with good positioning on the ladders; well done.

The number 7 side has been fairly stable but our 6 a side team has had many different personnel but despite that both these teams are experiencing good games.

The bus from the RSL has been a great asset this year and we are thankful to the guys who have driven their team members to the distant games, also the drivers who drive their own cars to venues are appreciated. A big thank-you to the Montmorency-Eltham RSL for the opportunity to use the bus.

Some club members this year have suffered some medical concerns and our thoughts are with you all and hope that you are all on the way to recovery. Hope to see you all back in teams soon.

Family concerns also cause some players to miss pennant but hopefully we all have the understanding that it could be any one of us at any time.

People need to make the Pennant commitment a long time before the season starts so it is natural things and circumstances change.

A couple of team walkovers from other clubs and the occasional bye help with our numbers some weeks and we aim to give as many players as possible a game when and where possible.

Many thanks to everyone who help in the midweek pennant competition, be it a committee member, a player, an emergency, a side captain, bar attendant, kitchen helper, an umpire or measurer, greens preparer, or the folk who key in our teams and results. A great team effort.

A safe and happy Christmas and New Year to all.

Glenda Swann - on behalf of Selection Committee

RECRUITMENT REPORT

We had two successful Open Days in October and have a number of new members enjoying their coaching at the moment. Hope to see them on the green in the near future.

A Montmorency welcome to Pat Hibbert, Ron and Robyn McLeod, John Simpson, Jan Alderson, Francis McAlister, Suzanne McNally, Joy and James McFarlane, Lilian Urban, James Trewarne and a special welcome back to Mark Stanton.

John has already had a game at our Merimbula day and enjoyed it very much.

Ron and Robyn (who are transfers) have been joining in on our Thursday evening games.

Thank you to all who helped on our Open Days and also to our coaches who are explaining the "finer" points of the game to our new members.

After the success of our Chicken Triples early this year we are intending to start it again in the New Year. This gives our new members a chance to meet each other and enjoy a short game on Sunday mornings. All are welcome to participate as we need a few experienced bowlers as well to help them along. Will keep you informed of the date when organized.

The Barefoot Bowls on Friday evenings is now in full swing and keeping us busy.

If you know of anyone interested in having a go at bowling, bring them along on a Friday evening. Not the 6th or 13th December, we are booked out.

Jacqui Ward
Recruitment Director

MEMBER PROFILE

My name is Bryan Robertson, some call me Robbo. This story shows that bowlers come from all walks of life.

I joined the Montmorency Bowling Club in 2009, after retiring from the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board where I'd been a Fire-fighter for some forty years. I worked at many stations, with Greensborough Fire Station the one where I spent the last few years of my service.

Having played more active sports I was not keen to take a step back into a more leisurely sport, however it was my future son-in-law, Damien, who introduced me to the sport of bowls. He was living on the Western side of the city, and being a keen bowler he joined the Monty bowls club so he could play closer to where my daughter lived. It was through Damien I got to meet lots of wonderful people and new friends in the bowling community at both Montmorency and other clubs.

I was born in Geelong and raised in Macleod. My father built the Macleod family home in 1956, and it's this same house my wife, Lorraine, and I, continue to call home). After a short stint of travelling in my teenage years, I returned home. I'd had a passion from a very young age to be a Firefighter, and so I commenced my career with the M.F.B. at the Eastern Hill Fire Station at the age of 20. After several years stationed in the CBD I transferred out to the Northern suburbs, and I was stationed at various stations throughout the North and North East areas.

I attended many fires, and people would often ask what was the most dangerous, I would explain that every fire has its inherit dangers. All recruit fire-fighters are trained to look after number one, as its the fire-fighter who's there to protect the public.

I was fortunate to be selected to be involved with an interchange service between the Airport Aviation Fire Rescue Service, where I was stationed at Melbourne's International airport at Tullamarine. I also completed a Fire Investigation Course and became a Fire Investigator. This was a position I enjoyed immensely throughout my career.

Throughout my time in the brigade I received two injuries: the first being a minor eye injury, and the second was more serious, sustaining a broken foot while jumping from the roof of a school fire.

The hi-light of my career was in 2006 when I was awarded the Australian Fire Services Medal for services to the Community. This was awarded for my volunteer work with the Fire Services Museum of Victoria, together with my services as a fire-fighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

My bowling career has taken a back seat for a while.

Now being the Grandparents to our daughter's four bundles of joy in two sets of twins. The oldest at four are Aria and Jesse and then came along Zoe and Marley the two year olds.

Being President of the Fire Services Museum of Victoria, this takes up a lot of my time. I have been a volunteer at the F.S.M.V. since 1992, and I enjoy meeting the people who come to the Museum - local, Interstate, and overseas, and from all walks of life. The Museum is located in the original Eastern Hill Fire station located on the corner of Victoria Parade and Gisborne Street, and is open on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 hours till 15:00 hours and Sunday 10:00 hours till 16:00 hours.

I will be returning to bowls, but at this time my priority is shared between the family and the Fire Services Museum of Victoria.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. Bryan

-----JUST FOR FUN-----

A guy wants a divorce, he tells the judge, "I can't take it anymore. Every night she goes from bar to bar, out until way after midnight".

The judge asked "What's she doing? The guy answers, "Looking for me".

----o0o----

An Irishman is struggling to find a parking space. "Lord" he prayed, "I can't stand this, if you open a space up for me, I'll give up the Guinness and go to mass every Sunday".

Suddenly the clouds part and the sun shone on an empty parking space.

Without hesitation, the Irishman gets back to the Lord, "Never mind, I found one!"

----o0o----

A well known skip was having a hard time from the other three in his team, who had failed to contribute anything throughout the game.

On the last end, the third stepped on to the mat and shouted up the rink "where's the nearest bowl?"

"In your b..... hand" answered the skip!

----o0o---

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:
I started out with nothing, and still have most of it,
My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and All Bran,
Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

SOME GOOD ADVICE FOR MEASURING - ESPECIALLY THIRDS

Keep some chocks in your pocket to stabilize a leaning bowl or one on its running surface to prevent any movement of the bowl. If the bowl does move whilst YOU are measuring, your opponent has the right to return the bowl to its original position.

LADIES INVITATION FOURS – 29TH OCTOBER

The day was a great success with 22 teams, with many visitors. The eventual winner was a team from Montmorency. Lead - Nola Kruize, Second - Tracie Centorino, Third - Louise Ryan and Skip - Di Schliebs. It is encouraging to see some of the club's newer bowlers playing so well. Congratulations to the team.

SOCIAL BOWLS REPORT

There are two days and one evening session of organized Social Bowls in the Summer season. The participation on Mondays is relatively low, 16 to 20 players normally attending, many participants being Social Bowls members only.

The competition is popular with the members as it provides competition play in a very friendly atmosphere. It would be nice to have more players from our full members to allow them to meet some non-pennant players in the club.

Thursday night bowls has increased in popularity and provides bowling for many new members and experienced club members. The organizers run a fun competition enjoyed by everybody. The final game before Christmas is a high-light, compliments to John Hullin, Neil Russell and Mick Lanigan.

The Thursday competition is a formal one with nominated triples and good prize money on offer. There seems to be an average of about 10 teams entered, plus individual players looking for a game. The numbers are somewhat disappointing, given the prize money offered and we don't have the participation of other club players. Given the day is between two pennant competition days and a good opportunity for some serious practice, we would expect better participation.

The Merimbula held on 16th November was very successful and the organizers are to be congratulated. A lot of hard work and cajoling by Di Schliebs and her team of Neil Greenwood, Alan West, Nola Kruize and others is greatly appreciated.

The next important day is the Australia Day Medley, on Sunday 26th January. All members are encouraged to sign up for that day. Trevor Cameron will be organizer-in-chief for that day.

Have a great festive season and come back refreshed and keen to play social bowls.

DAVID HALL

GREENS REPORT

Now well into the summer season, our two greens are coping well with heavy foot traffic. Feedback from our bowlers is generally constructive, we look into most concerns, some matters easy to rectify, a few items falling into the pending basket! Overall it's all good. Currently both greens are used for pennant and both good to bowl on. Top green is a bit fast still but we still have the blade grooming to do over the Christmas break to rejuvenate the surface in preparation for the second half of the season. This will slow the speed slightly. The gardens are looking great, once again thanks to Shirley and Ian, very much appreciated maintenance.

A recent club improvement, the new top green lighting is proving a real positive for the evening scheduled bowls nights. Our night social bowls numbers are increasing and good news is spreading fast. If you have not already tried night bowling give it a go over summer, also on offer is Tuesday night pennant.

A big thank you to all who help in maintaining our greens every week, your collective assistance is the reason why our greens continue to offer above average bowling surfaces for our members.

NEIL GREENWOOD

REMEMBER: DO NOT DROP BOWLS ON TO OUR GREENS FROM THE BANK OF THE GREEN, IT IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE BASE UNDER THE CARPET. IF YOU SEE THIS HAPPENING, GIVE A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO THE BOWLER/S, ESPECIALLY VISITORS.

MONTMORENCY BOWLING CLUB – 500 PLUS GAMES

	TUESDAY	SATURDAY	TOTAL
B. BELL	127	685	812
C. NEWBEGIN		635	635
J. WHITE	354	280	634
G. TULLOCH	103	501	604
V. LAY	395	197	592
R. COE	151	416	567
S. FOX	6	536	542
B. BERTOLI	118	417	535
J. BEATTIE	110	424	534
H. WILSON	401	130	531
B. ALLISON	502	12	514
J. WARD	402	102	504

RECORD AS AT 26/11/2019 - THANKS TO OUR STATISTICIAN STEPHEN FOX

2019/2020 CLUB CHAMPIONS



FINALS PLAYED SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

Pictured – L. Alan Swann marker for Men’s Singles – R. Judi White marker for Ladies Singles

**Centre Men’s Champion Graham Tuck
Ladies Champion Glenda Swann
Clive Gilmore Men’s Runner-up
Shirley Crapper Ladies Runner-up**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FINALISTS

THE SEMI FINALS OF THE MENS PAIRS WAS PLAYED ON 1ST DECEMBER

THE FINAL BETWEEN RON HAYES/MAL EAMES AND JOHN HERRALD/PETER HANLON

**WILL BE PLAYED AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED.
WATCH THE NOTICEBOARD FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

CLUB SPONSORS

Please use them as often as you can and let them know you are members of M.B.C.

Alpine Chemical and Cleaning Supplies	9460 1321
Angoves Wines	0438 391 226
Bakal Denture Clinic	9439 3866
Bendigo Bank (Eltham)	9439 0188
Billys Deck Cafe Eltham	9439 4565
Bob Jane T-Marts Eltham	9431 3011
Briar Hill Fish & Chips	9435 6502
Cannon Toyota Heidelberg	9459 3277
Cartridge Place	9432 0611
Comfyhome Ducted Heating & Cooling	9435 7911
Darren Jones Real Estate	9422 2544
Delta Holidays	8682 9481
Diamond Valley Foot & Ankle Clinic	9434 4422
DSG Bowls Shop	9877 2068
Echo Party Goods	9434 1602
Eltham Home & Hardware	9439 5533
Ern Jensen Funerals	9480 1477
Espresso 3094	9435 9402
Flight Centre Eltham	1300 826 243
Global Pizza	9434 5088
Global Kebabs	9434 5088
Gourmet Butchers	9434 3570
Graham Bodyworks	9435 1255
GWS Accountants	9434 6017
Grand Pacific Tours	9809 2124
Heidelberg Mitsubishi	9458 1222
Howard Mackey Motors	9435 1097
Jellis Craig Group	9431 1222
Jim Hunt Plumbing and Gas Fitting	0417 155 169
Jaktar Electrics Pty Ltd	0412 247 691
Le Pine Funerals	9434 1666
Lower Plenty Hotel	9435 1722
Max's Montmorency	9435 2332
McDonalds	9431 2577 (Eltham)
McDonalds	9434 1990 (Greensborough)
Melbourne Bowls Centre	9488 0478
Meridian Travel	9459 4933 (Rosanna)
Meridian Travel	9458 1555 (Heidelberg)
Mont Eltham Auto Electrics	9435 1198
Montflora Florist	9434 2382
Mont/Eltham RSL	9432 3377
Monty Appliance Repair Service	9439 6241
Monty Bakehouse	9435 2316
Montmorency Foodworks	9435 1729
Monty Fresh	9432 0534
Montmorency Pharmacy	9434 1729
Montmorency Service Centre	9439 3444
Morrison Kleeman	9431 2444
Plenty Valley Printing	9432 1955
Ray White Real Estate	9432 7000
Slocum Floor Coverings	9439 6066
Sportfirst Eltham	9431 4495
Steve Murphy Computers	0400 147 106
Sweet Pea Florist	9432 9277
The Milk Bar	9434 1211
Tobin Brothers Funerals	8468 1700
Ultratune	9432 1333
Valet5	1300 825 385
Valley Vision	9431 0347
Whitings Advisors	9435 2766
Watsonia Optical	9432 7264