

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CLUB COACH

Just a quick note to say, I hope you're all holding up okay. I'm as disappointed as everyone about the interrupted lead-in to the summer season. But I do take confidence in our club's proven ability to bounce back quickly after previous Covid disruptions.

I'm taking the opportunity to prepare some training resources, which will be made available to all members when we return to bowls. Pennant Training will kick off on Thursday afternoons as soon as restrictions allow. During the summer season, training will be conducted in the following format:

Thursday 2pm-3pm: Individual coaching on a walk-up basis

Thursday 3pm-5pm: Structured training session

Training will be targeted at improving performance in Weekend and Midweek Pennant and all members are invited to attend. I look forward to being in touch very soon, when we receive some good news.

Go Monty!

Oli Clark

SERIOUS LOCKDOWN ADVICE

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home! I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster whilst drinking my coffee, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, cause he's being acting cold and distant! In the end the iron straightened me out, she said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out.

The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic ... told me to just "suck it up". But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon.

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its *noon* opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip.

You can just about guess what the curtains told me: "pull myself together!"

WE WILL SURVIVE!

Thank you to the person who submitted this advice, so true. A couple of questions.

Are you working from home, and got time on your hands?

The boss is working remotely and not in the same space?

Are you the author and with these clever words, working in the wrong job?

KEEP SMILING.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Like everyone, I can only express great disappointment regarding the interruption to winter social bowls caused by COVID restrictions. It is particularly disappointing given the considerable work expended by Garry Schilg and his Social Bowls committee to get winter bowls off the ground. For a short while, it looked like Monday winter bowls was back to full strength, but was cut down by COVID – twice. At least it was pleasing to see the considerable interest in this event, especially from other clubs, with full greens every week.

The latest COVID restrictions also mean that we will need to postpone our planned Opening Day scheduled for August 28th. This is particularly frustrating as Opening Day has traditionally been the occasion when we honor last year's Club Champions (Louise Ryan and Lee McIlvenny) with their ceremonial bowling of the first bowls of the season. Hopefully we can find another day in the calendar to get together as a club.

Pennant bowls is due to commence soon – COVID permitting. The season will have reduced number of rounds and will start with three weeks of a "Nines" competition organised by Bowls Victoria. This is a new format for us and it will be interesting to see how it works and also participant's reaction to it. The reduced rounds for Pennant came as a surprise to us and along with other clubs, we have registered dissatisfaction with the proposal, particularly as no views were sought from clubs. Traditional Pennant ("Fours") will start on Sat, October 16th (followed by Tuesday Oct 19th), but only fourteen rounds for us. The Christmas break will be longer, with Tuesday December 14th the last day of Pennant for 2021, re-commencing on Saturday, January 15th 2022.

A club hand-book will be produced this year. Our bowls program is currently under construction and a final Pennant draw will hopefully be available soon from Bowls Victoria.

As a minor point of interest, members may like to know that the clearance process is now an on-line activity. I won't explain further as I know nobody wants to leave Monty.

Phil Stirling, Secretary to the Board

LADIES SECTION

It is almost impossible to plan too far ahead in the current COVID pandemic, however, plans for the BIGGEST MORNING TEA are on the table. Planned for Thursday 16th September the Ladies Committee will be prepared if the relaxation of the lockdown/s allow it.

With a positive approach, our Club Secretary will send an email to all asking to be part of this important event. In the meantime have a look around your home and if you have an item that can be donated for our Auction, it would be greatly appreciated.

Take care and look forwarding to a return of getting back to normal.

MARGARET AUSTIN – PRESIDENT

VALE

Sadly we have learnt of the passing of COLIN LUCAS, a valued bowling club member. Our thoughts are with Ann and the family.

SATURDAY MATCH COMMITTEE REPORT

In light of the lock down we are hoping the Saturday Pennant Season starts on time. Montmorency has entered 7 sides in the 9 a side competition commencing on the 4th 11th and 18th of September each side consists of a team of Fours Triples and Pairs. Prior to the commencement of the Saturday Pennant Season on the 16th of October we have organized practice matches against Ivanhoe on the 2nd and Lalor on the 9th of October lists are on the wall in the Clubs rooms we still need more Bowlers to fill these sides. When the club rooms open, please get your name on the list.

Our Saturday Pennant we have entered 5 sides, one side in Div 2, two sides in Div 3, one side in Div 4 and one side in Div 6 (this is a 12 a side) requiring a total of 76 bowlers for the season. The draw has been favourable to us with only one side travelling to Yarra Glen and a few sides travelling to Whittlesea. Other than that all other matches are in our region. From our numbers at the moment we should be able to fill all these sides.

As soon as we get out of lock down the Match Committee will meet to set our objectives for the coming Pennant Season. On the Coaching side with the appointment of Ollie Clark it has been disappointing that our development squad training has been put on hold for the time being. Pennant practice begins on Thursday afternoon the 9th of September between 3pm and 5pm. We are looking forward to seeing ALL Bowlers attend these sessions not only to support the Coach but to improve your overall skills.

For bowlers who are interested, while sitting around with not a lot to do, on You Tube there are some very good bowling shows to watch actual matches and training drills sessions.

Finally, the Match Committee would like to welcome Gary Sheridan who transferred from Greensborough.

While in the middle of putting this report together Chairman Dan has extended the lock down until midnight the 2nd of September. I guess until more information comes forth from Bowls Victoria as to how the Pennant season will proceed, we can only wait and hope to all our Bowlers stay safe and keep active.

CLIVE GILMORE
Chairman of Match Committee

TIME FOR A CHUCKLE

ARGUMENTS: A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of another argument.

MONEY: A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.

A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need, but it is on sale.

FUTURE: A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

DRESSING UP: A woman will dress up for anything.

A man will dress up for a wedding or funeral.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: A married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing!

KEEP SMILING, PEOPLE WILL BE WONDERING WHAT YOU ARE SMILING AT!

MIDWEEK PENNANT REPORT

The planning for the upcoming Pennant season is a little uncertain at the moment. However, we are looking forward with the hope that life will resume with some normality in the not-too-distant future.

As with everything else, the Match Committee have not been able to meet and put plans or teams in place for the upcoming season. I am sure everyone who wishes to bowl and play Pennant will be only too ready to hit the greens when we are given the green light. Hopefully everyone is staying well in the meantime.

Bowls Victoria have given us the initial draw for the pre-season 9 a side competition and also pennant games, but they have had to modify it already. A very hard task at the moment with so much uncertainty.

Hopefully everyone will be ready to go at very short notice and we may have to be accepting of last minute changes.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Match Committee if you have any concerns or just need to have a chat.

Go Monty!

GLEND A SWANN on behalf of the Midweek Match Committee

A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME ?

Without the interaction that comes with being a member of a club or association, there may be people in our bowling community that could be feeling quite isolated.

In normal times, our bowling club provides this much needed interaction and contact with others. If our members could take a moment to think of someone who may appreciate a phone chat, please make their day.

At present we have a few members doing it tough with health issues or living on their own. It is not hard to work within the current restrictions, a phone call definitely on top of the list.

Monty is known as the "Friendly Club", so let us start at home.

REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO PENNANT

The club has received two specific notifications from Bowls Victoria as to changes that will be implemented for the conduct of Pennant for the 2021-22 season.

The first was dated 7th June where clubs were notified (not consulted) that with the exception of Premier and Division 1 the pennant season would consist of 14 games for the coming season, down from 18 in normal seasons. The season would start on the 3rd Saturday in October (normally the 1st) with 4 weeks off for the Christmas break normally 3 weeks.

The board was concerned about this decision (and more so the process) that was foisted upon the clubs. Consequently, as Chairman, I wrote to BV expressing the club's concerns, which can be summarized as follows:

- The loss of 4 games potentially costs us \$8000-\$10000 in lost revenue from green fees, raffles, bar etc. when applied to both Weekend and Midweek competitions.
- What was the reason for the decision?
- Why does the proposal discriminate against 2nd Division and lower levels
- What consultation did BV have with clubs?
- Why the necessity to complete the pennant season so early when the good bowls weather is prevailing?

To their credit (and probably their only one) Jimmy Whitehead from BV agreed to discuss by phone. Whitehead appears to be driving this change and seems to have the responsibility for organizing pennant.

He advised the following:

Decisions were based on "feedback" from clubs with many supposedly happy with 14 games last year. I said **I was also happy last year given the COVID interruptions but expected a full season of games this season.**

All clubs we have spoken to in the region agreed that they were NOT consulted for any feedback. It is my belief that the clubs giving feedback were most likely those close to BV.

Feedback suggested that bowls seasons were too long and not attractive to younger people who may be considering taking up bowls. Also bowlers wanted a longer break at Christmas to go away holidaying, To accommodate 18 games in the time frame proposed by BV 2 double headers (Sat/Sun) would be required which older and lower grade bowlers did not favor. **I argued that the four games could be accommodated by starting usual 1st Saturday in October and maintaining a 3 week break at Xmas. We could then either have 1 double header or extend the home and home season by 1 week to finish 26th February. He said they wanted to give greenkeepers the 1st two weeks in October to prepare greens, however this doesn't hold water as the new 9's series in September would have required greens to be up and running by then**

He argued that revenue loss could be substantially offset, by the green fees generated by the three 9's games and then conducting barefoot bowls events on the weekend a week before Christmas. To a degree I accept that argument but it does not address the desire of most bowlers to play a full season (18 games) of pennant.

Probably what astounded me most was that they only had two clubs protest the changes with letters Eltham being the other. In the whole of Melbourne?? Staggering. Furthermore he said they had about 40 phone calls with 80% voicing their agreement!! People don't call to say well done...they call to voice their dissatisfaction.

The 2nd notification of concern was the release of the draw and conditions of play, which advised of horrendous relegation conditions.

WEEKEND PENNANT

Div 2 - bottom 2 sides relegated plus the next 6 lowest sides across all Div 2 relegated 26 in total.

Div 3 bottom 4 in each section i.e. those not making finals relegated plus 2 next lowest sides . Total of 42 relegated.

Div 4 Bottom 4 sides in each section relegated plus 18 next lowest points scorers for total 58 relegated

Div 5 Every side other than section winners relegated

Div 6A Every side other than section winners relegated.

MIDWEEK PENNANT

Div 1 Bottom 2 each section plus next 8 lowest relegated total 18

Div 2 Bottom 3 each section plus next 4 lowest relegated total 34

Div 3 Bottom 4 each section relegated plus next 2 lowest total 42

Div 4 Bottom 4 each section plus next 18 lowest relegated total 58

Div 5 10 section winners plus 6 lucky runners up promoted the rest relegated

The reason for these relegations is to reduce the number of sections in each division to 8 (from 10) thereby eliminating the need for a bye in the playoff of section winners.

In addition the changed conditions provide that AWAY clubs can practice at the HOME club ON the greens they will be playing on up till 12 noon. This condition defies logic as one of the main reasons for the reduced season is to reduce the amount of time spent playing the game to make it more attractive. This change will likely mean that those

wishing to practice will be there from 11 am which makes for a longer day for some, not shorter. In addition there will be up to 16 players practicing on two rinks, which will not exactly entice bowlers to practice pre game.

I suspect these changes to pennant are only the thin edge of the wedge and that further changes will be imposed in future years, hopefully not the northern states model which places very little emphasis on pennant and more on tournaments.

STEVE HILLAM.

THINK ABOUT THIS

WHAT FOUR LETTER WORD CAN BE WRITTEN FORWARD/BACKWARD OR UPSIDE DOWN AND CAN STILL BE READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT?

The answer is somewhere in this Newsletter. Clue: Find a word in a sentence that is out of place, around lunchtime. How well have you read the contents and testing your editing skills?

ALEXANDER (ALEC) WARD

The Honor Boards in the Montmorency Bowling Club record a large amount of history. Office Bearers, Club Singles Championship winners and other club events held over a number of years.

One name appears more than any other club member, that of Alec Ward. It has been said, by those who knew him, Alec would have to have been the best player in the history of our club.

Alec was born in 1915 and lived in Cramer Street West Preston with his wife and two sons, Norman and Barry. He worked at Northcote Potteries. Later he lived in Heidelberg and was an accomplished cricketer.

Before joining our club he was a member of Reservoir Club and after moving to a retirement village he played for the Kingsbury Club.

He had several siblings, Shirley passed away in 2020 having lived in Leith Park. Evelyn the youngest of his siblings currently resides in Leith Park and is proud of his bowling ability.

Included in his long list of personal achievements are Men's Singles titles, Men's Pairs and Mixed Pairs.

Club Champion nine times - 1974/75 to 1982/83 with 1976/1977 eluding him. In a last effort he was Singles Champion in the year 1988/89.

Men's Pairs champion, partnered by N. Arnott 1975/76, 1977/78, 1979/80.

With a run of wins 1982/83 to 1989 (7 years) partnered by Brian Turner.

Alec and his wife Lorna claimed the Mixed Pairs Championship, 1975/76, 1981/82 and 1983/84.

We are fortunate to have many photographs of Alec in our archives, team photos from 1974/75, 1976/77, 1981/82, 1985 and 1986.

Maybe his success stemmed from playing left-handed.

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A CURRENT MEMBER HAS MEMORIES OF ALEC

“I first met Alec around 1981 when I joined MBC. The Men’s first team was in Division 3, Alec one of the club’s top Skippers. The first thing I remember on meeting him, although small in stature, was his huge hands which allowed him to bowl with a size 6 bowl, very large and uncommon then and now.

A very direct Skipper, always clear in his calls to his players on what he wanted. He had the confidence in his ability to play any shot HE wanted.

Some years later, the first team had made it into Division 1. During a game at Melbourne Bowling Club I witnessed an amazing event. On Alec’s rink the third from Melbourne yelled out, with great excitement that, they were holding eight shots, with one bowl to come from Alec. He calmly walked up to the head without a word. He played his last bowl and drew second shot sending all Monty players into raptures. Alec spoke to his players with a very stern warning for that to never happen again. Even though the team was truly beaten on the day, that last bowl from Alec was all anybody could talk about.

I played in single championships playing against Alec a couple of times. Playing him in a quarter final, a close match to the end, I won by two shots. The banter around the club was that Alec had lost a singles match, it wasn’t who beat him but he had lost.

One end Alec had drawn two resting touchers, one in front and one behind. With my third bowl I drove at the head and managed to kill the end. On retrieving the bowls, Alec said he thought I wouldn’t play that shot, but it was a very good one. Praise from the little man, it did give me a boost.

When faced with a difficult decision on the bowling green, I would ask myself “What would the Little Man do”?

NOT EVERYONE IS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO GROW OLD. APPRECIATE EVERY SINGLE DAY OF YOUR LIFE.
