

THE MBC NEWS

APRIL 2022
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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is hard to believe that the curtain has come down on another season of bowls. I would say that given our predicament at the start of the pennant season we have achieved some great things.

VALE: Firstly I would like to acknowledge the passing of several of our esteemed members Walter Dietz, Dot Jewell, Geoff Blandfort and most recently Margaret Polanski. Our sincere sympathy is conveyed to the family and friends of all those members.

PENNANT

Undoubtedly, the on field highlight for the club was the success achieved by the first team which reached the semi-finals of the Weekend Metropolitan Division 2 competition. To put in context, 80 teams contested division 2 across 10 sections and Montmorency made it to the last 4 but failed to overcome Dandenong Club (2) by 10 shots in the semi. The team had a patchy first three quarters of the season, further impacted by the loss of coach Oli Clarke who left for Tasmania for employment reasons. However, when the real challenges started the team performed magnificently and the experience gained by many of the second team players will hold them all in good stead for next season.

CLUB STRUCTURE PROPOSAL

On Sunday 27th March a Special General Meeting was held to consider a proposal put up by the Board "That the Montmorency Bowls Club effectively discontinues both sections and forms a single non-gender based structure".

The meeting was extremely well attended with nearly 80 attendees, along with 16 absentee voters who lodged their vote in absentia. The Chairman presented the Board's case for proposing the amendments to the structure of the club endeavouring to placate any fears and trepidation that members may have had about the proposal. Members had the opportunity to raise any questions regarding the proposal and the accompanying Organization Chart, before a show of hands indicated an almost unanimous support for the motion. This allows us to proceed to the next stage where the amendments will be incorporated into a new Constitution and presented to the members for a vote at the AGM on 15th May.

On behalf of the Board, I thank attendees on the day for showing confidence in us to take the club into the future.

BUILDING EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS

I am pleased to report that the above is progressing satisfactorily and we have had verbal confirmation that Banyule Council has included our project in the 22/23 budget year. We are waiting to meet with council to review detailed design drawings, and construction should commence early in the new financial year, so we cannot say with certainty if the new facility will be completed by Christmas.

When the building works commence we do not envisage any interruptions to bowls activities, however, there will be no access to the clubrooms. Therefore we will need to make other arrangements for toilet facilities, bar, tea and coffee making facilities, details of which will be made known to members as they become available.

STEVE HILLAM.

WEEKEND PENNANT REPORT

What a season of weekend pennant. We were fortunate enough to get back on the greens after months of isolation due to the pandemic, with minimal disruption. We then had a reduction in the number of members wanting to play which resulted in the club fielding four sixteen a side teams and one twelve a side team. Then our newly appointed coach for the season, Oli Clark, unfortunately for us, successfully obtaining a work position in Tasmania and was not available after the Christmas break. With the challenge ahead we moved on and at the end of the season the club finished up having a very successful season.

In summary 3 out of our 5 teams made the finals. The top team was struggling at the Christmas break and was looking at relegation. They rallied in the new year and went on to win the section and were narrowly beaten in the Division 2 semi-final. A fantastic effort by the twenty-six members who played in the top team during the season. We are now promoted to Division 1 for season 2022-2023.

The second side finished on top of their section being beaten narrowly in the first sectional final, a fantastic effort by all members. The third and fourth teams struggled all season against strong opposition, mainly higher ranked teams. Both these sides will be relegated. The fifth side made the finals, being beaten narrowly. A good effort considering there were new bowlers trying pennant for the first time. Congratulations to all our members for a well fought out season.

We had a successful season but this could not have been obtained without the help of all our emergencies on whom we had to call on during the season. With members being away or suffering from injuries or illness it was at times difficult in getting the fifth team on the greens. Congratulations to Barry Lay on winning the Alec Treacher award, a very worthy winner. Thanks must again go to Peter Rubira for retrieving and compiling all the voting slips. Well done.

Congratulations to all our club championship winners so far. There were many close matches that went right down to the wire and all were competed in a good sportsmanship manner. There are still some championship matches in progress, these will be decided in the coming weeks.

The Match Committee consisting of Clive Gilmore, Mal Eames, Bert Wilson, Gary Wills and Charles Geddes worked well together. It is a difficult task that has to be completed and done so by the committee on a weekly basis in a friendly and professional manner. We were aware that we could not and would not please everyone, but we did what we thought was best for the Montmorency Bowling Club, endeavoring to achieve our goals set down at the beginning of the season.

Thanks to Oli Clark for his input and guidance with regards to team selection in the first part of the season and also for running our coaching sessions. With his unexpected departure I think we were all out to do better for both the Montmorency bowling club and for Oli, which we ended up doing,

A big thank you to all our volunteers who enable us to bowl every week. Without them we would not have the opportunities to bowls as often as we do. It is because of the time put in by these volunteers that Montmorency bowling Club is one of the best or is the best club in our area.

In closing, to remain a strong club we need to keep up with the times and make the necessary changes which we are now moving to implement. We have a task ahead of us now that we have a Division 1 side. Hopefully we will be advertising for another coach. We will need to attract new members to maintain our present status as one of the best, or if not, the best club in our region.

Mal Eames - Weekend Match Committee

OUR MEN'S SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP WAS WON BY MAL EAMES DEFEATING FRANK PHILLIPS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

From a club administrative perspective, the most pressing matter on my mind at the moment is the topic of club organization structural changes. Our Special General Meeting (March 26th) is over and approval has been given for the board to proceed with alteration of the Constitution to create a gender-free document that eliminates the requirement for Men's and Women's "Sections".

I must comment here that the "old" structure based on sections, did work well for many years until difficulty was encountered forming a Men's Section, thus necessitating change. Hopefully, the new structure will work as well and everyone gets on-board to ensure our continued success as a club. With approximately 200 members, we are significantly larger than nearby clubs so at least we have numerical strength as well as a fine history of strong volunteer service.

One important action required post-Pennant season is to elect new Pennant Committees for season 2022/23. In May, nominations for the Week-end and Mid-week Pennant committees will be called for and if necessary, elections will be held in late May or early June.

PHIL STIRLING Secretary to the Board

LADIES PRESIDENT REPORT

It has been a trying time at our club over the last year or so with the disruption of Covid. Things have settled down, although many of us still know people who have contracted the virus recently.

Not a lot of activity at the club, let's hope the winter season brings more members on to our greens.

We have had our Lady President and Super Veteran's Day recently, 25 of our past Veterans attending along with 5 new Members to this group. Elaine Owens, Secretary for the Yarra Region attended to present our new Super Veterans with their badge. Fifty four ladies had a lovely lunch prepared by our ladies committee. I thank all those who helped in any way to make the day a success.

It was thought that the new structure would take away any special days in the future, that is not so. If we want to have these days all we need to do is plan and have them. If we do this nothing changes.

Through the year my committee worked to keep the supplies for our kitchen etc. These are jobs that just happen, most of you would not know who is responsible. I am thankful for the work they do and would like to see them continue, although some changes may come with the new structure.

We need members to volunteer to keep our club running at the current high level. If everyone helped in just a small way it would take the load off those that are always helping. The more that step up to help the less there is for each to do. At the very least you will engage with other members and discover what makes our club so successful.

Our Ladies Singles and Pairs Competitions are completed with Heather Wilson our new Club Champion and Runner up Dianne Paine. Lesley Hayes and Annette McDowell the winners of the Pairs, with Jacqui Ward and Sue McKenna runners up.

Congratulations to the winners and all those who participated.

MARGARET AUSTIN

When everything is coming your way, you're on the wrong side of the road.

I asked God for a bike, but I know it doesn't work that way, so I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

MIDWEEK PENNANT REPORT

We were lucky to have played our entire fourteen week season. Season 2021/2022 was, as usual, very competitive and all teams performed well with mixed results.

Congratulations to our fifth side who made it to the quarter finals, a great effort! A big ask to play the City of Heidelberg Number two side on their home ground, however a great try. Some really good bowls gave them good competition.

A thank you must go to all players and emergencies this year, with the adjustment of our lives and catching up with responsibilities of the past couple of years, we were still able to field our six teams each week.

As usual there are so many people who make this possible and we must be thankful for our green-keeping team who prepare our rinks each week.

We also need the assistance of our side captains and our duty rinks whom share in the team duties on Pennant days. Our bar staff do a great job keeping up with our refreshment demands. Our umpire and measurers do a sterling job having to be on duty more than in past years as their numbers are dropping. We could certainly do with more people qualifying for these positions.

Where would we be without John Leighton who inputs our computer needs each week. John also keeps us informed of ever-changing Bowls Victoria information.

The RSL have played a big part this season, providing the use of the bus to help transport our teams who have had to travel. Mick Lanigan and Keith Armstrong have handled the responsibility of organizing the collection and driving their colleagues to their destinations, well done guys!

Our Pennant Selection team: Margaret Austin, Helen Pearson, Helen Spence and Jacqui Ward have put in hours and hours each week with the onerous responsibilities and duties. Their input and support has been invaluable.

A big thank you to Barb Allison and Helen Spence for collating the Jean Thomson votes. Both these ladies have been unable to bowl this season but have been able to share and keep their interest in the teams alive by performing this very challenging duty. A big job well done.

GLENDA SWANN – Chairperson.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our modest Glenda failed to report that the winner of the Jean Thomson award for the past season was none other than herself. CONGRATULATIONS.

REFLECTIONS – WALTER DIETZ 15.2.1930 – 26.1.2022

Walter's life was celebrated at LePine in Greensborough, family members, friends and bowling club members coming together.

He was one of two boys born in Hamburg Germany to Adolf and Gertrude Dietz. Before migrating to Australia he was a keen snow skier and carried an injury for the rest of his life. Remembered for his gait and walking stick, which he sometimes brandished.

Walter worked with his father, who was an Engineer, and upon arrival in Australia worked on the Snowy Mountains Hydro scheme. Then he worked for the Ford Motor Company and later had a cleaning business with 100 staff.

Married to Inge for over sixty years, two sons and 5 grandchildren he managed to ski at Falls Creek and loved gliding. After a flight in a glider, given to him by the family as a birthday present, he became hooked. He had owned several gliders including a motorized one.

A memory comes to mind when Montmorency bowlers were playing in the Edinburgh Shield at Numurkah. A glider flew over and dipped its wings, it was Walter doing a fly-over.

Walter liked to go fishing at Woodside Beach catching flathead. Doing jig-saw puzzles and playing Solitaire were other pastimes.

With the loss of his driving license he bought an Electric Scooter, which he invariably drove on the road with cars. He claimed he had a 'Special License' so do so.

Walter played 280 games with Montmorency, however, had to retire from the game about three years ago when he went into aged care.

Walter's walking stick was a peacemaker, now he is at peace. He left his stick behind! R.I.P.

RECRUITMENT REPORT

Considering all the interruptions we have experienced the last twelve months we have still managed to gain some new members, which is very pleasing.

We are welcoming

Gary and Cecilia Govan
Mathew English
Johnny Trinh
Shamse Willmott

Paul De Bolfo
Michael Conroy
Peter Celotti

Paul is already enjoying Thursday night bowls, hopefully he will be joined by some of the others soon.

So, if you see some new faces on the green please introduce yourselves and make them welcome.

The Barefoot Bowls has been a bit intermittent this season, lots of cancellations. We had two groups on 1st April, the St Francis Xavier annual "Bowls for Blokes night", plus the Staff from St Helena Secondary School.

I think that will be the end of Barefoot Bowls this season.

Thanks to all who have helped run these nights including the important Bar Staff. Thanks to Craig for manning the bar.

All of our visitors enjoy these nights and have lots of fun.

Some may be future Members.

Jacqui Ward
Recruitment Director

FROM THE PAST - MONTMORENCY LADIES BOWLING CLUB

The first meeting was held on 3rd April 1963 at the home of Mrs. Joan Hutton to form a social committee to raise funds for a green and future clubhouse.

A committee was formed with Mrs. Hutton as Secretary and five members. Twelve other members were present.

At a May meeting in the same year, Mrs. Jean Jensen was elected Chairlady and Mrs. McKenzie as Treasurer.

September 1963 VLBA President Mrs. Hamilton gave an interesting talk on ladies bowling and rules. The ladies were required to get provisional affiliation to allow them to bowl, this was received in the following December.

An invitation was received from Diamond Creek to play on a Wednesday, the first game in March 1964. First hatbands to cost six shillings and six pence.

An open invitation to members to play at Prahran on Mondays was received. A further invitation was received from Whittlesea Bowling Club.

The first ANNUAL MEETING was held on 5th February 1964, Mrs. O'Connor elected as Secretary, Mrs. Jensen as Chairlady and Mrs. McKenzie as Treasurer.

At the Annual Meeting 10th March 1965 Mrs. J. Jensen was elected at President, Senior Vice President Mrs. B. Potter, Junior VP Mrs. D. Ratz, Secretary Mrs. A. Draffin Asst. Secretary Mrs. J. Thomson, Treasurer Mrs. E. McKenzie, Bowls Manager Mrs. D. Dunn. Committee comprised seven members.

The membership had grown and in March seven teams went to Heathmont to play on Sunday 14th. (Maybe this included men's teams).

A Selection Committee to be formed from beginning of the next bowling season and in April that year the VLBA was contacted regarding playing pennant. It was necessary to apply for full affiliation.

In May of 1965 the MLBC Constitution was adopted.

The Pigeon Club was the venue, the first Pennant team members were K. Brennan, K. Monahan, H. Rogers, A. Taggart, A. Benjamin, J. Thomson, J. Jensen and D. Golgerth with home matches played at Hurstbridge.

The 1966/67 pennant season there was one team of twelve and one team of eight players.

The Second Annual meeting was held in St. Andrews Church Hall on 25th May 1966.

A new rule was added to the Constitution; "Any lady on being elected a member of the MLBC must resign from any other club to which she belongs. No member shall belong to any other Metropolitan Bowling Club".

Saturday 17th September 1966 saw the combined opening of the season with mixed bowling.

8th December 1966: Club's first Guest Day.

9th November 1966: Lady of Green broach donated by Mrs. J. Thomson. (Later known as Belle of the Green).

June, 1971. Mrs. Jean Thomson be nominated for VLBA Councillor. (Later elected as a State Councillor 24th August 1971).

It was passed at a meeting that "In future a card and handkerchief enclosed be sent to all members when ill and the practice of sending flowers be stopped, flowers for bereavement and presentations".

13th July 1971 - new AWBC uniform - "Short sleeves to be allowed, dress 15" from ground while wearing bowls shoes. Tennis socks allowed to be worn. Hats remain the same." No smoking on the greens.

22nd January 1972 - Club competition games to be sped up with two games per day to be played if thought necessary.

31st January 1973 - FIRST MEETING HELD IN NEW CLUBROOMS:

6th November 1974 - MEMBERSHIP CLOSED - 90 men and 90 ladies.

1975/76 - First season with an A1 tam.

28th January 1976 - Afternoon tea changed to sweet and dry biscuits and cheese in place of ladies bringing a plate to share.

22 April 1977 - FIRST COMBINED PRESENTATION NIGHT.

26th April 1978 - Mrs. Jean Thomson and Mrs. Jean Jensen made Life Members.

9th April 1979 - Monty Co-op being formed to enable loan to finance second green.

6th October 1980 - By Law - That prospective members be given two one-hour lessons before applying for membership. Once applicant becomes a member to be referred to Bowls Secretary for coaching appointment.

3rd November 1980 - Air conditioner installed. (\$4,680)

28th August 1982 - 20th birthday of club celebrated on MBC Opening Day.

9th September 1982 - MBC gave approval for ladies to be coached after 4 pm if they are working ladies.

Monty greens and clubhouse to be made available for World Bowls, being held at Reservoir.

A2 pennant team won their section and the club will now have two A1 pennant teams.

Constitution changes: The financial year 1st April to 31st March.

The minimum age for full members is now 18 years.

9th January 1984 - Ceiling of 120 members, 5 places to be kept for experienced bowlers.

27th February, 1984 - No new members from any club within the surrounding district be accepted, only country or interstate transfers or new people.

26th March 1984 - Dishwasher purchased for \$4572. Membership closed.

5th August 1985 - Ladies only allowed to practice until 4 pm on Tuesdays and Thursday and after 4 pm Friday.

19th September 1987 - Club's Silver Anniversary Dance to be held on 19th September .

30th April 1990 - MBC agree for ceiling on MLBC to be raised from 120 to 130 members.

Introduction of to 2 piece outfit for ladies.

Motion to accept members from neighbouring club on the condition that they are prepared to prove themselves for a higher grade.

National Carnival held in Melbourne in March, very successful.

9th May 1991 - Navy cardigan with VLBA Logo introduced.

7th October 1991 - 2 Refrigerated drinking fountains purchased, cost \$3534.

Mrs. J. Thomson awarded OAM in Queen's Birthday Honours.

31st Annual Meeting - Letter from Eltham Council "No smoking in clubrooms".

8th November, 1993 - State Fours team of M. Neilson, M. Ritchie, M. Woolcock, R. Gilchrist runners up in Metropolitan Final.

22nd August 1994 - The Club's new synthetic grass greens laid during winter.

26th January 1996 - White shorts allowed to be worn.

25th March 1996 - VLBA advised that wearing of hats will be optional from next season.

7th May 1998 - 36th AGM - VLBA to conduct a weekend competition for working ladies.

VALE - GEOFF BLANDFORT

A few club members had the honor of being invited to celebrate his 90th birthday. The smile on Geoff's face said it all. He recently lost his battle with serious health problems, his funeral to be held at Le Pine Eltham on Monday 4th April at 2.30pm.

Geoff came to an Open Day in July 2002 having responded to a pamphlet in his letter-box. I can remember the day vividly. A coincidence that I had done the letter-box drops in his street. He introduced himself and upon learning more about him I discovered he was widowed and lost to know how to fill in his days.

He quickly blended in with the others "trying" bowling and signed up on that day. It was a turning point for him and went on to say "bowls saved my life". He went on to enjoy those 20 years he was a member of Montmorency. He played pennant, social bowls, played in the Moama Tournaments and a bowling trip to Singapore. He became involved in organizing social bowls for many years.

He found friendship in a couple of other "blokes" and travelled with them overseas.

We miss him and his happy personality at Friday nights Happy Hour. R.I.P. It was so good to know you.

Vera.

A BIG THANK YOU TO PETER RUBIRA AND HIS HELPERS FOR THE WONDERFUL LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VOLUNTEERS IN OUR CLUB. APPRECIATED BY ALL.

WINTER BOWLS PROGRAM – MAY TO AUGUST

**COMMENCES ON MONDAY 2nd MAY – 12 NOON START.
SELECTED AND NOMINATED -TWO BOWL TRIPLES.**

**DAYTIME SOCIAL BOWLS – SELECTED TEAMS – THURSDAY AND SATURDAY
12 NOON START – REGISTER BEFORE 11 AM.**

THURSDAY NIGHTS - SELECTED – 7.15 PM START - NAMES IN EARLIER

LOOK FOR THE LISTS ON THE CLUB NOTICEBOARD.

MEMORIES OF AMY DOROTHY JEWELL – 18/11/1920 – 25/1/2022

Amy Dorothy (Williams) Jewell 18/11/1920 – 25/1/22. Members knew her as “Dot” or “Dotty”. Born in Swan Hill and lived on a wheat farm with her parents, her final years residing in St. Vincent’s Aged Care Eltham, formerly Judge Book Village.

At a young age forced to leave school early to care for family. At the age of 17 years old Dot enrolled at Emily McPherson’s College in a Domestic Science course, becoming a Machinist.

Dot married her husband Robert (Bob) in 1942 with son Kerry born the following year.

Living with in laws in Albert Park they decided to buy a house in Montmorency in Station Road where several similar houses were being built. Later to become known as “White City”, some are still standing.

Dot got involved in the community, firstly the Mothers’ Club at the local primary school, St. Andrews Church, Montmorency Tennis Club (a member for 37 years) and later the bowling Club. To add to her commitments Dot was the Ladies Committee President at the Montmorency RSL.

Information obtained from past MLBC minutes recorded the involvement of Dot and her husband.

1973 – Senior Vice President

1975 - President

To add to her record - a member of the Ladies General Committee and 21 years on the Ladies Selection Committee.

Dot and Sue Silverlock won the Heathmont Sinclair Shield.

Dot became a Coach and over many years coached the ladies before male coaches could be their mentors.

Further achievements were Club Champion 1992/1993, 1994/1995, 1980/81 and 1981/82.

Dot and husband Bob (438 games) won the Mixed Pairs in 1973/1974 and 1978/1979.

A Melbourne Football supporter, last year their Premiership win added to her life’s story.

Small in stature, large in life Dot is survived by her son, daughter-in-law Beth, 3 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

BRAINS OF OLDER PEOPLE ARE SLOW BECAUSE THEY KNOW SO MUCH. PEOPLE DO NOT DECLINE MENTALLY WITH AGE, IT JUST TAKES THEM LONGER TO RECALL FACTS BECAUSE THEY HAVE MORE INFORMATION IN THEIR HEADS, SCIENTISTS BELIEVE. MUCH LIKE A COMPUTER STRUGGLES AS THE HARD DRIVE GETS FULL, SO TOO, DO HUMANS TAKE LONGER TO ACCESS INFORMATION WHEN THEIR BRAINS ARE FULL.

NOW WHEN I REACH FOR A WORD OR A NAME, I WON’T SAY “I’M HAVING A SENIOR MOMENT”. NOW, I’LL SAY, “MY DISK IS FULL”.

I SHOULD SEND THIS ENLIGHTENING NEWS TO MY FRIENDS, BUT RIGHT NOW I CAN’T REMEMBER THEIR NAMES.

VALE – PAST MEMBER MARGARET POLANSKI

A private farewell was recently held for Margaret who joined our club in 1996 with her late husband Graham.

She moved to Kyneton to be near family before her death. Margaret enjoyed the game of bowls and was a popular team member. She played in several Country Carnivals and in the Moama tournaments.

At one carnival, she and her bowling friend, who were sharing the same accommodation, were enjoying a noisy happy hour. On investigation it was discovered they were enjoying copious glasses of Cowboy (easy to drink). On returning home the club barman was asked if the same drink could be stocked. It is still available thanks to Margaret and her (anonymous) friend.

AMY DOROTHY JEWELL

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