

THE MBC NEWS

MAY 2023
EDITOR VERA LAY

www.montmorency.bowls.com.au
e-mail:mbc4@optusnet.com.au

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The curtain has come down on another bowls season, one that has provided much success on the greens tinged with some disappointment with the Saturday 1st division side being relegated. Congratulations to all finalists and to those that gained promotion.

Post Christmas we have operated in somewhat difficult conditions while the clubroom extension has commenced. No access to the rooms has resulted in us operating in makeshift ways as related to bar facilities, club championships, bowls organizing etc.

I commend all members and volunteers how they have coped with these circumstances. During this time we were unfortunately broken into and burgled with the culprits forcing entry to the temporary bar housed in the shed. The safe box in the shed was forced open and a relatively small amount of cash was stolen. Damage was inflicted on the locks to both the bar shed and the grooming shed, which were swiftly repaired by Neil Greenwood and Gary Wills. Thanks guys. As a result of this incident the board has taken the decision to operate the bar on debit/credit card basis thus eliminating the need for any cash to be held on the premises.

Progress on the pavilion project has certainly stepped up with concrete slab poured and timber framework well under way. We have had discussions with the builder as to our requirements for Audio Visual, Security and Internet facilities and expect some feedback shortly on those issues. I expect a further progress report at end of April, however builder currently predicts handover early August.

As our AGM approaches I thank all those members that have nominated for positions going forward. Please don't assume that everyone else can do the work and you just enjoy the spoils.

Finally, as this is my last year as President, I thank all members for their support during the last six years. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as President and I am sure that my successor will enjoy the same support.

Steve Hillam
President

COACHES REPORT

Firstly I would like to thank the Montmorency board for reappointing myself as head coach for the coming season.

We as a club should be so proud of all the successes we have had achieved last season. Having twelve of our thirteen sides in finals, six section winners and side five going undefeated for the whole season was a remarkable achievement.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the great support and participation of the players at our Thursday practise sessions.

Special mention to all the coaches who helped put the new members to the club, on the right track.

To Chairperson Mal Eames and co selectors on their efforts in selecting pennant teams last season. Looking forward to us all setting new goals for the coming season.

Thank you, Ray Jansen

BOWLS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Being the inaugural Bowls Director I was not sure how and what this position would entail, so it was a bit of a "learn as you go process". As there are no other nominations for the next season, I plan to develop into this role and set some things in place that can be used in the future for the benefit of the club.

This season just gone I would like to thank those that made my job a lot easier. These members had their roles to execute and did so very well. My approach to working with these members was not to meet every month, but to communicate with them on a random basis, to check how they were going and to ask if they needed any assistance in achieving their goals. The members are as follows.

Ray Jansen did a very professional job as our coach so much so that he has been re-appointed as coach for next season, easy to communicate and work with.

David Hall for looking after our umpires this season and liaising with John Roberts to organize further courses to accredit extra umpires which were needed.

Dianne Schliebs for running our social bowls. Not an easy job but well organized with the help of other members.

To Neil Russell, and his team, for organizing Thursday Night social bowls. They do this so well without interference from myself.

Peter Rubira and his Midweek Match Committee. This was a learning process for Peter and his team, a job well done with excellent results.

The Weekend Match Committee, another job well done with, again, excellent results.

Alan West, for organizing the club championships.

Gary Wills, for taking over the running, and organizing, of the Night Pennant. Well done on winning the final.

To the MBC board members, for their help and support.

With the dedication these members have displayed in these positions within the club it has contributed to the overall bowling success of the Montmorency Bowling Club. This can only be achieved by members putting their hands up to help in any way they can and this is why we are the better club in our local area.

Once again, a job well done by all.

Malcolm Eames

Director of Bowls and Player Development.

AGM : SUNDAY MAY 7TH COMMENCING 10AM.

Following the AGM PRESENTATION DAY

Enjoy lunch at the Monty RSL. LUNCH will be in the same format as our special Pennant celebration in March i.e. "finger food" and buy your own drinks at the bar.

Election for Saturday Pennant Committee members will commence at 9.30 am and cease at 10.00 am sharp. Anyone seeking an absentee voting form should contact Phil Stirling on 0409 955 901.

MIDWEEK PENNANT REPORT

What an amazing season for the Montmorency Bowling Club with seven out of 13 Pennant Sides winning their respective Section Finals. Across all Pennant Competitions, including Tuesday Night, about 90 different members experienced the joy of winning a grand final this season – simply sensational!

In Midweek Pennant, the First, Second and Third Sides all won their Sections, while the Fifth Side finished Runners-up. Side 1 benefited from having a second chance after losing their first final. The following game they survived a tied final against Eltham, which required each rink bowling one more end to determine a victor. This spirited victory saw Side 1 take on Greensborough, who had beaten them in the first final. To their credit, the top-side was able to turn the tables and prove themselves to be too good in the Grand Final.

While congratulating all members of the First, Second, Third and Fifth Sides, it is also worth acknowledging that the Fourth Side was unfortunately beaten in the Preliminary Final with the very last bowl of the day. The Sixth Side also performed very commendably in the finals. Having beaten Hawthorn's number one side, they finally succumbed to Templestowe's number one side.

Such great results do not happen by chance. We are a Club that succeeds due to the extraordinary efforts of many volunteers. First and foremost, we need to acknowledge all our Umpires and Measurers, but especially Marg Austin and David Hall. Thanks also go to Keith Armstrong, David Hall and Mick Lanigan who also drove the mini bus for several away games.

Having moved out of the Clubrooms, Midweek Pennant did have access to the Hall for lunch. This, however, required the setting up and packing away of tables and chairs. Steve Hillam, Marg Austin and Mal Eames set up the Hall late on Monday Nights. Thanks again go to Marg Austin and her Catering Committee for maintaining supplies of tea, coffee and biscuits throughout the season. It goes without saying that all bowlers need to express gratitude to that vital group of volunteers who maintain our greens and ensure we have immaculate grounds. The Club is deeply indebted to the efforts of Neil Greenwood, David Whiteman, Ron McDonald who enable us to do our best on the greens.

The last group of volunteers deserving of commendation is the Midweek Selection Committee comprised of: Glenda Worth, John Beattie, Graham Crapper, Bill Harris and Peter Rubira. This Committee would like to acknowledge the indispensable assistance, guidance and support of the one and only Bowls-Link guru, John Leighton. It was John who ensured that this rather inexperienced Committee did not contravene any regulations regarding eligibility of specific bowlers for finals.

While this year was certainly very successful, being promoted in many divisions means that next year will require even greater effort. IF you have NOT already returned a response indicating your intention to play Midweek Pennant next season, please do so asap. If away and unable to access forms, please contact Peter Rubira, so that the correct number of teams can be requested to accommodate all members wishing to play next season.

PETER RUBIRA.

Q. What happens when you throw a watch to the ground?

A. Most likely it will fall apart and keep ticking. I suggest the watch shows that time flies and stops for no one.

WEEKEND MATCH COMMITTEE REPORT

What a magnificent season. Five of our teams played in sectional finals with three teams winning sectional finals and one divisional final.

Our fourth, fifth and sixth sides won their sections and the fifth side went on to win their divisional final.

The number 1 side was unfortunately relegated to Division 2 as a result of BV restructuring Premier League for next season and thus changing the relegation criteria. Our team won six matches for the season, which would in normal circumstances avoid relegation.

I would like to thank the members of our committee for the effort they put in all season. It is an arduous task and at times difficult in as much as getting players to fill teams. Our members were Val Markby, Gary Wills, Warren Larsen, Bert Wilson and myself, a difficult job, but a rewarding one.

The club champions this season were as follows:

Men's singles champion
Runner Up

Ray Jansen
Graham Tuck

Men's pairs champions
Runners up

Ron Coe and Clive Gilmore (Daryl Chidley sub)
Peter Watson and Steve Hillam

Minor Singles champion
Runner up

Les McDowell
Rob Dick

Presidents Handicap champion
Runner up

Frank Phillips
Les McDowell

Men's Triples Champions
Runners up

Phil McMahon, Graham Crapper and Bert Wilson
Mal Eames, Gary Wills and Ian Hercus

Mixed pairs champions
Runners up

Ray Jansen and Louise Ryan
Graham Tuck and Heather Wilson

Congratulations to all the above winners and runners up and to all members who participated and competed in a good sportsmanship manner.

The Alec Treacher award winner was Ray Jansen by one vote to Hayden Barry. Congratulations.

Mal Eames
Chairman Weekend Match Committee

VALE - ALEC EDWARD TREACHER - 24.9.1924 - 16.3.2023

Alec Treacher's funeral was attended by many friends, family and bowling club members, a fitting farewell to an amazing man. He was a Life Member of Eltham Tennis Club and Montmorency Bowling Club.

He will be remembered with one of our bowling greens named in his honour and the Alec Treacher Award presented to the Club's best weekend pennant bowler.

RECRUITING REPORT

We have had a very successful year as far as recruiting goes. Since the end of March we have gained 44 new members.

Our latest we extend a welcome to:

Roger Dean

John McCully

Bruce and Robin Miller.

It has been so pleasing to see so many of our newer bowlers enjoying our Social Mondays, Thursday evenings and now our Saturday afternoons. Maybe some will put their toe in the water and try Pennant next season. But as long as everyone is enjoying bowling that's the main thing.

Thank you to our Coaches, they have helped along the way and given up their time to encourage and teach the fundamentals of bowls to our new members. Couldn't do my part without you.

We are hoping to hold our Open Days for the public again in October, you maybe asked to help out on those days. We will be again delivering flyers, it has proven it does work.

Last but not least, thank you to Vera for producing our Newsletter the last 10 years. She has done a sterling job, now passing the baton.

Jacqueline Ward
Recruitment Director

HISTORY OF OUR NEWSLETTER

Former club member, Bill Lumsden was the first Editor over 20 years (?) ago. The late Les Houghton came next producing informative newsletters for many years.

Next in line is myself and after 10 years enjoyable years have decided it is time to hand over the baton. This will be my final Newsletter, Peter Van Eeken will be producing the next one. Peter comes with a great history being involved with the Greensborough Historical Society and also an author. We look forward to the next era of newsletters.

Thank you to all the article contributors over the years. Sorry I sometimes had to put a bit of pressure on a few to meet my deadlines.

A huge THANK YOU to John Leighton who gave me lots of assistance in the early days and his good work in including the Newsletter on to the Club's web-site.

VERA LAY

CREATION

The Lord created all things, and took six days to do it. On the seventh day He took a rest. His handiwork, he viewed it and the best thing he'd created to help sustain our souls, was the creature known as man, for he invented bowls.

GREENKEEPER'S REPORT

Pennant has finished and social bowls is up and running.

This week our Winter bowls program starts each Monday lasting 18 weeks. Winter is a very high demand time, alas, we have to be vigilant with our greens wear and tear. A lot of maintenance is involved behind the scenes to assist our bowls programs. Rink peg rotation several times weekly is helping with even wear. Monty has many demands for ideal rink settings and we try to be flexible, but may not suit in certain instances. However, greens staff do their best in overall preparation for use. Greens grooming (brush or blade) fixes up most issues on top green but still requires a settling period to generate quality rinks. Greens are cleaned Monday, Wednesday & Saturday morning by greens helpers. Without this help our bowls rinks would be in trouble.

Thanks guys for your valued help. Anybody with free time, please come and join our group. All help is welcome.

The new bowls-rake holders are now complete on the top green and we have started installing poles on the bottom green. This project will take all winter to complete properly so bear with us.

One final matter, Monty is looking to minimise bowls dumping on greens. Bowlers who develop this habit, we need you to either address your technique or adopt a bowling arm for assistance. Bowling Arm Coaching is available at Monty, so either way please address your issue and continue to enjoy your bowls without dumping.

Both of our greens are now past their life mid point and require careful management which hopefully, should help each green last a few more years at a good bowling standard. Enjoy your bowls.

NEIL GREENWOOD Bowls Director.

TIME FOR A LAUGH

They say kids have selective hearing, but seniors do too, we just turn off our hearing aids.

I decided I wasn't going to let getting older slow me down. But my body had other plans.

When cars get old, they're classic. When cheese gets old, it's blue. What do they call people when they get old? Old people.

My parents aged as slowly as a basket of freshly picked apples. I, on the other hand, am a halved avocado quickly approaching its expiration date.

-----000-----
