



Shepparton Park Bowls Club Inc

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November
Newsletter
30/11/2011

Proud host of the Australian Open in 2009 and 2010

Important dates for December

- 3 Men's Pennant
- 5 Ladies Championship Singles—3rd Round
- 5 Ladies B Grade Championship —3rd Round
- 6 Ladies Pennant
- 7 Night Pennant
- 7 60 & Over at Mooroopna Golf
- 8 Ladies Social Bowls
- 8 Men's 2x2 pairs
- 10 Men's Pennant
- 11 Mixed Turkey Triples Tournament
- 12 Ladies Championship Singles—4th Round
- 12 Ladies B Grade Championship —4th Round
- 13 Ladies Pennant
- 14 Night Pennant
- 14 60 & Over at Shepparton Park
- 15 Men's 2x2 pairs
- 17 Men's Pennant
- 19 Ladies Drawn Pairs Christmas Shared Lunch
- 20 Ladies Pennant
- 22 Men's 2x2 pairs
- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Men's President's Report—Jeff Boyle

A great day for the Club on Saturday 5th November with all six pennant teams having a win.

A couple of points of interest from the delegates meeting of 2nd November.

- A motion to pay the costs for players representing the GV Bowls Division was lost. Instead players costs will be subsidised but they will still pay a fee of \$20
- Timing of greens for Saturday play is not compulsory but recommended
- Players may practise up to 90 mins prior to a Saturday match but not on the rink they are to play on.
- Team managers/recorders are reminded to use black biro and write clearly when submitting results.
- Finals will now be played on Sat 3rd March (Semis), Sat 4th March (Prelim), Sat 10th March (Grand Final)

Ladies Section Report - Wendy Holland

Our pennant season is now well underway and our teams are doing well. Our Division 1 ladies are undefeated and our Division 2 Gold & Maroon and Division 3 Green are all in contention for positions in the four.

Our Social Bowls on Thursdays is now a free practice morning and I urge all ladies to come along and join in. The Championship Singles and Pairs are progressing along nicely. Many thanks for those who have assisted with marking the singles games. It makes it much easier if everyone helps and the same people are not relied on all the time.
Good Bowling Ladies.

Greens Director—Noel Dobson

The next two months will be a busy time for the club. With the Vic Open upon us, I have arranged for helpers on greens & surrounds during this week. After the open is completed, the members green will be scarified, cored & lasered. This means that the members green will be out of action until middle of January.

The surrounds around the greens are looking terrific and many thanks must go to John and Frank with the assistance of many helpers. A big thank you to Lorna and Sandra for their help in setting up the plants, shrubs etc. All of the surrounds look terrific. Fencing has been completed, it is very important that the last person leaving the club, please make sure all gates are locked.

Membership Report—Ron Holland

Our Try Bowls Day on Sunday 23rd October proved to be a satisfactory one with some 23 potential new bowlers attending. Seven of these have followed up the interest and joined in our Friday night Trade & Social Bowls last week.

It is regrettable that our general membership showed very little support for this day as just 9 of our members actually brought someone along. With a current membership of just over 220 this means 95% of our members did not!

Surely we should be able to get at least 25% of our


members concerned enough about our clubs future to introduce someone new to our club. If that happens then we should have 50-60 potential new bowlers. Perhaps the real reason is that members feel new members place their positions in jeopardy. Nothing should be further from the truth. The trick is to ensure we have an option for everyone, and certainly not to isolate any age group.

With 34 of our members already over 80 and another 49 who will turn 80 over the next five years it doesn't take rocket science to see that we need to continue to strive to attract more younger members to replace those who almost inevitably will not be here five years from now.

Of those over 80 right now, 10 have had no active participation in bowls this year so far and due to ill health or physical condition have indicated they are unlikely to play this season. If that is an indication of what might happen over the next five years we could lose at least another 25-30 members.

Despite the concern of some members that more new members may result in some rotations amongst our men's teams, the facts are that if we don't keep trying to renew we could quickly reduce the number of teams playing pennant within five years, particularly our women. With a similar situation occurring in many of our local clubs we must also be alert that we do not simply replenish our numbers at their expense. Of the 23 new members that we have welcomed this year 12 came from other GV clubs. Our facility is a major attraction to those who may be faced with the choice between staying with a club with declining numbers and perhaps dropping back a division or moving to a stronger club where they may be able to continue playing at the higher standard. If this happens it has a domino effect on our current membership. This could have the following impact:-

- Current members may be replaced by stronger players from other clubs causing them to drop to a lower standard.
- This could prevent some more recent younger members to have their opportunity to advance delayed.
- We may find we must play several teams in the same divisions to cater for all those who believe they are capable of playing in the top divisions – yet another dilemma for selectors!
- We could create short term disharmony as we try to assure our future numbers.
- We could restrict our efforts to attract new members to pacify the feelings of our older members.



Social Report—Raymond Hill

Our end of month Chicken Night was interrupted with our participation in the Vic Open and so next is our Christmas Function which is booked for Friday 9th December with music and a Roving Roast so put this date in the diary. Those attending please put your money in an envelope labelled with your name and amount of money and post in the slot in the wall in the Tournament office.

DON'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE WHICH INCLUDES A BOX OF BEER AND A SELECTION OF WINES .

Hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas.

I see many challenges ahead in balancing the need to maintain numbers, catering for our present members desires, and doing this in a harmonious manner. I urge all members to put forward their ideas and to take an active part in where we want our club to be in five years. When we look at who carries so much of the workload around the club today it is concerning to think who will undertake the tasks ahead in the next few years. New blood brings a new ideas, so let's encourage more to take an active role. If you wish to help, please contact myself, Presidents Jeff or Wendy with your thoughts. They will be welcomed.

Bowls Victoria wishes to extend its thanks to the Greater Shepparton City Council, the Goulburn Valley Bowls Division, Host Venue - Shepparton Park BC and the support venues who came on board to assist with the running of the event.

House Report—John Wallace

At long last the Security Fencing has been completed. The roof leak over the Store Room has been repaired.

Three new televisions have been installed. These were used as scoreboards for the Victorian Open. They will also be used for Club Sponsors and Scoreboards for our pennant and future tournaments. They can be used for Raffle draws etc. Council is investigating our floor problem in main building.

A new stretcher bed has been purchased for use as a

sick bed and is located in the front office, and we have purchased a Defibrillator. The Vic Open had plenty of preparation and enthusiasm was injected around the Club.

Victoria Open 2011

And so to the inaugural Victoria Open and although we had many of our members competing it came back to the girls to represent us in finals. Shirley Sinclair played in a triples side that were runners up and of course Sandra Wallace and Lorna Winter just kept on winning. These two certainly know what pressure is as they had many playoffs in their magical march to finals. Other than that our club did what we do best and again ran a successful event. Members worked hard and together to insure the event was a successful one and being the first media eyes were watching. Congratulations to all those involved, both on and off the green - spectators also play an important part. Working together and having a happy club is important not only to the club but also to those looking to maybe join the club. Settled teams, settled members and co-operation within a club creates people wanting to be a part of it.

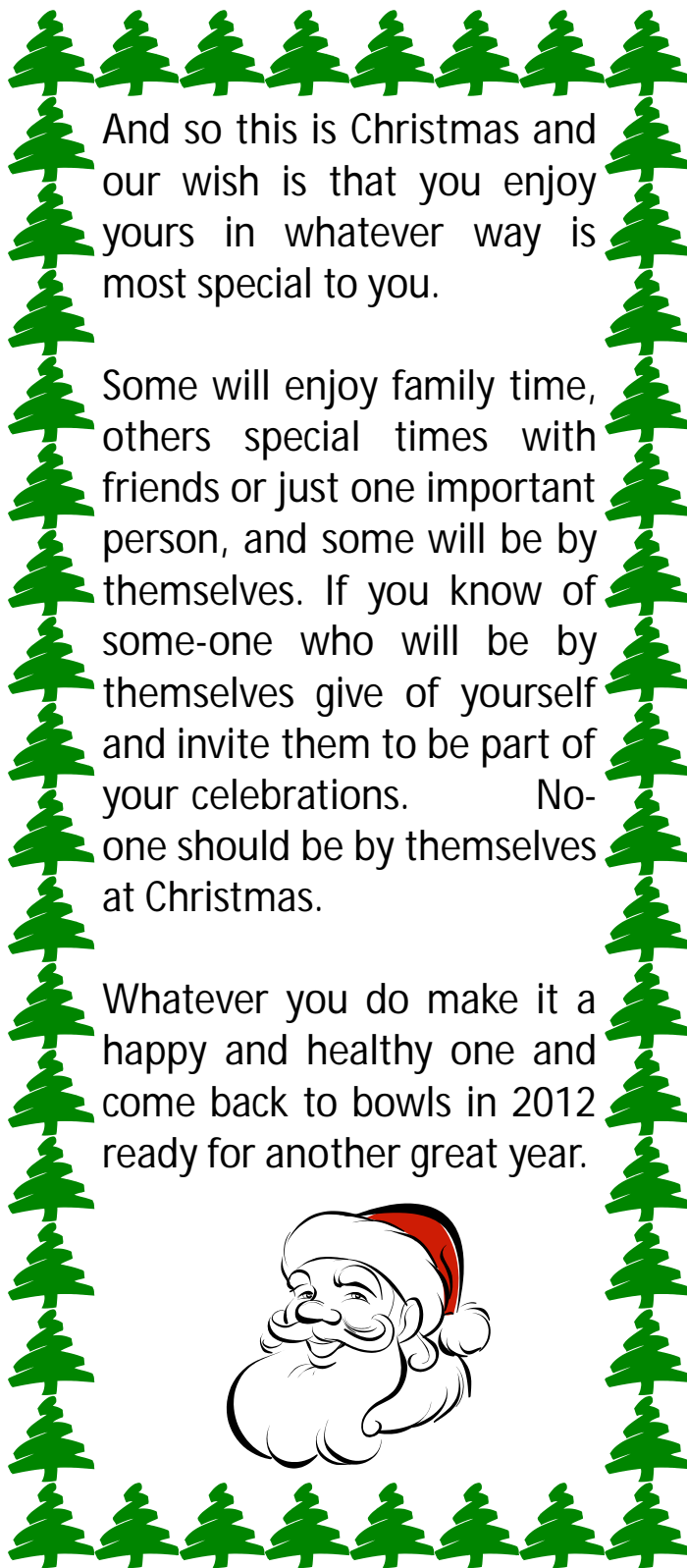
Match Committee - Trevor Serafini

Thank you to all members for keeping up with the club games and making sure they are all played in time. Failure to get the games played means a walk over to your opponent or both teams eliminated from the competition.

Bowls Focus Magazine - November 2011

No doubt you couldn't help but note the models in the centre page—and they can all bowl very well too.

But how many noted the article by Mark Jacobson? A hard hitting account of his thoughts and the need to be part of a TEAM (no I in this word) not just someone who pays their membership. Ask what you can do to help don't just grizzle and bad mouth those that do.



And so this is Christmas and our wish is that you enjoy yours in whatever way is most special to you.

Some will enjoy family time, others special times with friends or just one important person, and some will be by themselves. If you know of some-one who will be by themselves give of yourself and invite them to be part of your celebrations. No-one should be by themselves at Christmas.

Whatever you do make it a happy and healthy one and come back to bowls in 2012 ready for another great year.