



## Shepparton Park Bowls Club Inc

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September  
Newsletter  
30/9/2010

### Host of the Australian Open in 2009 and 2010 : Host of the Victorian Open 2011

#### Important dates for October

- 4 Ladies Pennant
- 6 Ladies Social Bowls
- 6 Men's 2x2 pairs
- 8 Open Mixed Pairs Tournament
- 11 Ladies Pennant
- 12 60 & Over at Violet Town
- 13 Ladies Social Bowls
- 13 Men's 2x2 pairs
- 15 Men's Pennant
  
- 18 Ladies Pennant
- 19 Ladies Championship Pairs—1st Round
- 19 60 & Over at Colbinabbin and Avenel
- 20 Ladies Social Bowls
- 20 Men's 2x2 Pairs
- 22 Men's Pennant
- 23 1st&2nd round Men's Singles Championship
- 24 Ladies Singles Championship -1st Round
- 27 60 & Over at Murchison
- 27 Ladies Social Bowls
- 27 Men's 2x2 Pairs

Several other items were discussed – see Ron's comprehensive minutes for full details (You'll find them on the notice board too).

#### LADIES SECTION REPORT - Wendy Holland

We all enjoyed a pleasant day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> at our Opening Day for the season. It was a little disappointing that most of our top lady bowlers were not in attendance. Please come to our Social Bowls and Shared Lunch Day on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Pennant starts on the 27<sup>th</sup> Sept and we have a Medley Tournament on 28<sup>th</sup>.

All our committees, Match, Catering, Tournament and Selection have been busy preparing for this season, and we are all getting into the swing of things. The duty rosters are out now for catering. Please make note of your duty dates and turn up when required.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest lady member, Marie Kleinitz. We hope you enjoy your time with us Marie.

Best of Luck for the Bowling Season Ladies.

#### Greens Director—Noel Dobson

A list of men who can assist on Friday mornings as helpers is being circulated. I ask that these members can help out on a Friday morning for a couple of hours from 8.30 a.m. If you cannot help on the date allocated, please swap with someone else who is on the roster.

The grass greens are bowling very well, great feed back from visitors & members alike. The shades at the north end of foundation green need to be put up in the next week. Once the frosts are finished, the plants will be put into the pots & placed in the containers at the northern end of clubhouse verandah.

John Wallace is overseeing the erection of the new security fencing & should be completed by end of September. John will be allocating keys to all members, to gain access to bowling area & surrounds.

#### Victorian Open 2011

As you would be aware Shepparton Park has been selected as the host venue for the Victorian Open for the next three years. This year the event will be held from Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. This will be another occasion where we can highlight our magnificent facilities and show bowlers from all around the State how lucky we are. The event will draw over a thousand visitors to Shepparton for the week.

To run the event we will of course need to again call on the generous nature of our members. The event is lower in profile and budget than the Australian Open, but many hands will be needed to make it a success.

We need volunteers to help with; markers for singles play, score board attendants, car park attendants, raffle tickets and booklet sellers, greens workers, catering

#### Men's President's Report—Jeff Boyle

**The Men's meeting on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> was well attended and several interesting issues were discussed.**

##### **Umpires**

We are rather thin on the ground for umpires. There will be training nights with Doug Machonachie on Wednesday nights at East Shepparton in the near future. Give some thought to attending. Graeme Betts, our newest umpire assures us that the course is interesting and not too demanding.

##### **Membership**

Secretary Ron gave statistics of our aging membership showing we need to continually be on the look out for new members. There will be a "Try Bowls" day on the afternoon of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. See Ron if you are able to assist.

##### **Selection**

The direction of the meeting was that the two teams in Division 4 should be selected as a stronger and weaker team.

##### **Coaching**

Agreed that we need to develop a coaching program. Geoff Maskell can come up for a full day in the future – keep an eye out for further details.

There's plenty of things going on. Make sure you get your names on the board for such things as Goodwill visits, 60 and over, night pennant, 2 x 2 pairs, practice matches and tournaments coming up. There's no shortage of opportunities.

workers (we will be catering for everyone, so will need to have men to fire up the barbie as well as ladies to help in the kitchen), bar workers, cleaners as well as helpers to make sure our clubhouse is presented in excellent condition. We would also like any member who has first aid qualifications to offer their services.

No volunteer T-Shirts will be made available as was the case at the Australian Open, so members helping out would need to wear their club uniforms as appropriate.

If you can help out please add your name to the list at the club. Further details or information can be obtained from any committee member, John Wallace, Jim Shanahan, Alan Sutherland, Val Gibbs, Jeff Boyle or Dave Hardie.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2011-12

### TARGET 2011-2012 20 FULL MEMBERS

As at 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 we have a membership comprised of:-

**Male Affiliated Members: 127 (Non Pennant Members included - 13)**

**Female Affiliated Members: 75 (Non Pennant Members included - 2)**

**Members departed YTD: 10**

**Members gained YTD: 15**

**Social Members 2010-11: 35**

**Total current members all categories: 233**

**MEN** Our 127 male members comprise the following age groups:-

Over 80 years	18	75-80 years	26
70-74 years	21	65-69 years	27
40-64 years	29	16-40 years	5

To maintain our present pennant teams **we require a 92 players available every week** (5 teams x 16 + 1 team x 12)

In five years without new younger members we would have 35% of our male membership over the age of 80 (44).

Realistically this means we are most likely to drop at least 2 pennant sides unless we inject new blood. To do this we need about 10 new men each year to maintain or levels.

Most importantly we need to realise that our ageing membership means our workloads around the club will dramatically increase as this 35% of our male membership becomes either physically incapable or simply feel they have done their share. **Quite reasonably we cannot expect the 80 year olds will continue to bear as much of this load as they do today.**

**WOMEN** It is important that in particular we target Ladies numbers to replace those who will be expected to decrease significantly over the next 5 years.

Currently of the 75 lady members 10 are over 85 years and in total 27 are over 75 years, i.e. almost half our female members will be over 80 in 2016 - **if they are still with us!**

Currently we have 5 pennant sides requiring 60 players each week. Most weeks we struggle to fill 60 places. We need at least 10 new ladies this year or the distinct likelihood is we will drop a team of 12 next year. With no new ladies we will most likely be down to a maximum of 3 ladies pennant teams within 5 years.

If we translate these numbers across our combined membership the impact on our ability to field pennant sides in five years is quite significant. We could well lose as many as 50 of our current number within five years if we don't arrest the inevitable decline though age catching up with us all.

### So what does this mean and how can we change things?

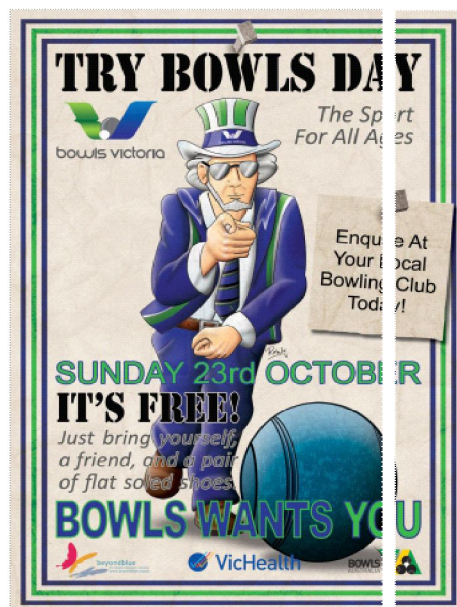
To have an impact we must ALL be active in encouraging new members. Older members should never see the introduction of new members as a threat to their positions, rather they will be replacing those who can no longer play each week. It does not mean you will not have an opportunity to play but perhaps it may be in a more appropriate format than traditional pennant matches. Each year many of our older members struggle with extreme heat and the length of matches. Perhaps an alternate competition would be more appropriate – one that allows for lesser physical capability. In the short term this won't happen unless members demand change. It is my belief that rapidly ageing membership at all regional/district club will force some change in the near future or clubs will begin to struggle or perhaps even fold. Already about 10 of our 19 clubs must play men simply to keep teams in the competition. Most of our ladies accept this reluctantly. If they all do nothing Ladies bowls in the traditional sense may be a thing of the past.


SUNDAY October 23<sup>rd</sup> has been designated  
Statewide as

## TRY BOWLS DAY

Bowls Victoria will conduct an extensive advertising program throughout the state on TV and Radio. It is important that we tap into this and focus on running a successful day at Shepparton Park.

We want every member to endeavour to bring along at least one potential bowler. Being realistic I expect that at least 75% of our members will say that someone else's job – well I am challenging you to change your approach. Lets get a minimum of 60-80 potential members here to try our wonderful game. New members will not simply walk through the door – we have to invite them and make them welcome.





## Social Report—Raymond Hill

Our end of month Chicken Nights kicked off last Friday with NOT ONLY chicken but a pre AFL Final atmosphere created with the help of balloons and flags for each participating team. These were auctioned at the end of the night and Ken Allen and Reg Jeffery proudly took home their respective bounty.

The raffle meant that the McKenzie's and the Sinclair's don't have to visit the butcher this week with each winning a meat tray, Ray Phillips and Caitlyn Morris winning the money envelopes. Congratulations to you all.

Our Christmas Function is tentatively booked for Friday 9th December with music and a Roving Roast so put this date in the diary.

Stay tuned for more social events.

# CLUB EVENTS

## IMPORTANT

Please read this notice carefully as action may be required by yourselves.

The Men's Open and "B" Grade Singles Championships will commence with the first round of the Open Title to be held on (or before) Sunday 23rd October 2011 at 10.00am.

This season the Match Committee has decided that to avoid the perennial problem of expired deadlines, that 2 rounds will be played on Sunday 23rd October, and rounds 3 & 4 on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

"B" Grade games will be played in your own time by designated dates.

If you wish to participate in these events, please fill in the attached Entry Form and deposit it into the Club Events Box at the north end of the Tournament Office before 5.00pm on Sunday 16th October 2011 with the \$5.00 entry fee for each event. Qualification for "B" Grade is that your 2011-12 handicap is 9 or under.

Other events for which entries are to be lodged by 5.00pm on Sunday 16th October 2011 are the Men's Championship Pairs and the Mixed Pairs Championship - both with partners of your own choice. Entry fees for these events, to be played by specified dates, are \$5.00 per player (\$10.00 per team) and payment must accompany the entry which can only be done on the requisite form which accompanies this Newsletter.

Later rounds of these events may well be able to be played on the new undercover surface.

Spares of this form will be available in the Clubhouse. Brown envelopes are available near Tournament Office.

### ENTRY FORM

Please tick the events you wish to enter:

- |                          |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Men's Open Singles       | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |
| Men's "B" Grade Singles  | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |
| Men's Pairs Championship | <input type="checkbox"/> | Partner's Name ..... |
| Mixed Pairs Championship | <input type="checkbox"/> | Partner's Name ..... |

YOUR NAME .....

Attached is \$5.00 per player per event. (Please pay for both partners)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$.....