

# NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE 8 – APRIL**

**SEASON 2015-16**

**[WEBSITE – www.bowls.wodonga.com.au](http://www.bowls.wodonga.com.au)**



## CHAIRMAN DAVID'S ANNUAL REPORT

The first thing I would like to do is it to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard over the past 12 months to ensure the successful operation of the Wodonga Bowling Club. The ladies in the kitchen under the guidance of Marg Hickey, Alice Bounader, Marg Cameron, Lorraine Gill and others has been truly remarkable as the Club processed and catered for more functions than ever in its history. They were backed up famously by BBQ cooks who were many, but Fred Baldock, Jason McMahon, John Boyd and Stan Pickett more often than not answered the call.

Around the greens David Quick, Tony Smedley and Paul Smythe were always on deck ensuring presentation of our Club was immaculate at all times, and this work was complimented by those who dutifully attend to our gardens, by name but not exclusively, Liz and Ralph Coulston, Barrie Nash and Dawn Fraser.

Mention must also be made of the Men's and Ladies Match and Selection Committees, Col Fitzmaurice on Wednesdays, David and Pat Jackaman with Business House/Barefoot Thursday Bowls, ably backed up again by our BBQ cooks, Karen Ferguson in the bar, along with Brian Gilby and Bill Miller, who of course are almost totally responsible for bringing in the entire Club Sponsorship revenue of over \$20,000. Mention should also be made of our Friday night Happy Hour ticket sellers, Bernie Jones and volunteer caterers.

**Some of the most special thanks go to those volunteer members who each week assist with the running of Bingo, which raises in excess of \$50,000 for the Club annually, without which we would probably have to close the doors**

Thanks must also go to our Bowls' Presidents Joan Boyd and Gary King for wonderful leadership and commitment, and Gary also in his role as Club Delegate, along with Pam Shirley.

The trouble with mentioning names of course is accidentally overlooking others who have also assisted many of those mentioned, and particularly I would like to thank the 10 – 20 members who regularly turned up for the few 2 hour working bees we held, where many valuable tasks were completed, followed by coffee & a light hearted chat. **The next one by the way is set down for 9AM on the 11<sup>th</sup> April.**

With regards to the financial year and bowling season achievements, I think it has been very successful, although not without its traumas and issues, through which we have had to navigate.

Firstly the two **weekend Pennant Premiership sides, and the Ladies' Midweek Premiership side are to be congratulated**, along with the various multiple individual District and State honours achieved by members, which surely help to enhance the Wodonga Bowling Club's reputation, and give a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure to those involved.

**Board Decisions taken over the past 12 months are mentioned in the following summary:-**

- Firstly the introduction of Working Bees and the reintroduction of the Club's **Newsletter**, to better keep Members informed.
- The introduction of a more durable and useable **plastic membership card**.

- The commencement of a medium term **Strategic Planning Process** with the assistance of the Bowls Australia Regional Manager, Josh Thornton, with an opportunity for input from members.
- The introduction of **Waste Recycling** (not without difficulties of where to actually place the various bins), but to have the Club seen as a more responsible Corporate Citizen, and to save money.
- Equipment purchases included replacement of the old **Ride on Mower**, the replacement of the old wooden **Flag Pole** with a galvanised one, and the replacement of the ancient **Compressor** with a more efficient and slightly quieter unit, which should significantly save on power and maintenance.
- Our Electricity agreement was renegotiated and should see annual savings **in excess of \$3,000.**
- Rob Ashworth also agreed to work under a Government sponsored scheme which saw us carry out some patch and painting repairs to the front of the Clubhouse. Although Rob injured his knee and had to step aside from the program, we were eventually able to continue with lightening up the foyer and function room with a lick of paint, which seems to have been very well received by members. **All materials are to be reimbursed to the Club, through the Government program.**
- Extra external lighting has been provided in the car park and now with the days getting shorter, everyone needs to be aware of the external switch near the Compressor, ensuring as darkness falls, **and it is actually turned on.**
- Some changes were made to the operation of the Christmas Raffle and the support of members in responding to these was genuinely appreciated. **(The Winners Story and Financial Result were also gratifying)**
- After running close to the wind on concerts, and actually making a loss on one, a decision was taken not to continue sponsoring the Country Music circuit, but the local Community Radio Station has decided to continue in this role, with Bernie Jones still heavily involved, and I would urge members to continue their support with attendance.
- The agreement with Lion Nathan was eventually renegotiated to allow the Club to now cater for lovers of **“Carlton Draught”**, and this should significantly assist with bar trade, but more particularly put a smile back on quite a few faces.
- As a means of trying to make the Club more inclusive of the Community and seeking income from external sources, the Clubhouse is now being used as a new home for regular **Darts Competition** on both Monday and Wednesday nights. This competition was previously using the basement of the German/Austrian Club, and our facilities offer a much more appealing environment, but ultimately it must prove to **be beneficial to both the Darts Fraternity and the Wodonga Bowling Club.**
- My thanks go to Marg Vlacci and John Sarroff for multiple days spent at the Mt Carmel School during March, introducing “Junior Jack Attack” to students of various ages, in very hot conditions in the school basketball stadium. **Clearly our ongoing involvement with schools is critical to future membership.**
- Regretfully Josh Rudd has been advised that unfortunately his position must be terminated from the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. Efforts are being made through contact with the Bowls Australia Regional Manager, Josh Thornton, and others, in an endeavour to find possible positions that maybe of interest to Josh, as a means of furthering both his Bowling Career and Employment opportunities. The Board is genuinely disappointed in having to make this decision, but the Club is simply not able to sustain the growing amount of expenditure in the maintenance of its three greens, that has occurred over the past four years.

To our knowledge Wodonga has by far the highest cost structure of any comparable Club operating anywhere without the support of Poker Machines and fulltime administrative staff – and even these do not guarantee financial survival.

The Board is deeply indebted for Josh’s contribution to the Wodonga Bowling Club as he progressed through his apprenticeship, but particularly for his efforts during the recent difficult times with David Swasbrick’s illness. **The Board and Club members I am sure wish Josh well with all his future endeavours.**

- Unfortunately, as in past years, the Annual Financial Reports you have had access to now for some days, **while they reflect a very successful trading year,** ledger postings of various items of income and expenditure

do not allow for answers to some obvious questions, such as profit on catering and accurate details on sponsorship for example! It must be said for the size of this Club's business, improved accountability must be achieved. The most recent decision of the Board therefore is, commencing late April, to employ Caroline Taylor to solely take full management control of all financial, staff and membership records of the Club, on a two day week basis, following an initial short familiarisation period.

- Finally I would like to thank all **Bowling Club Staff**, both permanent and casual, for their contribution throughout the past 12 months. Also special thanks go to my **fellow Board Members**, who have diligently approached their tasks and made extremely difficult decisions in the best interests of the Wodonga Bowling Club going forward. It's great to see so many nominations for the various positions in the Club for season 2016-17, and let us hope 2016-17 is an even more successful year.

**DAVID**

## OFFICE BEARERS SEASON 2016-17

**Mid-Week Selection Committee:**

Pat Jackaman  
Pat Polly  
Liz Coulston  
Hellen Harrison  
Dawn Fraser

**Weekend Selection Committee:**

Paul Davies  
Chris Bird  
Rick Gillman  
Greg Porter  
Gary King

**Chairman:**

David Broad

**Director of Administration:**

John Gill

**Director of Finance:**

David Hillas

**"General" Directors:**

David Jackaman  
Don Cameron  
Gary King  
Murray Lawn

**President Ladies:**

Joan Boyd

**Deputy President Ladies:**

Elaine Gilby

**President Men's:**

Gary King

**Deputy President Men's:**

Paul Davies

**Men's Match Committee:**

Ashley Bates  
David King  
John Boyd  
Brian Gilby  
Josh Rudd

**Ladies' Match Committee:**

Louise Farrar  
Deanna Gardiner  
Christa Broad  
Isabel Pleming  
Maxine Bounader

**Delegates to O&M Bowls:**

Margo Howe  
Gary King

### **WINNERS ARE GRINNERS:**

Congratulations to:

**Klive Liverton and Kylie Whitehead.**

Winner of the Club Mixed Pairs Championship.

**Josh Rudd, Paul Davies, Mark Morgan and Ray Moon.**

Winners of the 54<sup>th</sup> Dunstan Day Men's Fours.

**Bill Luty and Fred Baldock.**

Winners of the Men's Pairs Championship.

**Kylie Whitehead and Mary Tragardh.**

Winners of the Ladies' Pairs Championship and

Members of winning team: MCHARGS Ladies' Medley.

**Bill Miller and Dawn Fraser.**

Winners of the Ratcliffe Mixed Pairs.



## **PRESENTATION NIGHT**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May  
(Following Happy Hour)

**CHEF PREPARED TWO COURSE MEAL & ENTERTAINMENT**

\$25 per person

## DUNSTAN DAY:

As with all bowling clubs Wodonga is experiencing a decline in entries for our major tournaments, however, despite the numbers being slightly down on previous years the 54<sup>th</sup> Dunstan Memorial Fours tournament was considered extremely successful. Sponsored by Westmont Age Care Services and played under ideal autumn conditions this prestige event attracted 28 teams from throughout the district with four games of ten ends being played.

After the completion of four games two teams remained undefeated necessitating a three end play-off between the Wodonga team of Ray Moon, Mark Morgan, Paul Davies and Josh Rudd(S) and the composite of Ross Rankin, Albert Critchlow, Shawn McMahon and Klive Liverton(S).

Watched by good crowd of interested spectators the composite team got away to a good start winning the first end by one shot. The second end saw the Wodonga combination come back to win the end by three shots. The composite team won the third end but once again by only one which meant the Wodonga side won the play-off and the tournament by one shot.



## RATCLIFFE MIXED PAIRS:

Although the Annual Ratcliffe Mixed Pairs held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March attracted only a relatively small field all competitors enjoyed a great day of bowling.

Three games were played and at the end there were three 3-game winners with placings having to be decided on a countback. This resulted in Bill Miller and Dawn Fraser being declared the winners from Margaret Bedford and Ashley Bates with Norm Nash and Karen Ferguson in third place. Fourth place went to Bernie and Julie Jones with two wins.

The Club once again thanks Ratcliffe Funeral Parlours for their continued support.

## MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP:

On the afternoon of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March Kylie Whitehead and Klive Liverton played Joan Boyd and Fred Baldock in the final of the Club Mixed Pairs Championship.

In the early stages the match was closely contested with the scores locked at 8- all before Kylie and Klive, with superior consistent bowling, got on top to run out convincing winners 23-9.

Kylie has now been victorious in the Ladies' Club Singles, the Ladies' Club Pairs and also the Mixed Club Pairs as well as being a member of the winning four in the recent Wodonga Ladies' McHarg Fours.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP - JOHN DRUMMOND:

The highest honour that Wodonga Bowling Club can bestow on a member is Life Membership. It is fitting that at the Club's AGM last week, Club Chairman David, on behalf of members, awarded John Drummond, the Club's longest serving member, Life Membership for outstanding service to the Club, both as a player and as an administrator, and presented John with an appropriate certificate.

Club records indicate that John joined the Wodonga Bowling Club on the first of September 1965 - over fifty years ago. During his membership of this club as well as being a superior bowler he has always been extremely popular both within the club and the wider bowling fraternity. Moreover, he is highly regarded as a person of great integrity and modesty and has always been a great ambassador for Wodonga Bowling Club.

For some years during the seventies and eighties he was a committee member and served as President for three years, 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79. During his period as President he displayed great leadership and foresight in that he led the way in the building of the clubrooms and facilities members enjoy today.

Last pennant season John completed fifty consecutive seasons as pennant player for the club and over the years has played in 16 premierships sides for Wodonga Bowling Club - 12 in A1 sides and four before Wodonga reached A1.

John was club champion on three occasions and as can be seen by the number of times his name has appeared on Club honour boards listing the events he has won, far too many to record in this Newsletter) it can be seen that John has had an outstanding bowling career which in the latter years included a Victorian State Title.

On receiving the award John thanked the Club and his family and spoke of the pleasure bowls has given him over the years, of the friends he had made through bowls and, humorously at times, related some of the history of the Club.

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The State Championships to be held at Bendigo East Bowls Club during the week 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> this month includes knockout and finals for Singles, Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Triples, Fours and Champion of Champions Singles for both Men and Women, Under-25 State Singles Finals and the Men's & Women's State Novice Singles finals. Over-60s State titles were awarded earlier in the season.

Representatives from Wodonga are playing in the following events on the days and times indicated:

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am

Men's Fours Championship - John Dawson, Peter McLarty, Klive Liverton and Les Spencer (YMGCR)  
Vs Composite side from Peninsular Casey.

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - 4:30pm

Women's Under 25 Singles Championship - Kylie Whitehead  
Vs Tiffany Brodie

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am

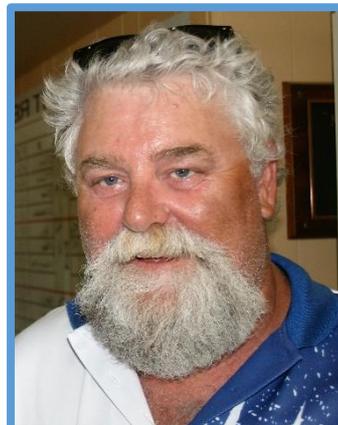
Men's Pairs Championship - Paul Davies and Ray Moon  
Vs Pair from Warrnambool City

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am

Men's singles Championship - Klive Liverton  
Vs Gary Body - Camperdown

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am

Men's triples Championship - Josh Rudd, Ashley Bates and David King  
Vs Triple from Red Cliffs



Klive.  
Seeking  
the  
Men's  
State  
Singles  
Title!

Some Wodonga members have already indicated they are going to journey to Bendigo during this week and the club would like to see a large contingent of members in attendance to support our state final representatives. Bendigo is a great place to spend a few days and the bowling should be excellent viewing so give it some thought

## LADIES' DRAWN PAIRS:

A Ladies' Drawn Pairs event was conducted by the club on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March with 24 players competing over three games of eight ends. There were two 3-game winners with Alice Bounader and Jude Fraser being declared final victors on a shots-up basis from Margaret Cameron and Christa Broad.

## SHIELD WINNERS:

Congratulations to the Ladies' Midweek Pennant side on their magnificent performance to bring home the shield to Wodonga. Congratulations also to the two Weekend Pennant sides who also were victorious in the finals.

A club's success is not necessarily measured by the number of shields they win in a season; however, it certainly contributes to the satisfaction of members and to the morale within in the club and the general prestige of the Club.



## EASTER RAFFLE:

Prize winners in the EASTER RAFFLE are as follows.

<u>First:</u>	Set of coloured GREENMASTER Bowls.	LEE TAYLOR
<u>Second:</u>	GREENMASTER Bowls Bag and Accessories.	GARRY HOWLETT
<u>Third:</u>	GREENMASTER Shirt and Cap.	DAVID QUICK

The Club extends a big thank you to Bill Miller, local agent for GREENMASTER, for arranging the generous donation to the Club by BOWLS WORLD NSW of these prizes.

## LAST FOR SEASON 2015-16:

This will be the last issue of the Club Newsletter for season 2015-16. Because the Board believes the dissemination of information to members is important they have indicated they wish to see the continuance of the publication next season.

It is thought that a greater input from members in general would immensely improve the publication, consequently, next season it is hoped that more members will contribute articles and photos and assist with the editing or perhaps take over the editing completely.

We are also looking for a name for the publication. We have had some suggestions, although perhaps humourous, would be objectionable to quite a few members and we are looking to get away from "Biased" or "Unbiased" which are used by most bowling clubs who publish a newsletter.



SEE YA NEXT SEASON!

# APRIL

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				<b>1</b> Happy Hour & Raffles	<b>2</b> Jackpot Pairs	<b>3</b> Men's Club Triples Rnds 1 & 2
<b>4</b> Greens Closed Maintenance	<b>5</b> Ladies' Social	<b>6</b> Men's Social Pairs 2x4x2	<b>7</b> Ladies' Social	<b>8</b> Happy Hour & Raffles	<b>9</b> Jackpot Pairs	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Greens Closed Maintenance	<b>12</b> Ladies' Triples Championship	<b>13</b> Men's Social Pairs 2x4x2	<b>14</b> Ladies' Social	<b>15</b> Happy Hour & Raffles	<b>16</b> Jackpot Pairs	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Greens Closed Maintenance	<b>19</b> Ladies' Triples Championship	<b>20</b> Men's Social Pairs 2x4x2	<b>21</b> Ladies' Social	<b>22</b> <b>Joyce Larkin Shield</b> Happy Hour & Raffles	<b>23</b> Jackpot Pairs	<b>24</b> Men's Club Triples Rnds 3 & 4
<b>25</b> Greens Closed Maintenance	<b>26</b> Ladies' Triples Championship	<b>27</b> Men's Social Pairs 2x4x2	<b>28</b> Ladies Social	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	