

Newsletter - August



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Coming Soon

Timesteppers'



Practice Matches

Well, the start of the 2019-2020 Season is almost upon us and the Pennant Selection Committee and the Coaches have put together a practice match and coaching programme to ensure that everyone is ready, able and willing to take on the challenges of the new season. There are four Intra-Club matches and one Inter-Club match. It is assumed that all members are available for all of the practice matches unless they have indicated otherwise. If you are unavailable, please indicate that on the lists at the clubhouse or contact a member of the Selection Committee in plenty of time for that committee to organise the teams. The dates and times of the matches are as follows:

Saturday 31st August

There is a coaching workshop prior to the match so arrive at 11.30am for a 12noon start. The intra-club practice match starts at 2.00p.m. Unfortunately, this match coincides with the final footy match on the oval, so parking will be at a premium. Please try to car-pool and park, if possible, in Alexander Avenue. The gates will be open for a number of larger vehicles to park between the greens.

Saturday 7th September

Arrive 11.30am for the coaching workshop at 12noon, followed by an intra-club match at 2 pm.

Saturday 14th September

This is the annual inter-club practice match against Warburton and is always a lot of fun. There will be a sausage sizzle and socialising after the game. Please arrive by 11.30am to register for the teams.



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Practice Matches continued

Sunday 22nd September. Opening Day of the new season.

The Coaching Committee have organised a special coaching workshop with Bowls Victoria's Head Coach, Barrie Lester, who will have two of his colleagues along to assist him. This is part of Bowls Victoria's new programme, "CoachForce", to give all clubs the opportunity to have access to top players and coaches, thus improving the skills of all club members. To register for this workshop, please contact Gavin Bransgrove ASAP. Those attending should be at the club by 11.30am for a 12noon start. At 2.00pm, there will be an intra-club practice match and our Sponsor, D.S.G. (Doncaster Sporting Goods) will be setting up shop for those needing any bowls equipment or clothing (not uniform shirts, for those see Peter Jeffery).

Friday 27 September

This falls on the **Grand Final** holiday weekend, which is why it is on the Friday. There is no coaching workshop so please be at the Club at 12noon for a start at 1.00pm. This will give the organisers time to arrange the teams.

All practice matches will be played in full club uniform (not Tigers on Tour shirts) unless you are a new members who has not yet acquired a uniform. On Opening Day, new members without uniform, please wear appropriate smart casual. Please remember too, that for this coming season, the white and coloured pants have been phased out and black is the uniform colour.

Raffle

Despite the disappointing number of tickets sold, the Ferntree Gully Motor Group raffle did raise a respectable amount of sixteen hundred Dollars for the Club. Well done to those that participated and to those that did the hard work in distributing, collecting and, in particular, filling in all the unsold tickets.

The raffle was drawn on the 19th August and, as I have not heard any screams of joy from a new car owner, I presume that none of our members or the club itself, actually won. The money raised has been earmarked for the purchase of a new refrigerator to keep the beer cold and for a new lap-top computer for the club, now that Pennant results are to be sent to Bowls Victoria online.

Day of the Dogs

Once again, those that went to the Day of the Dogs at Sandown had a great day out and several came home with their financial situation improved to the tune of two or three hundred Dollars and some smaller amounts.

Fantastic! and congratulations to Jackie Bramwell for organising such an enjoyable event. Although this was promoted as a fun day out for members and not a major fundraising event, the club did end up as a winner to the tune of four hundred and ninety-five Dollars!

A great result.

Timesteppers Concert

Whilst on the subject of fundraising, once again make a note in your diaries or 'phones that the Timesteppers are giving another concert at the Club on 16th November.

Those that were at last year's concert know what a great night it was with our member, Sylvia Hoffman, getting a standing ovation for her fantastic singing. The whole show was very professional and raised a lot of money for the Club and for the Timesteppers who raise the money for cancer research. Last year the clubhouse was packed to the rafters and, no doubt, it will be the same this year, so make sure you get your name down for a ticket early.

Bookings aren't open yet but watch this space or for posters at the club.

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Barefoot Bowls

One of our major fundraisers and one that plays an important role when it comes to recruiting new members is our summer programme of Barefoot Bowls.

The burden of running Barefoot Bowls has fallen on Brendon Ford and a group of helpers in the past but Brendon is no longer able to commit to the whole programme so this coming season, members of the Committee will take turns running the event each week and a roster of members to assist the is being compiled.

Please do your best to support this programme by assisting on your rostered day or, if you can't make that day, by swapping with another member. The programme will be run each Friday from the 22nd November through to Friday 21st February, a period of only fourteen weeks, so if everyone does their bit, they will only be required two or three times throughout the season.

Air-conditioning

As many of you will have noticed, one of the wall furnaces in the clubhouse has given up the ghost and the surviving one is barely adequate to heat the hall to a comfortable level.

In fact, we assume it was a subtle hint from perhaps a bridge player that they were cold, when a very impressive electric stove, masquerading as a log burning stove, appeared!

But, have no fear, the new split-system, reverse-cycle, air conditioners will be installed very soon, one either end of the clubroom. After some discussion, it was decided that the outside units will be installed on the roof over the kitchen, below the ridgeline of the roof so that they won't be seen from the Alexander Avenue side of the grounds.

This will be a huge improvement on the old air conditioner as, not only is each unit more powerful (and efficient), than the old air conditioner, but we won't get hot air blowing along the verandah on stinking hot days as we did with the old one!

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Odd Spot

Has anyone ever been on a Committee where the Secretary can't read, the Treasurer can't count and the Licensee attends the meeting on the wrong day?

Well, at a recent committee meeting of a Club that shall remain nameless, the Treasurer insisted that fifteen percent of four hundred Dollars was nine Dollars something and the Secretary had included on the agenda the issuing of a 'Working with Children' licence, and started discussing it at the meeting before it was pointed out that the person was not a member of that Club, but a member of a nearby club, shown in large letters on the headed notepaper.

The licensee attended at the right time but a week late!

New Member

A big welcome to Blake Bartrop, who has joined the Club as a full member.

Blake and his partner have fairly recently moved to Upwey and Blake came along to a few Barefoot Bowls nights and got a taste for the game. For the last two or three weeks, he has come along to the 8 a.m. Sunday morning fun sessions and is proving to be a bit of a natural! Last Sunday he even brought his partner's father, Bill, along. Bill is an experienced bowler who has recently moved from Neerim to Pakenham and is looking for a new club. Despite the distance from Pakenham to Upwey, he is contemplating joining us! Bill is a Scot, but unlike another Scot I could mention, Bill does speak an understandable form of English!

90th Birthday

No, not of one of our venerable members, but of the Club itself! Although the Club was formed in August 1928, it took 15 months or so for the money to be raised, earthworks to be completed and the first green laid. The official Opening Day when the first bowl was put down was on the **4th December, 1929** so the 4th December this year will be the 90th Birthday. It has been suggested that we celebrate this milestone in some way.

On the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the club in 1928, we put on a 'party' and invited as many of the ex-members of the club as we could find. If anyone has any ideas on how we could celebrate, please contact a Committee member.

It has been suggested that our longest serving playing members be involved. Our records show that Ken Williams has been a continuous member for twenty-five years followed by Robin Southern at 24 years and then Jeff Blastock, also at 24 years. If anyone has been a continuous member for longer than Ken, please let the Committee know.

