AVENUE BOWLING CLUB NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2014

Yes folks due to popular demand here’s another newsletter aimed at bringing all members up to date with what’s happening in and around your club.

Let’s start off with a report from our Chairman, Peter Kay:

Seasons Greetings from Your Chairman

2014 is coming to a close and has been another eventful year for the club. It is with great sadness that John Cook recently passed away. John was an ardent member, always willing to help and a man of great humour.

Our new Simpson Green surface has been down 18 months and overall is performing well. There are a couple of spots, which seem to affect the travel of the bowl and discussions are underway with Berry Bowling Systems to resolve these.

Regarding the Candeloro St block, there has been a lot of debate about the options 1) whether we continue to go for a re-zoning to residential, 2) consider moving the whole club across and selling where we are or 3) selling the block as is. This is a major decision for the club and as Chairman has been weighing on my mind and the sub-committee we formed. The general feeling is (with the limited membership we have) we are not financial position to re-locate the club in the near term and we already have an ideal location.

With the help of a local Councillor, we are pushing the Council for their opinion on whether they may accept that we could zone the back 1 acre as residential 1 and keep the front 1 acre for a car park over the contaminated area and a future 3rd green. If the response is reasonably positive, then we will proceed with our application to re-zone. Success is not guaranteed as the ultimate decision will lie with the State Minister for Planning, but at least we will know one way or the other. The club will be kept informed.

We need to move ahead with re-surfacing the Lucas Green. A review of the different synthetic options is underway. Early in the New Year, the club will arrange for interested members to visit clubs with different types of synthetic surfaces to help decide which type we will buy. Like politics, there will be a divergence of opinion, but we need to make the most informative decision we can in the next 6 – 8 weeks to have a new surface for next season.

Overall, our pennant teams are doing well. Premiers have had a tough season and been unlucky several times not to get the points. I wish them all the best for the rest of the season. Thanks to the selectors for doing their tough jobs.

Our annual Corporate Challenge event starts Tues 3rd February. 17 teams have entered so far and our aim is to get 26 teams. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year and needs volunteers to run it, so if you are interested to help please contact me.

Warwick and his band of volunteers continue to do a great job with the greens and other maintenance. We wish Gil all the best with his recuperation and it was great for Gil to be there last Saturday on his gopher, watching the pennant. The bar is being ably managed by Judy with sales up 20% this year!
Along with all his other activities, Peter Thistlethwaite has taken over from John Hofstra, managing the website – a very worthwhile, but time consuming job. Peter Glass keeps us informed on Apple FM and Peter Blythe continues to keep the books in good order. Thanks to all the other volunteers I have not mentioned. Your support is vital.

Have had a great Xmas and a happy, healthy and enjoyable 2015.
Cheers
Chairman, Peter Kay

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY 2015

- Monday January 5 2015  - Resumption of Midweek Pennant (Div 1 home to City Oval, Div 2 away to Daylesford)
- Wednesday January 7 2015 - Resumption of Over 60’s (at Avenue)
- Thursday January 8 2015 - Resumption of Thursday Social @ 10.00 am
- Saturday January 17 2015 - Resumption of Weekend Pennant (Divs 3 & 8 home)
- Tuesday 3 February 2015 - commencement of Corporate Challenge

If you are unavailable for either midweek or weekend pennant, please ensure that you put your name on the relevant unavailable list.

BAKERS DELIGHT CUP
Our major sponsor, Richard Peel from Bakers Delight graciously inaugurated the Bakers Delight Cup last year with a match against Gisborne BC, for which Bakers Delight are also sponsors.

It was a well-run event last year, but unfortunately Avenue failed to win the match (and become holders of the Cup). Another match has been arranged between the 2 clubs (at Avenue) on Saturday 21 March 2015, which is the week after the BDBD Grand Finals. Let’s hope the result is different this year.

A list will be put up on the notice board next to the weekend selection board. Anyone interested in playing should put his or her names on the list. The event is open to anyone and everyone.

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MESSAGE FORM OUR LADIES BOWLS SECTION PRESIDENT
Yet another year draws to a close and we are just over half way through the Pennant season The Midweek team of Division 1 is doing really well up in the four, whilst Division 2 are finding their feet and powering up the ladder.

The ladies October Tournament was a great success on all fronts, from the Match Committee organizing the 18 teams, the trading table, plant stall, flowers, raffles and not forgetting the catering committee and delicious food contributed by all. Magnificent effort to raise $1633.00. Thank you all.

The Board has granted the ladies permission to have our own Bank account, at the Bendigo Bank, which simplifies the handling of money. We continue to raise funds from the trading table every week. To all members - if you have books, household items etc, perhaps you have a cupboard cleanout over the holidays, or excess goods over Christmas all donations are gratefully received. Garden pots and potting mix are especially needed. We will continue the trading table through the Corporate Challenge in February. Please see Joan Wilson or Marie Perry with donations or leave in the Clubrooms.
Our next and last Tournament for the season will be Triples on Sunday 19 February. Please keep this date free.

The Club Championships are going strong. Congratulations to Doreen Connell on winning the Singles event. There are still Championship in the New Year, so time to get your name down. The next protected tournaments (away) for our lady bowlers are in 2015; we are looking for players to enter. The form is in the Ladies Lounge, so please put your name down, as we need to fill teams to reciprocate to the Clubs who attended our Tournament.

Thank you to all ladies for your effort for the Christmas Hamper raffle. The winner was a lady from the Underbank Village and I’m sure she’ll enjoy her prize.

Just a final note to remind ladies that our next Ladies meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 January 2015 at the Club, commencing at 9.30 am.

Brenda Robinson

REPORT ON MIDWEEK & WEEKEND PENNANT TEAMS AND THE OVER 60’S

Most of you would have followed the progress of our Midweek & Weekend pennant teams either via our website (which Peter Thistlethwaite does a great job of keeping information up to date) or the local paper which publishes a weekly report and results.

Here is a snapshot of how the teams are progressing:

**WEEKEND PREMIER DIVISION**

There’s a saying that says “you don’t have to be dead to be stiff” and that describes the rotten luck our Premier Division have had this season. They have lost 5 games by a total of 9 shots. One wonders what might have been if we had been able to win these games. Nonetheless the players are representing the Club with distinction against pretty good opposition each and every week.

They have their work cut out to avoid relegation this year, however given a little good fortune in the last 6 games, avoiding relegation should be quite achievable.

**DIVISION 3**

Has been on top of the ladder for most of the season. The team has benefited from players dropping down from Premier and other players showing sparkling form. At the break the team has a 10-2 record and sit almost 2 games clear on the ladder.

**DIVISION 5**

Has been in second place for most of the season, however they have lost 2 of the past 3 games leading up to the break. Still in second place (8 wins 4 losses) but now have 2 other teams breathing down their necks. Will have to improve some to beat ladder leaders Invermay, but Avenue would fancy their chances on a neutral green.

**DIVISION 8**

Continue to amaze with their winning streak, despite having multiple changes each week. Currently sitting atop of the ladder (11 wins 1 loss and 2 games clear). All credit to the members who have represented the Club at this level. May your good form continue.

Divisions 3, 5 & 8 are very well placed going into the last 6 rounds after the break, but all must maintain their intensity to finish off the season well and get the “double chance”
**MIDWEEK**

Division 1 has been sitting in or just below 4th place for most of the year. They have been a competitive unit, however after last week’s’ loss they now sit 6th, with a difficult game against second placed City Oval when pennant resumes on 5 January.

Division 2 - Newly promoted to Div 2 this season, after winning the flag in Div 3 last season. Have found the going tough against better opposition and at one stage were last on the ladder, however the team has found the form they showed last year and have won the last 3 games prior to the break to establish a buffer over the bottom teams. Need to continue their good form after the break (if you regard only 2 weeks off as a break).

Keep up the good work girls (and guys)

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**OVER 60’S**

Don’t get much of a mention around the Club but Avenue has entered 6 teams into this year’s 18-team competition, also comprising teams from Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Melton & Mt Cottrell.

After the final round before the break, Avenue teams occupy 4 of the top 5 positions. As stated above the competition resumes on 7 January. It would be appreciated if the skips could ensure that their players will be available for the first round in 2015.

Comment has been made about extending the break by at least a week, however logistically this is not possible, however it will be looked at next season.

The competition is open to any member aged 60 or over (male or female) and is played on a Wednesday.

**NEW MEMBERS**

So far this season we have welcomed 26 new or re-joining members to the Club. Some are experienced bowlers playing in our Premier Division, whilst others are contributing to the success of the Club in the lower weekend grades and/or midweek competition.

Most of you know these people, however if you don’t please make an effort to introduce yourself to them and make them feel welcome.

New/returning members are: Alan Maher, Ray Barnett, John Brandl, Pat Considine, Graeme Copeman, Stan & Allison Cumming, Emilee, Jarryd, Glenn, Lauchlin & Marianne Davies, Conrad Dawson, Ray Diacono, Brett Dodd, Charlie Ginis, Jeff Holloway, Ray Humphrey, Ian King, David Leach, Donna Lyons, Andrew Myers, Brian Trevenna, Ken Warrick, Geoff White & Peter Wilkinson.

Welcome to all. Your efforts in representing the Avenue Bowling Club are appreciated.

It is with a little sadness that we have to say farewell to Jeff Holloway this week. Jeff joined the Club from Bacchus Marsh BC at the start of the season and has represented the Club in Premier Division. Unfortunately Jeff has had to re-locate to Geelong for personal reasons and he will be missed around the Club.

I’m sure everyone wishes him well for the future and at his new Club.
RULE CHANGES- EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2015
We have been advised of some rule changes effective as of 1 January 2015. A summary of the changes can be found in Bowls Victoria Bulletin No 209 dated 12/12/14 or on the Bowls Victoria website.

The most relevant rule changes are:

1. No bowl will become a toucher if it plays onto, or comes into contact with the jack when the jack is in the ditch
2. In a fours game, where a team is one player short, that team can play 6 bowls (i.e.2 each for lead, second/third & skip) against 8 bowls from the opposition **without deduction of 25% of their score**. Further if a substitute becomes available for the team playing short, he/she can join in the game once an end is completed.
3. In a fours game, the score can be maintained by the second (rather than the skip) and any person can change the scoreboard whilst the match is in progress.

*(I can hear the cheers from all skips now as most would say this change is long overdue)*

These are the changes that will affect us the most, but I urge all members to look at the complete list. New Rule books are being printed and will be issued shortly. It is your responsibility to know these rule changes

MESSY CLUBHOUSE
Several members have complained to me about the cleanliness and tidiness (more so the lack thereof) of the Clubhouse. I often go in there to find newspapers spread all around the tables, scorecards from Thursday social bowls or recently completed championship events, empty coffee cups and drink bottles/cans, just left sitting on the tables or bar counter.

I urge all members to make an effort to keep the Clubhouse neat & tidy. You rarely see such a mess at other venues and it is an embarrassment to the Avenue when visitors see the above strewn over the tables in the bar area.
CLOSING JOKES

Please do not blame me for this first one, as I’ve had a couple of members email this joke to me in various formats.
So here goes: -
Two pilots, one Jewish and one Chinese were flying a plane. The two didn’t really like each other and there was an awkward silence in the plane’s cockpit.

To break the silence the Jewish pilot said to his co-pilot “you know that the Jews hate the Chinese”, to which the Chinese co-pilot replied inquisitively “so why is that?”

The Jewish pilot explained that the Jews hate the Chinese because they bombed Pearl Harbour during WW2.

“Not so” shrieked the Chinese co-pilot. “It was the Japanese who did that”

“Japanese/Chinese, it doesn’t matter because you all look the same to us Jews,” said the Jewish pilot. The Chinese co-pilot was not amused.

After that exchange there was silence again in the cockpit until the Chinese co-pilot said, “anyway the Chinese don’t like the Jews either”. The Jewish pilot sought an explanation on this claim to which the Chinese co-pilot said “because you Jews sank the Titanic in 1912.

“No you are wrong,” replied the Jewish pilot, “It was an iceberg that did that.”

“Iceberg, Goldberg, Steinberg, whatever” said the Chinese co-pilot. “You Jews all have similar sounding names to us Chinese”.

JOKE No 2

Q. What’s the difference between Tiger Woods and Santa Claus?

A. Santa Claus stops after 3 ho’s.

On behalf of the Club’s Board of Directors I wish to echo Peter Kay’s good wishes to all for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. The Club has some unfinished business particularly in both Pennants and we need everyone on board to achieve the Club’s goals in season 2014/15.

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