



# BOWLS SECTION

MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB



# ANNUAL REPORT

SEASON 2019 / 2020



Mulgrave  
Country  
Club

*Your Club*

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Report compiled by Geoff Collins (Acting Chairman)*

## Bowls Committee

Chairman – Pat Phelan (Resigned 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020)  
Deputy Chairman – Geoff Collins (Acting Chairman effective 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020)  
Administration Manager – Peter Coe  
Administration Support Manager – Jan Bourke  
Financial Manager – Dennis Jeffery  
Support & Provisions Manager – June Van De Ven  
Pennant Manager – Stephen Castle  
Social Bowls Manager – Dianne Quigley  
Midweek Club Bowls Manager – Brian Milnes  
Championships and Tournaments Manager – Peter Gawthorne  
IT Manager – David West

## Overview of Season 2019-2020

The previous two seasons have been somewhat challenging for the Bowls Section to strengthen the retentiveness of bowlers at the Mulgrave Country Club. Season 2017/2018 saw 16 of our top 32 bowlers transfer out and again in 2018/2019 another 10 bowlers from our Division One and Two sides departed for a variety of reasons.

This meant that season 2019/2020 was always going to be a challenging year for the Bowls Committee, Mid-week and Weekend Selectors and all our loyal players who remained to support the Club.

The Club Coach at the time, Ben Thomason, tendered his resignation Mid-August 2019 due to a potential overseas transfer by his employer. Norm Whitehead was appointed Head Coach as his replacement.

The reduction of member numbers committed to playing pennant bowls resulted in the Weekend teams being reduced to eight (8) and the Mid-week teams being reduced to nine (9). Ironically our first and eighth teams from weekend pennant reached the finals.

Given the negativity that surrounded the Club at the commencement of the season, I believe that the Mulgrave Country Club has performed exceptionally well with excellent results, and far exceeded any expectations which abounded prior to the season commencing.

I attribute this new found enthusiasm to our new coach, Norm Whitehead who was appointed coach in September 2019 and, I am happy to report, has had his contract extended to include this forthcoming 2020/2021 season.. Norm practised what he preached, walked the talk and encouraged bowlers of all levels to participate. He made himself available to everybody and along with Lorraine Pile encouraged all coaches to adopt this same mindset. Thursday practice, both morning and afternoon, was a hive of enthusiasm.

In collaboration with Brian Milnes (Coordinator – Corporate Bowls) funding was made available to put on free BBQ's at selected practice nights. Practice attendances were above all expectations with 91 attendees in November, 86 and 65 attendees respectively in December. Rain, hail or shine, the loyalists came along to improve their skills. If the weather prevented "on green" practice then Norm moved inside and conducted workshops which were also well received. These free BBQ's didn't just happen, they were a culmination of the hard work performed by Brian Milnes and his team of volunteers who oversee the corporate bowlers.

In January 2020, the Bowls Committee prepared a submission for the Board of the Mulgrave Country Club seeking permission to install a synthetic surface on No 1 Green. After due consideration the Committee received a reply from the Board citing the fact that we had not addressed all the criteria and in their wisdom, the Board had decided to install a tiff dwarf on No 1 Green, thereby leaving them the option of potentially installing a synthetic surface on No 3 Green into the future.

During February the Bowls Committee conducted a survey of members asking whether there should be a synthetic surface installed at the Mulgrave Country Club. At the time the survey was conducted we had 220 members and it was provided to 213 of them of which 151 replied (71%). From the replies 94% favoured a synthetic surface.

For the 2019/2020 season, Frank Booth remained the Greens Director with Stephen Staff his assistant. Michael De Mattia and Jason continued as the Green Keepers.

Pat Phelan tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Bowls Committee at the Committee Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020. We thank Pat for his efforts as Chairman over the past 3 years and wish him well for the future.

## Corporate Bowls

Brian Milnes and his team of volunteers must receive a huge thankyou for their dedication and tireless efforts in running Corporate Bowls again this year. These Corporate Bowls events provide financial support for the Mulgrave Country Club and the Bowls Section. It is in your interest to support Brian as you, the bowling members, benefit in the long term. Take for example the free BBQ's you enjoyed after practice this year. They would not have happened without the financial support from Corporate Bowls. A total of 990 corporate bowlers played on our greens this year.

## Appreciation

Bowls events as you have come to expect and appreciate would not continue at Mulgrave without our tireless and unselfish volunteers. I speak of our Coaches – Norm Whitehead, Lorraine Pile and their dedicated team. Bowls Committee – Excellent effort by all over the year. Sub-Committees overseeing; House Keeping and Catering, Twilight (Monday) Triples, Wednesday Triples, Friday Pairs, Saturday Winter Bowls, Corporate Bowls, IT Coordinator, Support and Provisions Assistant. Social Bowls. Selectors - Mid Week and Weekend Selectors, Side Managers, Umpires, Measurers and Markers. - Special Volunteers. - Those members who are always there when needed. MCC Board and Management for their support over the year.

There is one person I want to personally thank for his unselfish, tireless and absolute commitment to his portfolio. I speak of Peter Coe, our Administration Manager. Members don't have any understanding of what Peter's day to day undertakings involve and they are far too numerous to document here. Well done Peter

## Sponsors

We acknowledge the great sponsors associated with the Mulgrave Country Club. Without their support many of our tournaments would not be the success they are. We thank; Barry Plant Real Estate (Wheelers Hill/Glen Waverley); Wheelers Hill Traders; Lend Lease Retirement Living (Peppertree Hill); Specsavers Audio (Studpark/Waverley Gardens & Brandon Park); Grand Pacific Tours and the Mulgrave Country Club. A Special Thank you must go to Mik Tuz and Graeme Little for their efforts in helping to raise the sponsorship associated with the Wheelers Hill Traders and Peppertree Hill (Lend Lease).

## Junior Program

The Mulgrave Country Club Bowls Section currently has four (4) junior bowlers who meet the criteria to participate in our Junior Bowlers Sponsorship Program. We have welcomed and signed three new bowlers onto this programme in Shailey Reeves, Keira Powell and Michael Pannier. They are also members of the Eastern Eagles Under18 squad along with our other two juniors in Amity Bickley and Isabella Hosken. Isabella has had a very successful year and unfortunately Amity has transferred to the Dandenong Club early in the season. Bowls Victoria conducted an Under18 Junior League competition early in the season on a Sunday morning over five weeks and we entered a team of which our four girls completed in. The junior programme is managed by Head Coach, Norm Whitehead.

## Achievements

Many of our bowlers have entered and competed in Club, Regional and State competitions with the following results:

### **Isabella Hosken**

- Competed for Victoria in the Under 18 Test Match against Tasmania in July 2019
- Runner-up in Victorian Under 18 Girls Singles Championships in April 2019
- Attained two Silver medals at the Under 18 National Championships for Singles and Pairs
- Isabella shaved her head in January 2020, raising money for cancer. She held a fundraising bowls event at Mulgrave which raised \$1800. The Mulgrave Country Club rounded it up to \$4000.

### **Amity Bickley**

- Played for the ERBR Regional Side in April 2019
- Competed in the Golden Nugget Junior Championships at Tweed Heads in August 2019

### **Isabella Hosken and Amity Bickley**

- Were Runners Up in the Under 18 Girls Pairs Championships in April 2019.
- Both girls were selected for Victoria in the Under 18 National Championships held in Bendigo in October 2019.

### **Evelyn Martin**

- Runner-Up in the Womans Champion of Champions Semi Final in February 2020
- Runner-Up in the ERBR Womans Over 60 Singles Final

### **John Strybosch**

- Runner Up in the ERBR Mens Singles Final in February 2020

### **Christine Battersby**

- Runner-Up in the Womens Novices Singles Championship in 2020

### **Lars Swart**

- Winner of the ERBR Mens Novice Singles Championship in 2020

### **Norm Whitehead and Ben Thomason**

- Competed in the ERBR Regional Side Championships on 5-7 May 2019 at Traralgon

### **Janet Morrison**

- Competed in the Multi-Disability Victorian Open Pairs in April 2019
- Competed in the Victorian Disability Side at the Nationals Championships.
- Competed in the Multi-Disability Lawn Bowls Championships in May 2019 at Souths Suburbans Bowls Club, Mackay, QLD.

Mulgrave Country Club once again hosted the Eastern Ranges Bowls Region and Bowls Victoria Novice Championships

## **Corona Virus**

As you are all aware the Corona Virus is world wide and is having a major impact on all aspects of our lives. From a bowls perspective, Bowls Australia and Bowls Victoria have cancelled all bowls events for which they are the controlling body until further notice. Following on from their recommendations the Mulgrave Country Club Board has closed all our greens until further notice and has cancelled or limited many activities and entertainment normally expected at the Club..

The impact the Corona Virus has had on the finances of our Club may mean that the proposed refurbishment of No 1 Green will be deferred to a later date.

## Vale

It is with sadness that we lost some of our esteemed members throughout the year. We will always remember Peter Fiander, John Brideson, Ian Eckersley and Julia Bolch. They will be sadly missed.

In addition, some of our members have lost very close family members such as parents, husbands, wives, brothers and sisters. Our deepest sympathy has been sent to all of those members and families on behalf of the Mulgrave Country Club Bowls Section.

## Overview of Next Year 2020/2021

It would be the intention of the incoming Committee to develop a Strategic Plan for the Bowls Section going forward and to look at ways to increase the bowling membership.

Ongoing consultation should continue with the Board regarding the installation of a synthetic surface

Qualified Coaches, Umpires and Markers are at an all time low and the club desperately needs members to put their hands up and qualify in these important roles.

We have excellent facilities at the Mulgrave Country Club, we now need the membership to get behind the Bowls Committee and Board in proactively promoting Bowls.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board and Club Management for their support over the past twelve months.

Good Bowling

**Geoff Collins**  
**Acting Chairman Bowls Section**



# BOWLS ADMINISTRATION

## *Report compiled by Peter Coe*

During the year the Bowls Committee held 12 general committee meetings and 3 special committee meetings to discuss and manage bowls business.

Membership has again declined and at the end of March 2020 our active numbers were 222 (79 women and 143 males) as compared to 244 at March 2019. This follows 10 transfers inward and 21 outward, 12 new registered bowlers and 23 not renewing their membership. Our club like many other clubs have an aging population, 22% of are over 80 while only 6% are under 60. We need to address ways to increase our membership while at the same time to lower the average age.

We currently have 11 registered coaches and 12 registered umpires. We need to increase our numbers in these areas and are always looking for suitable candidates to be trained.

We always endeavour to keep our members informed and use various methods - via our TeamApp, on Breaking News on the web page, email or notices on the notice board. We encourage all members to have access to TeamApp as we can then provide information immediately it occurs.

During the year Bowls Victoria in conjunction with Bowls Australia and the other State Bowls Associations changed their information system over to a new system called BowlsLink. There are different sections within the system. One section contains all member details while another section allows entering of pennant results direct onto the competition portal. Training was conducted on different areas and several bowlers attended to learn these functions. If your personal details change you need to advise the Bowls Administration area in addition to the Club office.

During November and December we had a new member advertising board erected in front of the club house.

The Bowls Committee elected to change the status of our Bowls Facebook page to a closed group. We continue to monitor who has access to both facebook page and Teamapp.

The club hosted Eastern Ranges Novice finals during January & February and in early March again hosted the Bowls Victorian Novice Finals where all the region winners (men and women) come and play off.

I thank Jan Bourke, the Bowls Administration Support Manager, who supports me in my role. She maintains the minutes at all meetings, ensures that the bowlers database is kept up to date and lodges and manages entries for those wishing to enter Eastern Ranges Bowls Region championship events. I also thank the committee members for their all their contribution.

**Peter Coe**  
**Bowls Administration Manager**

# MIDWEEK CLUB BOWLS MANAGER

*Report compiled by Brian Milnes*

## **OVERVIEW 2019/20**

Midweek bowls has continued to be a popular and well supported part of our bowling programme. We are very fortunate to have many people assisting to organise these events for the benefit of all.

## **TWILIGHT TRIPLES.**

Monday evening Twilight Triples is primarily to introduce new bowlers into our club. They are encouraged by a number of regular bowlers who compete on these nights. Di Quigley our very popular convenor co-ordinates this evening and makes sure the new members are well looked after. We are encouraged with the number of new bowlers coming through, ready for next season. There are a number of second year bowlers who have progressed to our Pennant teams and enjoying success.

## **WEDNESDAY TRIPLES.**

Wednesday triples is by far our most sort after game with around 80 players competing each week. To spread the work load we have three teams of three volunteers to share the organising of these days each week. I really appreciate their dedication because it requires a lot of work each week in compiling the teams, in checking for double bookings, single entries, hard to read names, crossed out names, arrive Wednesday and forgot to put their name down. We handle this professionally and see that they get a game. Earlier we check with the Green Keeper as to which rinks we are allocated, put the flags out plus the mats too. A number of new bowlers are encouraged to play on Wednesday and get to know fellow members. It is pleasing the way our senior members look after the new members. With the expected new green to go in on Green1 we will be restricted with our numbers later in the year.

Once again many thanks to our three teams of organisers who put together the day each week and ensure things run smoothly. We need more members to volunteer for these jobs as we hope to run through later in the winter.

## **FRIDAY PAIRS.**

This game is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month until the end of June. The numbers are on the decline but have dedicated regular teams to support the game.

## **SATURDAY WINTER BOWLS.**

Saturday Bowls was once again well supported this year with up to 70 players each week playing. We hope to extend the winter season beyond the end of June in 2020. We will endeavour to seek discussion with the Greens Keeper and announce further information as soon as possible. Our great club man and convenor in Roy Miller is always there pushing up Saturday Winter games.

## **CORPORATE BOWLS.**

Corporate Bowls is going ahead in leaps and bounds with bookings in the summer period reaching 32 groups up from 16 last year. With the backdrop of the patio area and the



cabanas it has been a very busy season to showcase our great club. We had 990 visitors booked in for a good time. Many thanks to our ever helpful and well organised assistant Kenny Pattison. We couldn't achieve the success without the many volunteers who generously helped out.

We have had several BBQ's for our bowlers this year usually after practice/training on a Thursday and these have been funded from the income from Corporate Bowls. We agreed with management that we would have 4 or 5 of these throughout the bowls season for ALL bowlers. It would be helpful to get a few more volunteers to help out at our corporate bowls events.

### **APPRECIATION**

Last but not the least a big thanks to all who assisted and made the Management of Midweek Club Bowls a pleasure during the year. This includes all the sections reported above plus Mick Crawley and Barrie Carson for their special assistance in manning the BBQ'S.

**Brian Milnes**  
**Midweek Club Bowls Manager**



Eastern Ranges Novice finalists. Final conducted in February at Mulgrave with our bowlers competing. Christine Battersby runner up in women's and Lars Swart winning the men's. Lars competed in the State Final.

# PENNANT BOWLS MANAGER REPORT

*Report compiled by Stephen Castle*

## **OVERVIEW OF SEASON 2019/2020**

The pre-season began much the same as last year with the resignation of our coach, this time Ben Thomason. The committee was prepared for the chance Ben would resign and appointed Norm Whitehead as our coach for season 19/20.

Due to the great job Norm has done, he has been appointed for a further year. We hope this will steady the ship and give us good direction for the future, however it plays out in these uncertain times.

Weekend Pennant with 8 sides went reasonably well with two sides, the ones and eights playing finals. Midweek Pennant with 9 teams had a good season with three sides playing finals.

This year we entered a team into the Eastern Ranges Night Pennant competition, and it was enjoyed by all the bowlers that played. It is a fun, relaxed competition that is ideal for newer bowlers to learn the game. We ended up finishing in fourth position and look forward to competing again next year. Get your name in early when the sheet goes up later in the year. Many thanks to Garry Kitto and Viv Matthews for taking care of the week to week running of the team.

## **GREENS.**

The greens became an issue again with their lack of availability in the early part of the season. As you would be aware the committee spent many hours preparing and submitting proposals to the Club Executive with regards to converting a green to synthetic to give us year-round access. Unfortunately, we were not successful, but look forward to possibly having green 3 converted in the future. We look forward to our greens being in top condition for the start of next season.

## **APPRECIATION.**

I would like to thank our selection panels who did an outstanding job with juggling players each week with so many players unavailable. It is a very difficult and time-consuming job with so many teams to pick, and so many people unavailable. Many thanks to Lyn Kelly for stepping up when Ed Benetti resigned from the Midweek panel. Many thanks to our wonderful ladies and the odd gentleman who take care of the afternoon tea duties throughout the season. Special thanks to Pauline Williams & Joan Goodrem who do our Wednesday triples afternoon tea.

Also, many thanks to John Pilgrim for taking over the Kitchen management job from Joan Jeffery who did the job so well for many years. Joan was a hard act to follow and we hope to improve our efforts next season as there was much, we had to and still have to learn.

A lot of time was spent updating our equipment: rink numbers, scoreboards, selection whiteboards and windsock. Erecting a windsock on green one is an ongoing project. The umpire's equipment was also repaired and updated where required. Many thanks to the members who assisted with that work, particularly Colin Goodrem.

**Stephen Castle – Pennant Bowls Manager**



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Country  
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*Your Club*

# WEEKEND PENNANT SELECTORS REPORT

*Report compiled by Norm Whitehead*

**2019/2020 SELECTORS:** John Anderton, Lorraine Camm, Mick Crawley, Alan Hughes, Rob Jago, Norm Whitehead (Chair)

## OVERVIEW

We have three new selectors – John, Mick and Alan who came on board this season and the panel has jelled well. Once again selection has been a balancing act and again we have struggled for numbers. Having 146 players on our list at the beginning of the season does not guarantee that they are all available at any one time. We fielded 8 sides and are very grateful for our emergencies who help us out at little notice.

Generally it has been a more successful season for us with 2 sides playing in finals and only two sides relegated. The top side had a slow start but came home well and represented us in the section-semi final at Warburton. Side 8 have been our shining light all season and reached the section final against Monbulk, losing by just one shot. This is particularly pleasing since this side is the one that inevitably has changes each week when other players from above become unavailable.

This season has seen the introduction of BBQ's after some practices and our final Weekend Pennant game. They have been enthusiastically attended and we thank our cooks, Barrie and Mick and their helpers and Brian Milnes and his corporate bowls team for making them happen.

## SELECTION

Before the season started I took it upon myself to write, and after consultation with selectors and the Bowls Committee, adopt a Selection Policy for the club. Both Weekend and Midweek selectors took this policy on board and have tried to perform their roles with the criteria, goals and objectives in mind.

One section of the policy deals with Conflict of Interest and we have found this guideline helpful when it comes to selecting ourselves, close friends and family members. Basically the selector in question will leave the room to enable discussion by the others and the majority will rule on the decision. This creates a fairness and transparency that should be acceptable to all.

Stability of sides is always a concern, I believe we tried our best to keep sides stable. When we are faced with replacing an average of 18 unavailable players each week, this is hard to maintain. Also, when dealing with a large range of personalities, sometimes clashes arise, that lead to changes that effect other rinks. We all need to remember that it is a team sport and there is no "i" in team.

## PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Part of our policy is to give players a chance to improve and play at a higher level. There were quite a few vacancies created in the top sides, so we were able to give some players a chance. The club will benefit from this. Similarly, the 3 junior players have been

given every opportunity to progress through the divisions with two playing no lower than Division 3 and one consistently in Division 1.

I would like to make mention of the encouraging turn out at practice and coaching sessions this season. It shows a commitment from everyone there, that they want to be the best they can be.

### **INFORMATION DISSEMINATION/COMMUNICATION**

There are several ways to get a message across. For the smooth running of the club it's important for members to embrace the avenues open to them. In particular **Team App** and the **[mulgravecc.com.au/lawnbowls/](http://mulgravecc.com.au/lawnbowls/)** website. Pennant Sides were posted on these and in hard copy on notice boards in the alcove and outside near Green 1

Lines of communication have always been in place for players to discuss their concerns and we made ourselves available Monday nights and I have always encouraged communication and chats at appropriate times.

This year we have given selectors specific sides to liaise with, and this has made it easier for players to pass on information and concerns. I believe this worked well. I thank those members who have given me encouragement and positive feedback throughout the season. When the going is tough, a positive affirmation goes a long way.

### **SIDE MANAGERS**

Our pennant competition could not operate without side managers, yet many players refuse to share the load. It is not a hard job and this season we conducted two information sessions to inform those willing to take on the job. As well as this Jan Whitehead and Steve Castle have fully revised the information sheets, thus providing an easy to read and succinct reference for those new to the job. Selectors should continue to value and assist managers to carry out this important task.

### **PENNANT PERFORMANCE CARDS**

We continued with the Pennant Performance Criteria to report on a player's performance during a game. Surveys and discussions have indicated that the majority of players wanted it to continue and it has been a valuable tool for self assessment and selection. The 'stats' were recorded Saturday night and forwarded to Selectors on Sunday in time for them to analyse and use in Monday night selection. Once again any form of assessment only works if players take it seriously, and it is disappointing to note that some skips still don't respect the majority rule. I'm sure the new selection panel would love to hear about some better assessment ideas from these players.

Of course as stated before, the pennant performance information is only part of criteria used at selection.

### **NEXT SEASON**

There will be new selectors and a new chair next season. Lorraine and I are stepping down after 3 years. Believe it or not, I have enjoyed my time as selector and appreciate the support given to me. Lorraine has contributed well to selection and amongst other tasks, has maintained the printing of the stats for the folder in the alcove. Her cheery disposition brightens up our Monday nights.

We have a lot of positives on the horizon and I wish the new selectors all the best in the task ahead. I'm sure they will do a great job. I look forward to Mulgrave growing bigger and stronger in years to come and to an enjoyable season ahead.



**THANK YOU.** I extend my personal thanks to the following:

All the **PLAYERS** who do their best for their mates and the club at all times.

The **EMERGENCIES** who help us out at short notice by accepting to play anywhere needed.

**SIDE MANAGERS** who 'make it happen' each week before and after the game.

**DUTY RINKS** who arrive early to carry out their tasks and remain behind to clean up afterwards.

**JUNE AND SUSAN**- the cheerful ladies who provide uniforms and bowls accessories.

**KITCHEN HELPERS** -those of us who love our cuppa and a break, salute you!

**UMPIRES AND MEASURERS** who disrupt their own game to adjudicate and keep things running smoothly and safely

**GREEN KEEPERS** (almost as popular as selectors!) who have a difficult task and Staffy for his hours of work on and around the greens

**COACHES** who give of their time to help us learn about and improve our game

**BOWLS COMMITTEE MEMBERS** who support and encourage us and particularly Peter Coe who has worked tirelessly to support us all this season. Thank you one and all.

**DAVID WEST** who does so much behind the scenes with our computer program for selection, printing, stats etc.

**STEVE CASTLE AND ADRIAN GOLDSMITH** for entering names and results into Bowls Link and emailing Bowls Vic every week.

**MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB STAFF** such a great band of workers who look after us and our visitors

**JAN W** my PA, who records results and stats each week after pennant and can type quicker than me

Finally but not least of all, thank you to **MY TEAM OF SELECTORS** who have spent many hours doing their job, planning, researching, consulting, evaluating, recording, printing, cutting, sorting, developing, encouraging, consolidating, promoting, informing, empathising, calculating, arbitrating, communicating, and **SELECTING**, this season. Well Done.

**Norm Whitehead**  
**Chair Weekend Pennant Selection.**

#### **2019/2020 SEASON RESULTS AT A GLANCE**

SIDE	DIVISION	LADDER FINISH	FINALS	OUTCOME
1	1	3	Section Semi Final	Remain Div 1
2	1	9		Relegated to Div 2
3	2	6		Remain Div 2
4	3	6		Remain Div 3
5	3	10		Relegated to Div 4
6	3	7		Remain Div 4
7	4	5		Remain Div 5
8	5	2	Section Final	Promoted to Div 5

# MIDWEEK PENNANT SELECTORS REPORT

*Report compiled by SUE MILLER*

## OVERVIEW OF SEASON 2019/20

The 2019/2020 Midweek Pennant Selection Committee welcomed new selectors – Kevin Moore and Lynn Kelly who joined myself, Chris Day, Joan Jeffery and Peter Coughlin.

Basing our decision on the number of bowlers wanting to play Midweek Pennant we decided to submit 9 Open Sides.

Filling 9 sides each week was a challenge due to bowlers being absent for various reasons and I thank the bowlers who made themselves available to be emergencies. Without you, some sides would have not been able to field a team.

A special thanks to all the bowlers who played in Side 9. Each week a different side was fielded and some bowlers played in positions that they were not used to. Although they only managed one win (the last game) they definitely gave it their all each week and had a lot of fun. Thank you for your participation.

The new scoring system introduced last season continued and I believe we are now getting used to it.

The season continued very well and after the final home and away games, Sides 1 and 4 finished second on the ladder giving them both a home final and Side 6 finished 4<sup>th</sup> ensuring them a finals berth. Side 1 lost their first final, Side 6 lost the Section grand final and Side 4 went on to win the Section Final. Congratulations to those sides.

Due to the unforeseen events surrounding the Corona Virus the Division Finals were unable to go ahead.

Unfortunately, Sides 3 and Sides 9 were relegated this season but on a positive note both Sides 4 and 6 will be promoted.

Next season, providing we field 9 sides, will see:

2 x Division 1  
2 x Division 2  
2 x Division 3  
2 x Division 4  
1 x Division 5

## APPRECIATION

I would like to thank each member of the Selection Committee personally:



Chris and Joan for getting the cards and score sheets ready each Monday and to Chris for being available on Tuesday mornings to make any last-minute changes.

Many thanks to Chris and Steve Castle for submitting the scores to Bowls Vic after a new online system was introduced this year.

Thanks to Lynn for entering the individual scores into the data base and for getting them to the rest of us in time for our meeting the next morning.

Kevin for diligently picking the duty teams each week and, along with Peter, collated the scores after pennant in order to get them to Lynn.

Peter for his wit and wisdom in our meetings.

I had a great team and we all worked well together.

To the bowlers who acted as Side Captains throughout the season, I thank you. It's a big responsibility and you all did a great job.

Lastly, I have to thank David West for his help with the computer system.

Thank you to the selectors who retire by rotation this year in Peter Coughlin, Joan Jeffery and Lyn Kelly.

I have enjoyed my third and possibly last year as Chair of Midweek Pennant immensely and I thank the Bowls Committee for giving me this opportunity. If I don't continue on next year, I wish the oncoming committee all the best.

### **Sue Miller** **Chair Midweek Pennant Selection**



Midweek side 4,  
Division 3 section  
5.  
Section winners.

# SOCIAL BOWLS MANAGER REPORT

*Report compiled by DIANNE QUIGLEY*

SOCIAL BOWLS MANAGER  
ASSISTANT MANAGER  
COMMITTEE

Dianne Quigley	
Doiraine Sidbottom	
Jeanette Milnes	David Pearce
Lynette Snart	Casey Cooper
Barrie Carson	Eileen O'Donnell

## OVERVIEW OF SEASON

The 2019/2020 bowling season for our Social Bowls Evens started off very successfully in October but sadly came to an abrupt close mid March because of the COVID-19 virus. Our events played were the Monthly Happy Days, Vermont South and Cumberland View Challenges and our Mixed Fours Classic Tournament. Sadly we could not play our April and May Happy Days or our Easter Carnival which incorporates the Saturday Pairs Medley and the Easter Monday Open Triples Tournament. We have also cancelled our week away bowls trip to Cobram in May but have made a booking for next year.

We were fortunate in having two new sponsors for some Happy Day events in Grand Pacific Tours and Specsaver Audio from Waverley Gardens and Stud Park Shopping Centres.

Club Events Hosted by Social Bowls.

### Happy Days

Our Monthly Happy Days continue to be very popular even though our team entry numbers were down again.

We have been fortunate in securing two sponsors for some of our events. Our October event was sponsored by "Grand Pacific Tours" while our March event was sponsored by "Specsaver Audio"

Unfortunately we had to cancel our February Happy Day because of the low number of team entries.

Our December Happy Day was again used to raise funds for the Jane McGrath Foundation. We raised \$1,776 on this Pink Happy Day and the Club matched our money and rounded it up to \$4,000 which was great. A very big thank you to Dorsy for all of her hard work in organizing and running the Cent Auction. To Lynette Snart who organized the December Raffle Table and to Janet and Jill who organized and managed their special Pink Day table with lots of money raising activities and pink goodies to buy.

### Challenge Events

Our Vermont South Challenge was held in January at Mulgrave this year. It was a great success. Mulgrave was successful in winning 227 shots to 211. Next year it will revert to Vermont South. Thank you's to Barrie Carson and Mick Crawley who were our wonderful Chefs for the night, to David Pearce who was the meat runner and once again to John Pilgrim and Barrie Carson who organized the teams.

An enjoyable evening was held late January at the Cumberland View Challenge evening. Everyone enjoyed their game of bowls which was followed by a meal. The sponsor on the event "Helloworld Waverley Gardens" presented the prizes to the winners of the evening.

## **Tournaments**

Our Mixed Fours Classic Tournament late January was a great success. We had 20 teams participating and 3 teams were from other clubs.

Due to COVID-19 all bowls from middle of March onwards were cancelled. This meant that our Easter carnival which includes the Saturday Pairs Medley and the Monday Open Triples Tournament were cancelled.

## **Other**

In January we held a social fundraising bowls event to assist Isabella Hosken who was shaving off her hair to raise funds for cancer research. We raised \$1,800- through bowls and raffle on the day and the club contributed a further \$2,200- bringing total up to \$4,000.

Very sadly our Cobram Week away has been cancelled. The Bowls Clubs that we were going to play at have closed their greens and some of the attractions in the area have also closed. A very big thank you to Casey Cooper who has spent many hours investigating and researching all of the possibilities in our change of moving our Week Away Event to a new venue. A very big thank you also to our Social Bowls Committee Members who have worked with Casey on the planning and organizing of this event. We look forward to Cobram in 2021.

Our Family Day was postponed from January to April 2020 but sadly this event will not go ahead this year..

## **Appreciation.**

Our 2019/2020 Social Bowls Committee has done a wonderful job once again throughout our shortened bowling season. Sandy Dunbar resigned early in the season but joyfully David Pearce has joined our Committee and David West is a tower of strength supporting us with his IT skills.

## **Next Season**

Our Social Bowls program at the Mulgrave Country Club will continue to be successful because of the dedication and loyal support of our committee members and bowler support. We encourage all bowlers to become involved in our events and there is always room on our committee for interested bowlers. We are always looking at ways to improve our programme and welcome any suggestions from our bowler family.

Until our programme starts again later this year, we wish you good bowling and stay safe.

## **Dianne Quigley Social Bowls Manager**



A winning team at our Pink Happy Day.

# CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

*Report compiled by Peter Gawthorne*

## Overview of Season

This was my first season as Championship Manager. I found it very disappointing that in a club of this size, there was such a poor entry in the Blue Ribbon events, the Club Singles and Pairs Championships. I have heard that this may have been due to the scheduling of two rounds of these events on a day. I recognise that this is a problem for some members but I had great difficulty in setting a viable schedule without two games on set days.

Regional Championships were scheduled on days your committee had selected, **after** our schedule was published, players declared they were unavailable for set days of competition, and the perennial issue of weather.

I made the mistake of granting extensions on the published schedules due to “family commitments” and other issues not normally allowed under the PROTECTION law. In hindsight I should have awarded walkovers, allowing the events to stay on schedule. The reasoning behind extending the schedule dates was to preserve the very small fields.

I apologise to the members for any errors that occurred in the publishing of entry forms for club events. In most cases these errors were corrected at player briefings prior to the start of the various competitions.

## Appreciation

My thanks go to David West for his technical support with the draws for the club events, setting the playing schedule and recording results and to Geoff Collins who promptly supplied information to the members via TeamApp and Breaking News.

Finally, to the incoming committee and Championship Manager, a piece of advice; for the Club to get back to the level of success it has experienced in the recent past, the club events need to be run according to the Laws and Conditions of Play set out for full, normal competitions. Anything less denigrates the event and threatens to turn the Club into a “Social Bowls Club”, not attractive to competitive bowlers and younger new members.

## REVIEW OF EVENTS.

### SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles Champion Norm Whitehead defeated John Strybosch. This was Norm's first ever singles title.

Women's Singles Champion Evelyn Martin defeated Isabella Hoskin.

### CLUB PAIRS

Women's Club champions Jan Delaney and Gordana Baric (Skip) defeated Jan Whitehead and Sue Miller (Skip) in a very close contest.

Men's championship was won easily by John Swale and John Pilgrim (Skip) over Brian Kingman and Peter Gawthorne (Skip).

### 60 AND OVER SINGLES

John Strybosch defeated Stephen Castle. Delays were caused by clashes with other events and poor weather.

### GEOFF WOODLEY LEGACY PAIRS



Albie Wiegard and Peter Gawthorne (Skip) defeated Barry Crittle (substituting for Colin Goodrem and Klaus Werner (Skip) in a very close contest. Congratulations in particular to Albie who has only been playing bowls for very short period.

### **OBE SINGLES**

Leon Ross and Keith Lampard share the title as they were unable to play the final due the greens being closed early due to the Coronavirus issues

### **PROPORTIONAL SINGLES**

Vicki Heath (runner up last year) defeated John Strybosch in his second final on the same day as the events needed to be completed prior to the greens closing due to Coronavirus issues. Cudos to John.

### **MINOR SINGLES**

Gary Kitto defeated Kenny Pattison in a tightly fought game.

### **MIXED PAIRS**

Semi-finals and Final of this event were played consecutively due to impending Green closures due to Coronavirus. Games were reduced to 13 ends to get the event completed.

Semi-finals: Evelyn Martin and Mick Crawley (Skip) defeated Ruth and Peter Gawthorne (Skip), Jan and Norm Whitehead (Skip) defeated Viv Matthews and Rob Jago (Skip).

Evelyn and Mick prevailed in the final defeating Jan and Norm.

### **CLUB TRIPLES**

This event was cancelled due the greens being closed early due to the Coronavirus.

### **CLUB (RANKED) FOURS**

This event was formulated to include lower division bowlers into the competition. The event was cancelled when insufficient entries were received and due the greens being closed early due to the Coronavirus.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

This season we conducted two tournaments in Peppertree Hill Open Triples (Lend Lease) in December and the Wheelers Hill Traders Open Triples in February. We have been conducting both these events for some years and this year we increased prize money for the Wheelers Hill day in an effort to see increased entries but unfortunately our participation numbers were down for both events from the previous year.

### **Peter Gawthorne**

#### **Championship and Tournament Manager**



Women's finalists club championship. Isabella Hoskin runner up and Evelyn Martin Champion.

# SUPPORT & PROVISIONS REPORT

*Report compiled by JUNE VAN DE VEN*

## SEASON 2019/20

### CLUB UNIFORMS

Another year of bowls is again behind us and our Uniform is holding up well.

Sales have been steady over the year with people renewing their shirts & caps which keeps us looking smart. I have noticed some need new shorts or long pants and I would encourage anyone that does need new clothing to please update. If anyone still likes our original pant/short style then please see me and I will see if I can still get that stock without you having to go elsewhere. This is mainly for the Men, as I still have lots of stock of the Womens shorts,  $\frac{3}{4}$  pants and long pants. So ladies if you feel you are looking a little faded please see me to update your uniform.

### BOWLS PRODUCTS

The Saturday morning "Haberdashery" table continues to trade well and we try to keep as much stock as we get asked for. If there is something that you like and we don't have it, please ask and I will try to get it for you. The Champion spray is a product we were asked for and now we stock it and it has proved very popular.

### APPRECIATION

Thank you Susan McCraith for your assistance throughout what has been a difficult year for you. You are inspiring as you soldier on!

Thanks also to all you Bowlers for your friendly smiles and chats as you pass on a Saturday morning. You make the job worthwhile, cheers and happy bowling.

**June Van De Ven**  
**Support and Provisions**





# CLUB HEAD COACH REPORT

***Report compiled by Norm Whitehead***

I thank the Board, the Bowls Committee and all players for your faith and encouragement. I am very privileged to be Mulgrave Country Club's Lawn Bowls Coach. We have a large number of bowlers here who enjoy their days on and off the green and are a great bunch of people. The Club is a 'home away from home' for many and a lifeline to keep us going. In these times of social interaction restrictions, we come to realise just how important it is for us all.

As Coach of the Club, amongst other things, I am charged to *"develop and implement programs, develop and monitor the coaches, hold seminars and practice sessions, attend selection, give team assessments, provide the committee with performance reviews, manage and monitor players in the Club Scholarship program and represent the Club in Saturday Pennant."*

So if you think you see a lot of me, that is why!

My thanks go out to all of you for embracing me and my programs this season. Attendances at training and organised practise nights have been fantastic and your input, often in adverse weather conditions is heartwarming and I look forward to attracting those numbers at training on a weekly basis in the future.

Communication is key to managing a large group of people and I endeavour to send out information through many avenues, but I ask you to be active in remaining inquiring and informed. Don't wait for someone else to organise you.

Requests, from some Midweek Pennant Players, for dedicated coaching sessions led me to offer coaching for this group on Monday afternoons. Whilst some practice games were organised by the Selectors, numbers have not been great for training at this time. I have plans that will involve selected Squad Training for this time on a Monday and interested Midweek bowlers will have a chance to participate. All bowlers are welcome to train on Thursdays.

Only a few people have made appointments to see me one on one. I hope more people book with me in the season ahead. Many have approached me in training sessions for a quick assessment and assistance and that is fine too. I'm hoping to make more use of video sessions next season as it is important in assessing skills; especially delivery.

The workshop sessions went well and were well attended, thank you. A lot of preparation goes into these sessions and it made it worthwhile to see so many people attend and involve themselves in discussion and sharing ideas. I'm looking forward to conducting more on topics such as Etiquette and Sportsmanship, Team Positions, Head Building, Shot Selection and any other requests, in the coming season.

Part of my duties as a Coach is to maintain my Professional Development and I appreciate the club backing me in my attendance at an all day Coaching Symposium at Ashburton

Bowls Club in October, the Victorian Open week in November, networking and training with Lachlan Tighe with a view to him attending our club in December (in abeyance as Lachie had to cancel) and attending the Workshop coaching module to better coach Arm Bowlers in March. I look forward to liaising with other respected coaches with whom I have established links over the past years. I also appreciate the coaching material and contacts forwarded from our members.

As with all I do, it is for **you** and the **Club** so if you have any suggestions for coaching or workshops, please speak with me and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Your feedback at the beginning of the season mentioned a desire to cover areas such as: consistency, player positions, shot selection, reading the head, enjoyment of the game, delivery of the bowl and jack and practising positional shots, drawing, weighted shots etc. I tried to touch on each of these topics in my coaching during the season and have many ideas to develop these areas in the future.

In a Club such as ours it is difficult to please everyone and I am always self assessing and staying aware of my goals and objectives. At times it remains unclear as to what our club wants to achieve in terms of lawn bowls. We all love the game but what we want from it differs and I believe there is a place for both social and the more competitive pennant games. However, in order for us to remain a strong club in our area we have to make every effort to identify our goals and work towards achieving them. I believe this should include a stronger emphasis on pennant training and campaign planning.

Unfortunately this season and for many seasons past, this has not been the case. I recently re-read ex coach Barrie Lester's annual report of 2015 and many of his recommendations then, can be echoed by myself today. Five years have gone by, our bowlers are older, we have not retained promising young bowlers or recruited fresh dedicated top division players. I am proud of our top side which did extremely well this season to make the finals, and our eighth side which over the season fielded six novice players and were pennant section finalists, but we are an **ageing demographic**.

We can make the statement that we have to recruit, but before we contemplate that, let's look at what we do and how we can build a culture that makes our club inviting for the type of players we want to recruit. I have couple of recommendations, and I'm sure you've heard them from me before:

Thursday afternoons and evenings should be dedicated to Pennant Practice. No social or Club Championships should be scheduled on this day. Players who are serious about developing and maintaining their skills and being the 'best they can be' for pennant should make pennant playing time their priority, whether it be for skill development, practising, team development or on game day.

To be in top physical condition for pennant games, often played in extreme heat and without a break, we should not be engaging in social games on Fridays or playing socially on multiple days through out the week.

Each year as the pennant season intensifies and finals loom, selectors are struggling to maintain team structure (and in some cases finding enough players to field sides!) Players capabilities and performances are stretched because of the weather, committing to Gala

days, social games, family socialising for Christmas, holiday bookings before the end of finals and Club Championship games.

### **We must prioritise our goals, time and abilities.**

Our Club would not be a club without the members and the Club would not function without the work of our members. What is our emphasis for the Club going forward? We have to do some soul searching and some hard work in this area. Perhaps we need a new Five Year Plan? Nothing worthwhile will be achieved without a personal commitment from each of you to do what you can to keep our club strong, happy and progressive. I urge you all to make good use of our current 'down time' and give some thought to your goals and objectives for your bowls going forward. The little 1% that you can do will make a big difference to you and your Club overall.

See you on the greens again very soon I hope.

### **Norm Whitehead. Club Coach**



Our juniors competed in the U18 Junior League competition conducted at Fitzroy Victoria early in the season. Keira Powell, Shailey Reeves, Amity Bickley and Isabella Hosken.

# GREENS DIRECTOR REPORT

*Report compiled by STEPHEN STAFF*

Greens Director - Frank Booth  
Deputy Greens Director - Stephen Staff  
Greenkeeper - Michael Di'Mattia

The bowling year which has just concluded (all be it most abruptly) has as per usual presented us with a range of challengers.

The bowling season started with the usual frustrations of wet weather but this year it was coupled with unusually cold weather. This resulted in both the tiff greens taking longer than normal to come out of their winter dormancy.

We were still having difficulty with shading on the east end of green 2 at the start of the season and spent some time in rectifying this. It was not till December was it back in order.

On top of this the No 2 green suffered a twin insect attack which badly damaged in places both its root and turf systems. Michael got on top of this problem quickly but it was not till early December that the green had fully recovered.

The No 2 & 3 green's had their usual Christmas break renovation. This year it was a minor one and both greens were able to be brought back into play when required in the new calendar year.

The No 1 green performed as well as can be expected. We nurse it along as best we can and actually it was running superbly through the finals.

In closing I would like to thank both Michael and Jason for the efforts throughout the year and also for their patience in answering but many questions and requests.

**Stephen Staff**  
**Deputy Greens Director**