

# THE HAWTHORN HERALD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE HAWTHORN BOWLING CLUB

August 2016

## NO FEAR FOR THE FUTURE

### ROTATION GUIDELINE CHANGE

By Andrew Bear

Rotation is a plague on all our houses. Everyone hates it — the players who suffer from it and the selectors who are obliged to apply it. It causes resentment and endless complication. At its July meeting, the Board of Management resolved to reduce at least one of the sources of complication.

Selection Guideline 17.13(e) used to include a provision that a rotated player who ended up getting a game was deemed not to have been rotated, but could not be rotated again for three weeks. This was obviously an attempt to legislate in the interest of scrupulous fairness, but in practice it proved difficult to administer. That provision has been dropped. A player who is rotated but gets a game anyway is now deemed to have been rotated. Full stop. This makes the system simpler, with negligible loss of fairness.

The Board has also considered Guideline 17.13.(g) which states that rotation must begin from the bottom team and move up from there. Many consider that this is unfair on less talented players, merely because they are less talented. As has often been argued, everyone pays the same fees, regardless of ability. The rule is under consideration and is likely to be amended so as to spread the necessary evil of rotation evenly across all but the top sides. The final decision, when reached, will be announced in a future edition of *The Hawthorn Herald*.

**The full text of Selection Guideline 17.13 (rotation) as currently revised, is reproduced below, p. 7.**

*Two fish swim up a river and beat their heads against a concrete wall. One fish says to the other, "Dam!"*

### NEW PENNANT STRUCTURE

Information provided by CoS Trevor Strudwick and CoS Beverly Ploenges

Bowls South Australia has decided to introduce a series of significant changes to our pennant system. It may sound a bit confusing at first, but the real differences 'on the green' could be quite small.

The term "Metro" has been abolished and replaced by "Division" and "Section". Premier League on Saturday, Wednesday and Thursday has been reduced from two levels to one — the terms "Premier 2" and "Major League" have gone, replaced by "Division 1". There will be more finals, a slightly changed method of promotion/demotion, and the men will start at 12.15 instead of 1.00 on Wednesdays. More detail can be found in the Secretary's email, 20 May, 2016.

There will be eight levels on Saturday, six on Wednesday and five on Thursday. This is pretty much as it was, but to many it will sound worse, as if having been demoted when in fact remaining in relatively the same position; for example, "Metro 4" did not sound too bad, whereas "Division 7" sounds like the pits. HBC will have two Saturday teams in there.

Some people have welcomed the additional finals matches and it is hoped that the whole restructure will create a fairer competition. It is a sobering thought, though, that while there are just ten teams in Premier League on Saturday, there could be as many as 110 in Division 7. Sport was never meant to be easy.

**THE HAWTHORN HERALD**

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# NEW SELECTON GUIDELINES (2)

In the previous edition (July) Andrew Bear discussed changes to club bylaw 17, Procedural Guidelines for Pennant Selection, which separated Wednesday and Saturday selection, and introduced a single selection criterion, *ability and form*. In this article the discussion continues. As before, the views expressed are those of the present writer.

The Board appoints all selectors: This wording replaces a previous provision which allowed for the election of selectors. That idea, attractive to democratic sentiment, was abandoned some years ago for practical reasons: it proved impossible to establish a method of nomination and a viable definition of the electorates. The new wording reflects present reality.

Tenure of selectors “normally” limited to three years: The selection panels should represent a mixture of old, new and different opinions, a bit like our parliaments. Just as “career politicians” can stay in place for too long, so can selectors, whose opinions may have been formed in the past and be no longer relevant. “Normally” is used legalistically to allow for exceptions. In the same way, members of the Board “generally” should not be appointed as selectors, but there will be exceptions, for example when there is a shortage of volunteers.

The Players’ Advocate may be consulted on selection

The role of the Player’s Advocate has been extended to include matters of selection, specifically in cases of complaint which cannot be resolved by either the relevant selector or by the CoS. After much discussion it was resolved to limit the Players’ Advocate’s power to negotiation only — to “do his/her best to resolve the problem”. The alternative was to give the Players’ Advocate the power to over-rule the selector, but this was rejected as potentially too divisive.

The sub-committee made certain recommendations:

The formal *Guidelines* are binding on selectors but all other matters are at their discretion. The Board has recommended that: (1) Pre-season “trials” be mainly intra-club rather than matches against other clubs; (2) The system of voting slips be revised; and (3) Practice sessions be introduced for playing in specific positions — lead, second, third and skipper.

## HOW IS YOUR COMMITMENT?

By Andrew Bear

On the occasion of my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday I had one living close relative: my favourite uncle (88) had become my only uncle. I invited him to be guest of honour at the celebration. He refused rather brusquely, informing me that bowls was more important than birthdays.

His commitment to bowls was beyond question, but he was of an older generation and times have changed. Traces of my uncle’s attitude were still present when I first joined our sport — I can recall impassioned and threatening speeches in this and other clubs — but the quasi-moral imperative to be available every week of the pennant season has lost its force. These days, people have lives outside bowls and attempts at intimidation fall on deaf ears. The quaint retention of the concept of a “commitment sheet” is no longer taken seriously.

Like it or not, those are the facts. To fulminate against this change is merely to waste breath. Modern bowlers have busy lives; they work and travel a lot, and they know that dire threats to drop them three grades if they ever dare to absent themselves are just so much wind. The more so if they are good players, as was my uncle: today he might have accepted my invitation.

It could be said that this is an inevitable demographic change, but even so it has a downside, which can affect many of us adversely. At HBC, there is now a clear pattern. In that part of the pennant season before Xmas, many members choose to travel or be away for various reasons. The result is that the Club cannot be certain of final numbers and must make a conservative estimate of how many teams we can field. Thus, on Saturdays last season for example, we had only enough players to enter seven sides at the beginning of the season whereas, after Xmas when everybody was available, we could easily have entered eight sides.

The unfortunate result was a large number of players forced to be rotated which, as always, is about as popular as cane toads in the garden. The Board and the selectors try to make rotation as fair as possible, but everyone needs to be aware of what makes rotation necessary. A bit unfortunate, but this situation is not likely to change soon.

# REPORT PAGE

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### A MATTER OF ETIQUETTE

By Terry Onto

I imagine we've all played a number of sports during our lives. I know I have...soccer (real football that is), tennis, squash, golf, and so on.

I have to say that lawn bowls seems to bring out some of the not so sporting parts of our personality (not mine, I hasten to add). We all say that it is a lovely sport with great social attraction but the annoying parts feature prominently and are used by some to gain an advantage when our playing ability is not achieving that goal. Wagging fingers to show how many shots we are holding; staying in the head when it belongs to the other team; clapping lucky shots; chortling when the opposition knocks us in for shot; etc. etc. and etc!

I would love Hawthorn to be known as the club which does none of these things. A welcoming group of people with good sporting manners. Determined to have fun, and to win, but not at the expense of good behaviour.

Port Lincoln Bowling Club has its Code of Behaviour prominently displayed. Item 1 on that Code asks members to "Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of others". What a nice thought that is and how easy it should be to comply with.

Can I ask all members of HBC to go into this season with these thoughts in mind? We won't always succeed in our aim to be better human beings but we can at least start out with the best of intentions.

## SELECTORS 2016 / 2017

In consultation with Chairs of Selectors Trevor Strudwick (Wednesday and Saturday) and Beverly Ploenges (Thursday) the Board has appointed the following selectors for the new season. The Club thanks retiring selectors for their services and wishes the incoming panel well.

### SATURDAY

Division 1	Michael Lodge	Steve Grant
Division 2	Michael Nimon	Jim Philpott
Division 4	Rob Geelen	
Division 5	Fred Hines	
Division 6	Alan Harris	Andrew Bear
Division 7	Alan Harris	Andrew Bear
Division 7	Alan Harris	Andrew Bear

### THURSDAY\*

Premier	Shirley Blackwell	Jenny Whittle
Division 2	Barbara Payne	

### WEDNESDAY

Premier	Alan Russell	Steve Grant
Division 3	Michael Nimon	Jim Philpott
Division 3	Alan Harris	
Division 4	Fred Hines	
Division 5		

**NOTE 1.** HBC has entered seven teams in the Saturday competition. If numbers permit, an eighth side will be added.

**NOTE 2.** It may be that another selector will be added to the Saturday panel for the seventh side. The present view is that no further selector is required for the fifth side Wednesday.

**NOTE 3.** \* Numbers for Thursday bowls are not yet finalised. HH will report as further team/s are entered and selectors appointed.

# NEWS AND VIEWS

## MINOR CHANGES AT HBC

At the recommendation of Greens Manager Bernie Manser, the wooden edging on the eastern side of A Green has been removed. The lateral distance indicators are now white fibreglass rods instead of lines painted on wood.

All the internal clubhouse lights have been changed from fluoro or incandescent to LED. This work, worth about \$5000, came at no cost to HBC. Along with the solar panels on the roof, this should help further reduce our power bill. Your taxes working for you.

By curious coincidence, this development at our club came at about the same time that complaints against LED lights began to surface from cities including New York and Melbourne. Street LEDs have been installed there and residents have complained that they are too bright, that they have disturbed sleeping patterns and disrupted the nocturnal habits of wildlife. Internally, so far, no one seems to have noticed. ASB

## ARE THERE ANY COOKS ABOUT?

In days gone by *The Hawthorn Herald* used to publish favourite recipes by members of the Club. As an idea it died out, but in these days of *MasterChef* and enough cooking programmes to simmer the airwaves, is there any interest in reviving it? We could have a COOKING PAGE which might be interesting and fun. Any takers? Contact the editors.

## UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS

*Two engineers were cycling along a road. One asked the other, "Where did you get that fabulous new bike?" His friend explained that he had been walking along a lonely track when a beautiful young woman rode up, leant the bike against a tree, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want!"*

*The second engineer agreed, "You were right to take the bike. The clothes might not have fitted you."*

**(Alas, there are many more engineer jokes. ED)**

## WHAT IS IN A NAME?

It's still footy

By Rose Mitchell

I started to write about the SANFL and realised that there have been three names to date for this backbone of school and state footy. It all began in 1877 when the inaugural governing body of 12 clubs was SAFA, A was for Association. After it became a true competition with the inclusion of Sturt in 1901, the name was changed in 1907 to SAFL, L was for League.

Competition was suspended between 1916 and 1918 in favour of 'patriotic games'. Change again in 1927 to the SANFL and they haven't thought of a better name since. Competition was not suspended during WW2 but clubs were merged – Sturt/South, Port Adelaide/West Torrens, Glenelg/ West Adelaide and Norwood/North. It has been said that the signal for the Australian attack on Libya in WW2 was a footy kicked into No Man's Land. Sounds about right but then I wasn't there so I can't say for sure.

Whatever its name was at the time, the governing body would do battle on behalf of schoolboy football. When the Price Memorial Oval Trustees tried to bully the Headmaster of a local primary school into paying the two guineas fee for the 1943 season, he promptly appealed to the Sturt football club - they paid the primary school fees – who in turn took it to the SANFL and Big Brother came in, guns blazing. The Trustees backed off.

So what is in a name? Does it really matter? Oh yes it does if your given name is Rosemary or Rose. . To name a few, (and there are lots) there's *By any other, Cracklin', Second hand and Rosemarie*. Ah, this last one. I had a boyfriend who would sing the song but not *sometimes I wished that I had never met you*. He would hum that line, a deliberate hum. The romance went nowhere.

I appeal to my female readership. Could you have committed yourself to a life time of deliberate hums? And he wasn't even a double blue true believer either. I rest my case.

# THE IDEAS PAGE

## HBC HISTORY

*No Fear for the Future: Hawthorn Bowling Club 1912 – 2012*, by Rosemary Mitchell, Hawthorn 2012.

Reviewed by Andrew Bear

**The Hawthorn Bowling Club marked its centenary in 2012. Rose Mitchell was convenor of the celebratory occasion and author of its history.**

This is a good book, a fascinating history of our club, suitable for regular and occasional readers alike. Who would have believed that we may owe our existence to “The Hawthorn Vigilance Committee”, a mob of wowsers who might have denied us our bar?

One is not long into this book without realising that the author is an historian, a woman, and a bowler. The historian makes light of her primary sources, dry and dusty boxes of committee minutes and annual reports, from which she narrates the various significant stages by which HBC emerged from a paddock to what it is today: that progress included several critical decisions.

The woman has an eye for the complex and ever changing relations between the men and women of our club. This part of our history, of course, is still evolving. The club began as an all male establishment, with female hangers-on whose main function was to provide tea and cakes. The Hawthorn Women’s Bowling Club was established in 1927, and Rose’s history of our club shows how one small social institution echoed the changes that were taking place in the wider society. The expression “Women’s Movement” occurs just once, but it is relevant to the story of change, by both consent and legislation.

The bowler has a wry eye for the silly sides of bowls and how they persisted until recently — strict rules about whites, hats, hems, ties, shorts, , afternoon teas, etc. Rose Mitchell is in general an objective historian and respectful of our sport, but she must have been tempted to adopt a satirical tone by the many lunacies: “Shorts were prohibited for use on greens , “Uniforms must be worn at ALL times!” Silly, sad but true.

*No Fear for the Future* is available at the bar for the reduced price of \$10. It is worth more than two drinks.

## THE BEE OR NOT THE BEE

A Bee may be busy or lazy and may or may not collect a lot of pollen compared to his mates or other varieties. A Bee may be docile or aggressive but at the end of the day our only concern is what ends up in the jar and the attributes of any bee will not affect what you dribble onto your toast. Really – yes Really/

The bee is only a transporter of pollen sourced from whatever plant is flowering in the vicinity of the hive. In fact it doesn’t care what pollen it does bring back. The flavour of the resultant honey is totally and only determined by the dominant pollen type. Of course in any area different plants flower at different ( or the same) time and so, if managed properly, the apiarist can determine the flavour of the honey from his hives. If he cannot, he blends different batches to achieve a desired result.

Honey is pollen is nectar is sugar in two concentrated forms of glucose.

Some plant pollens result in very distinctive honey flavours. Manuka (NZ Tea Tree) and Leatherwood (Tasmania) are probably the most notable and again the bee is only the transporter.

Why am I telling you this ?

Kangaroo Island is home to the only pure strain of Ligurian Bee (native to Italy) in the world and the KI honey producers main marketing tool is that the taste is due to the Ligurian Bee. when in fact you (now) know that that is “bull....” Is it a big deal –probably not . Is it deceptive–yes. If they took Ligurian out of the equation they would sell precious little.

You can fool some of the people etc etc.

My favourite -‘Blue Gum’- available everywhere but what would I know?

George Ch

## ***SOME CARRY ON TOO MUCH***

*A vulture walks onto an airplane carrying two dead racoons. The hostess says: “I’m sorry sir, but only one carrion per passenger is permitted.”*

# TRAVEL PAGE

## **FRENCH PRIEST MURDERED TERRORISM TOUCHES HBC MEMBER WE STAYED IN THAT TOWN**

We read of Islamic terrorists murdering people in Europe and then being killed in their turn. The media report the names of unknown small French towns — Saint this, Saint that . . . Saint Etienne du Rouvray. “SAINT WHO FROM WHERE? How do I know this?”  
“Because we stayed there for eight days in 2013.”

The realisation is a shock. Terrorist murder seems far away. Having been to that place brings it much closer. We saw their town. We saw their church. We rode their bus. We know where it happened, but not why.

St Etienne du Rouvray is a nondescript little town on the far outskirts of Rouen, one of France’s greatest and most beautiful cities. The city of Joan of Arc. We would call it a suburb, about 12 km from the CBD. We, four Australians, were there by chance. We paid it no heed. We did not even visit the now infamous church in which a crazed teenager slashed the throat of an elderly priest as he was conducting mass. A ghastly act of moral and symbolic depravity.

We were there in May, 2013, because only there could we book a hotel in the entire Rouen area. Why? Because, quite unknowingly, we happened to have chosen the very dates when the tall ships of the world were in town. A once in five year event that brings tourists by the millions, and not a bed to be found. Well, almost! St Etienne is connected to central Rouen by a tram, so we settled for that and made do.

On arrival at the main train station we were confronted by a waitress in a blue and white *matelot* outfit. “Why are you dressed like a sailor?” She looked at me as if I were mad. “Because THE SHIPS are in port!” And so, as we discovered, they were. The Seine divides Rouen, and both banks were lined for hundreds of metres by the magnificent relics of the age of sail. To us, innocent arrivals, it was a complete and wonderful surprise. Magnificent Rouen, and what a bonus!

Happy memories of May, 2013, changed forever by a heinous event of July, 2016. Of all places, who would have imagined that a member of HBC had ever been to Saintt Etienne du Rouvray? ASB

## **MEDICAL HISTORY**

*A young biology student was studying the medicinal qualities of tropical ferns. She employed an old Queensland bloke as a rainforest guide. He knew that a particular fern would cure constipation, but was too embarrassed to tell her in plain language. He said, “With fronds like these, you don’t need enemas.”*

## **THE GLENN MILLER CAFÉ Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA**

*The new café opened to great fanfare. It had several new shines that attracted customers from all down the line — New York, Pennsylvania Station, Track 29, Baltimore, Dinner in the Diner, Carolina — and they played only original music of the great Glenn Miller Band. It established a famously convivial atmosphere in which everyone chatted to everyone else, so there was a continual buzz of conversation. The speciality of the house was a seductively glutinous sticky dessert containing nuts and fruit in a stiff white paste.*

*Can you guess their advertising logo?*

**CHAT, A NOUGAT, CHEW CHEW.**

## **A TELLING TALE**

*Swiss history records that William Tell and his family were bowlers, although some records were lost in the Great Fire of Bern. It is not known for which team they played, but apparently William himself never accepted payment for bowls, just as he never did for shooting apples off heads.*

*Therefore never send to know for whom the Tells bowled; they bowled for free.*

## **BYLAW OF HAWTHORN BOWLING CLUB 17.13**

### **PLAYER ROTATION**

17.13 Rotation will be applied to all but the top two sides and will be at the discretion of the relevant Chair of Selectors, subject to the following guidelines:

- a. All players in the teams to be rotated will be rotated independent of the position they hold in that team;
- b. A player once rotated may not be rotated again until all players subject to rotation have been rotated;
- c. A player making himself/herself unavailable to play a game cannot count this absence as a rotation;
- d. Full records are to be maintained by the relevant Chair of Selectors showing details of rotations for the current season;
- e. When a player has been marked for rotation for a particular game but is then asked to play in that game due to the unavailability of others, he/she is deemed to have been rotated.
- f. Members playing only on either of Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday will not be subject to rotation.
- g. Rotation will start with players from the lowest side and thereafter move to the next lowest side and so on as necessary.

17.13.(e) has been revised.

17.13(g) is under revision.

## **CLUB SPONSORS**

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# THE WORST PAGE IN VERSE

## Observations of a first season bowler

By Steve Moloney

I've had six years at Oakbank and I've satisfied my pride.  
I started at the bottom and I reached their highest side.  
So now the time had come I thought, to face a sterner test.  
I signed to play with Hawthorn just to mix it with the best.

I've played there in the winter and I know some of them well.  
There's Al and Vic and Fred and Rob and Tom and Jimmy Bell.  
I walked into the clubhouse and they seemed a decent lot.  
"Come in" they said "and try your hand, and show us what  
you've got".

A lot of things can happen when you're standing on the green.  
I may have seen some funny things that others haven't seen.  
So at the risk of straining some of my new formed relations.  
I've put my pen to paper just to share my observations.

I started in a trial game they matched me with Bill Booker  
Now Billy plays a decent game (though not much of a looker).  
But when it comes to bowlers Bill's the envy of us all.  
He may not draw the closest but he's got size seven balls.

I got picked in the second side a fair 'nough place to start  
I felt a little nervous but I tried to play my part.  
And though I lacked in style and skill I thought I did my best  
It wasn't my fault that we lost and I blame all the rest.

My first bowl pulled up eight feet short. It really was a shocker.  
I tried to save embarrassment by claiming "it's a blocker"  
My second bowl was just as bad it whistled passed the jack  
My lame excuse for this one was "I'm covering the back"

We're just about to start the match, Fionas running late.  
She looks a bit embarrassed as she rushes through the gate.  
She sends one down the forehand but there's one bowl blocks her  
way.  
She's feeling quite contented, that's her second wood today.

Manny stands to take his turn he's wearing a big smile  
Delivering quite fluently, he leaves it short a mile.  
And by the time he's left the mat that smiles turned to a frown.  
He's managed to take three shots up and turn it two shots down.

I'm standing up to take my bowl when Trevor gives a squawk.  
He yells "Franky's done a toucha and I don't have any chalk".  
I said "Trevor as a skip you should prepare a wee bit more"  
He said "sorry but you know I've never needed it before"

Andy's bowling rather well and showing lots of class  
But Jim is really struggling and he's taking too much grass.  
Annie's doing "OK" and her bowling rates a pass.  
But Bob's lost all his focus he's just watching  
Annie's..... bowl.

Michael's rink is two shots up but this end isn't good.  
With twelve bowls down around the head we're holding seventh wood.  
Now Michael's lining up to drive my best advice ignoring.  
I said "Michael when you're six shots down you really should be  
drawing".

But Michael says that he's the skip so "just move over son.  
I'm going to have a run at this and show you how it's done".  
He sends one flying down the rink, I hear a mighty crack.  
He's missed the head by half a yard and now he's done his back.

Toms been training very hard he's showing great commitment  
but he's been a bit restricted 'cause he's lacking in equipment.  
And now he's looking rather tired which really is a pity.  
He said he's been out every night just trying to get some kitty.

Over on rink number four a big commotions growing.  
That match is really rather tight and now the pressures showing.  
Someone gave the shot away I think it was Rick Owen  
Now George has spat his dummy and he reckons that he's going.

Another match that's very tight is over on rink five.  
Now Terry knows he needs to draw the shot to stay alive.  
He lines it up precisely as he goes down on one knee  
But he puts on the wrong bias and he's drawn shot on rink three.

And now the season's come and gone and with this motley crop.  
We managed to defy the odds and finish up on top.  
Now I can't wait til next year when we can re-live the dream  
I'm very proud to be part of this mighty Hawthorn team.

**This may be the first creation in verse ever  
published in *The Hawthorn Herald*. What next?  
Read on, and blame Steve Moloney. Ed**

## ***THE VERSE ONLY GETS WORSE***

*An indolent vicar of Bray  
His rose garden allowed to decay.  
His wife more alert  
Bought a powerful squirt  
And said to her spouse, 'Let us spray.'*

*A cautious young girl from Penzance  
Decided to take just one chance.  
She wavered, then lo,  
She let herself go  
And now all her sisters are aunts.*

*The classical sculptor called Phidias  
Whose knowledge of art was insidious  
Once carved Aphrodite  
Without any nightie  
Which shocked all the purely fastidious.*