

# THE HAWTHORN HERALD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE HAWTHORN BOWLING CLUB

July 2016

## ANOTHER OP'NING      ANOTHER SHOW

### 2016 HBC 2017

#### MOSTLY OLD SOMETHING NEW

By Andrew Bear

The AGM 2016 was mostly uneventful and saw familiar faces re-elected. Terry Onto remains as President and Barry Hanna Men's Vice-President, even though neither had originally nominated. This is very generous on both their parts, but it indicates that the Club needs to start thinking seriously about a succession plan.

Carol Boyle was re-elected as Women's Vice-President, Jim Young remains as Secretary and Ken Piggott as Treasurer. Andrew Bear, George Charlesworth and Lesley Slattery were re-elected to the Board of Management, where they are joined by new faces, Maggie Forbes and Alan Harris..

Patricia Cook and Bernie Manser remain as House and Greens Managers respectively, and are joined as ex officio members of the Board by our new Bar Manager, Colin Byrne. Colin's friendly face has already become familiar on the other side of the bar and we wish him well in this important position. Whether we will learn to appreciate NSW beer is another question.

Trevor Strudwick and Bev Ploenges have been re-appointed as Chairs of Selectors, Saturday/Wednesday and Thursday respectively. An important difference is that Saturday and Wednesday selection will now be done separately, with separate selection panels, both to be chaired by Trevor Strudwick.

Many other people devote time and effort to a myriad of other jobs, all of which are essential to the running of the Club. They usually hold no "official" position and their efforts often go unrecognised. Their contributions will be noted and appreciated in future editions of *The Hawthorn Herald*.

### OLD NEW EDITOR APPOINTED

The Board of Management has appointed Andrew Bear as Editor of *The Hawthorn Herald*, replacing Maree Schaefer, who has resigned. The Club thanks Maree for her much appreciated services as Editor in recent years.

Andrew held this position previously, 1999 —2007, not always without controversy. He hopes to continue the tradition, without ever being boring or predictable.

### DO WE HAVE WRITERS?

The pages of *The Hawthorn Herald* are open to the membership. Would you like to contribute signed articles on any subject that might be of interest to members? The Editor does not wish to write the whole thing himself (he is accused of being a one man band anyway). We have called HH a "newsmagazine" deliberately: we intend to publish news and opinions on bowling subjects, but articles of more general interest are also welcome. For example, HBC folk are inveterate travellers and "where you have been" is one of the most common subjects of conversation in the club. Hence the new TRAVEL PAGE, and who better to kick it off than our Secretary, Jim Young, who can hardly keep himself out of airports?

### THE HAWTHORN HERALD

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**Assistant editor : George Charlesworth**

**Editorial team : Volunteers wanted**

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# NEW SELECTON GUIDELINES

## ONE HORSE'S MOUTH

By Andrew Bear

Following complaints about pennant selection last season the Board of Management appointed a sub-committee to report and make recommendations. The members of sub-committee were Terry Onto, Trevor Strudwick, Andrew Bear, Fred Hines and John Shaw. Its recommendations were accepted by the Board and now comprise the new bylaw 17, **PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR PENNANT SELECTION**, a copy of which is on the notice board and was emailed to all members (it will be reprinted in later editions).

The Board of management is our elected body and controls all aspects of the Club, including selection. It appoints the Chairs of selection panels and, in consultation with them, appoints all selectors. Selectors are appointed for one year and are responsible to the Board. The Board establishes general guidelines but does not micro-manage. Selectors have a considerable degree of discretion.

What are the main changes and what differences will they make (in the view of the present writer)? These matters will be discussed in this and following articles to which members are invited to contribute.

The most obvious difference is the separation of Saturday and Wednesday selection, now to be undertaken by two panels. The amalgamation looked like a good idea at the time, but did not work for several reasons.

First, it put too much pressure on one panel to select 12 sides, about 26 teams, some 150 players. Second, it allowed women selectors to intervene in men's bowls where they had no competence. Third, it put men at a disadvantage compared with women. Let us take the example of male player Y, against whom selector N holds a grudge. Selector N selects both Wednesday and Saturday teams in which Y plays, so he has no chance of a fair go, regardless of ability. By comparison, woman player C may be selected by the same selector N on Saturday, but would be selected by another selector F on Thursday, and thus have some chance. It used to be common for men to play at different levels on Wednesday and Saturday, but amalgamation ended that, and with it the fair go for some male players under some circumstances.

For a club that fields three teams, the logic is to have either three separate selection panels or a single panel for all three. The latter was suggested, but dismissed because the women would find it unacceptable. It was never logical to combine the selection of two out of three teams while the third (women) remained separate. Logic now prevails.

**Bylaw 17.8:** This is the critical bylaw that defines selection criteria. It was the most controversial, and no doubt the subcommittee's final recommendation will cause further controversy.

The revised bylaw 17.8 now stipulates that the only selection criteria are **"ability and form"**. No other criteria can be applied except **"team harmony"** which may be taken into account.

Why was this decision taken and why is it now binding on selectors? Selectors have "a considerable degree of discretion," but it is not without limit. Selectors do not have the authority to invent new selection criteria at whim, yet something like this has occurred in recent times. Recently, selectors have claimed the authority to demote players on the basis of purely subjective criteria including "attitude" and "discipline", and to promote players on the similarly subjective criterion of "promise".

None of this should have been allowed to happen, but it did because the previous bylaws were too vague. The effect was to give individual selectors far too much power, which could be used irresponsibly. It was always wrong in principle for pennant demotion to be used as a form of punishment. Only the Board has disciplinary powers under the Constitution.

**Promise:** I first heard a selector talk of this as a key selection criterion about four years ago and it was later (2014) written into the *Guidelines*. This was a mistake that has now been rectified. A "promising" player could be promoted above an "unpromising" player without reference to ability. Once again this gave too much power to individual selectors and could lead to unfairness. In all competitive team sports there is pressure from 'below' as new, usually younger players press for inclusion. They win in the end, but the timing cannot be legislated. A promising player must first become a better player before being promoted. Otherwise "promise" may be mere prejudice.

# REPORT PAGE

**This page is reserved for reports to members by the President and Vice-Presidents. On those occasions when there are no reports (usually in the off season ) the page will carry other articles.**

## IS THERE A PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE CLUB?

*The Hawthorn Herald* needs a photographer to be one of the editorial team we are hoping to establish.

Duties are not onerous. Be around from time to time to photograph events that may be worth recording and publishing — sometimes outside, sometimes inside, team photos, faces.

Qualification: Enjoy taking photos, enjoy the Club, have a camera, some imagination and a bit of click.

Contact Andrew Bear or George Charlesworth.

## ANCIENT HISTORY

*King Ozymandias of ancient Assyria was running low on royal funds after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the world at the time. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus offered 100,000 dinars. "But," protested Ozymandias. "I paid a million dinars for it. Don't you know who I am? I am the King!" Croesus replied: "If you wish to pawn a star, makes no difference who you are."*

*Did you hear about the person who sent ten different puns to friends in the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh? No pun in ten did.*

## IS THERE A LAYOUT ABOUT IN THE CLUB?

*The Hawthorn Herald* is seeking someone who might like to join the editorial team we are hoping to establish to help with layout. Neither George nor Andrew has skills in this area and, as anyone can see, this first edition is a bit clunky. The format is Micro Soft Works for Mac, which ought to suit everyone.

Can you add a few boxes and shapes, maybe add a little bit of colour, get photographs straight on a page and enjoy doing it?

Then we would like to hear from you.

Contact Andrew or George.

## MEDICAL HISTORY

*An Indian chief was feeling very ill, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination the medicine man took out a long thin strip of elk rawhide and gave it to the chief, telling him to swallow one inch of leather every day after meals.*

*A month later the medicine man returned and asked the chief how he was feeling.*

*The chief shrugged and said:*

*"The thong is ended but the malady lingers on."*

# NEWS AND VIEWS

## HBC SCHOOLS PROGRAM

By Jim Bell

Once again this year HBC has been involved in coaching senior secondary students in lawn bowls as part of the Year 12 PE programme. Sessions are usually 90 minutes for 9 weeks. Our coaches assess them and then the year 12 teacher uses this information to determine a final result. Schools involved are Scotch College, Unley, Urrbrae and Concordia. The coaches are David Sutherland, Alan Harris, Adrian Sobels and Jim Bell. Also we had a one day visit from 5 classes from Westbourne Primary following some work at the school using Jack Attack. Thanks also to Anne Onto and John Shaw for their help.

## NIGHTHAWKS : HBC LIFELINE

By Andrew Bear

In some years there are more Nighthawks players than members. They are essential to HBC's future.

Nighthawks is run by George Charlesworth and has been since its inception more than 20 years ago. This is a remarkable achievement and a remarkable contribution to our Club, the more so since George has held other positions of responsibility, not least that of Chairman (now President) for several years.

Still, even George cannot do it all alone. Other people contribute, though there are no job descriptions. Rob Geelan and Andrew Bear are George's "dogsbody" on Tuesday and Wednesday nights respectively. There is a roster for two sausage sizzlers on both nights and another for a cashier. The Bar Manager is usually present and bar staff are employed. It is a team effort.

Some other essential tasks look as if they 'just happen' but this is not so. They are done by someone and in recent times that someone has been Anne Onto. Ordering meat for raffle prizes and sausages for the sizzle; organising other raffle prizes; managing the rosters and checking that people will turn up as required; purchasing and checking raffle tickets.

These are not huge jobs, but they have to be done. If you could help, talk to Anne or George.

## PENNANT RESTRUCTURE

By Steve Maloney

Bowls SA has done a pretty good job with their restructure and (in my opinion) most of the changes will benefit the game and the players. I would say they almost got it right but, there is one glaring error which should be corrected.

I support the new system of promotion and relegation with just two teams going up (and down) each division at the end of each season. I also love the idea that many more grades will be playing finals. I am sure we all love to play in finals. My concern is with the way the two promoted teams are selected.

The new structure has the grand final winners and runners up of each division being the promoted teams. In my opinion, this does not do justice to the team finishing on top of each division (ie the minor premiers), who by their consistency have proved to be the best side throughout the season. It is possible that minor premiers could miss promotion by having a bad run through the finals series. It is also possible that some larger clubs could "stack" their finals teams with eligible players from a higher grade where these higher grades have not qualified for finals. My suggested amendment is that the two promoted teams for each division consist of:-

1. The team finishing on top of that division (The minor premiers)
2. The team winning the grand final of that division.

Where the team winning the grand final is also the minor premier, then the grand final runner up would be the second team promoted.

## STEVE WAS RESPONDING TO A SECRETARY EMAIL OF MAY 20. Terry Onto summarised:

I expect that many of these issues will be aired at the club well before the new season starts up.

Matters of interest include but are not limited to: Re-naming of the various sections from Metro to Division; More Wednesday teams will change from 4's comps to 4's, triples, and pairs as happened with the top sections this last season; Wednesday pennant to start at 12.15 pm instead of 1.00 pm; Additional divisions to play finals apart from the top couple of sections; Games (in more of the higher Saturday divisions) cancelled due to extreme weather to be rescheduled for the following Friday evening.

# THE IDEAS PAGE

*The Hawthorn Herald* is not afraid of ideas. Ours is a democratic club and the club newsmagazine is the place where they can be expressed. On analogy with TWITTER and TWEET, we might think of HAWK and SQUAWK. Or, more traditionally, we might think of LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Editorial policy requires that all articles, squawks and letters be signed by a member. No anonymous matter will be published. Nothing will be published that is abusive or could be detrimental to the good name of the Hawthorn Bowling Club. The Editor's decisions are final.

## LET'S GET BACK ON TRACK

By George Charlesworth

We need to address our financial situation in that we need to generate more income and the best opportunity to do that is to utilize our facilities better. We have had events in the past that we all enjoyed. We need to reintroduce them and create more.

We have NightHawks, Winter Bowls, Seafood and Melbourne Cup Days which are all very good earners but if any were to 'fall over' our bottom line suffers.

We should introduce a better structured 'Bar' environment with regular hours to attract members, Mitcham sports clubs and off the street patronage.

The following new events, both on and off the greens, are what we should aim to introduce this coming season:

*Friday Triples/Fours; Open Fours Day;  
Spring Series; Quiz Nights;  
Wine and Cheese Night/Day;  
Winery Tour; Dinners.*

## A CASE OF HOLINESS

*The Mother Superior made the announcement in hushed tones "Sisters, the convent has a case of gonorrhoea."*

*"The Lord be praised for that!" cried a nun with hearing akin to Terry Onto's. "I'm sick to death of chardonnay."*

## WOMEN PHOTOS ON THE WALL

At the AGM, Rose Mitchell, organiser of the Club's centenary celebrations in 2012, reminded us that the centenary of the Hawthorn Women's Bowling Club in 2027 is only 11 years away.

For the 2012 celebrations, many photos of historical interest were displayed on the walls and created great interest. By 2014, however, that interest had faded and most of the photos were archived. The exception is the display of photos of women bowlers by the back door. I suggest that thought be given to this matter. If those photos remain in place for another 11 years, they will have lost all their interest as historical items. They, too, could be archived, and then used as a centre-piece in 2027. A thought for the future. ASB

## MEMBER PROFILES?

One of Maree Schaefer's innovations as editor of *The Hawthorn Herald* was the publication of members' profiles. My inclination is to continue with Maree's initiative if there is sufficient interest. This is the great age of the "selfie", so what about a few selfies in 750 - 1000 words instead of images? Our pages are open. I may even cast all modesty aside and publish one of my own (it was written ages ago, but Maree never asked). ASB

# TRAVEL PAGE

## AFRICAN SAFARI

By Jim Young

In June this year my wife Julie and I headed off to Africa with a group of friends to visit the game parks of Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe with 3 of the group to do horse riding in a number of the parks.

We began our journey in Adelaide and 29 hours later arrived in Windhoek, capital of Namibia.

The first park we visited, Kambaku, a privately owned game park, was full of antelope, giraffe, warthog and other animals although no predators. Our horse riders headed off on their first ride whilst the rest of us toured the park in an open vehicle meeting up with the horse riders for a champagne brunch out in the bush.

The highlight of Namibia was Etosha Game Park in the north where we saw lion, giraffe, zebra, jackal, hyena and many types of antelope and whilst at one waterhole a group of about 30 elephants running into the water.

From Namibia we moved onto Botswana visiting the San Bushmen and Himba tribes, which was fascinating to see how these people still live in the traditional way. Here we also camped in the Okavango Delta venturing out on canoes through thick marshes seeing crocodiles closer than was comfortable. We also saw many other animals, including the elusive leopard on our numerous early morning and late afternoon game drives often finishing somewhere scenic for sundowners (G & T's) and watching the magnificent African sunsets.

After Botswana we moved on to Zimbabwe to a number of other game parks, one Lodge perched 800 feet above the Zambesi River and another in tented accommodation in the bush. From this camp we did many long walks through the bush with an armed guide having close encounters with a number of elephant herds and one large herd of Buffalo (approximately 300). One evening, near our camp, we observed in excess of 100 elephants coming in to drink at a waterhole that was already crowded with crocodile, hippos, Waterbuck, Zebra, Kudu and other animals and birds.

Our trip concluded in Victoria Falls. The falls are quite spectacular with the mist rising 500 metres in the air and clearly visible from many kilometres away. All in all an amazing trip.

## GETTING IT ALL AT SEA

Some ten years ago a story appeared in the travel pages that caused great amusement.

It seems that a series of advertisements appeared in the British press promoting a "sex cruise" of the Mediterranean. On the appointed day hundreds of paid-up people turned up at Southamton Dock, only to be disappointed: no ship, it was a scam. The jokes came thick and fast about what the frustrated would-be swingers would do next (it was not reported; probably they just went home).

That was ten years ago — a scam and a joke. A memory of that old article prompted my curiosity, so I googled "sex cruises" and received an immediate shock when it gave 12,400,000 results! Well, don't worry, there are not really that many sex cruises: I soon realised that the combination of those two words overwhelmed even Google's computers. The first few pages revealed that there is a sub-category of cruising with a sexual theme, but it is almost lost in the sheer weight of online advertising for the mainstream cruise industry itself, which is just astounding. I had no idea!

Still, times have changed: cruising with a sexual theme is no longer a joke, but serious business. The most heavily advertised, and apparently numerically the largest, is nude or nudist cruising: these sites are often decorated with discreet nude photos — distant, back, side, no fronts. As with old-fashioned 'nature' magazines (which were decorated with air-brushed bodies playing netball), these sites are curiously puritanical — no sex please, we're nudists.

Cruises for singles only and those for gays and lesbians also appear to be big business. Like the nudists, these sites are discreet about their obvious sexual connotations: "uninhibited fun" is a bit coy.

True and unabashed sex cruising is left to the swingers who make no bones about why they are going to sea. References to "meeting like-minded couples and groups" sound modest but are difficult to misinterpret.

And so, the permissive society has gone to sea. Alas, the promoters of such cruises are unlikely to sponsor bowling clubs.

ASB

# OUT AND ABOUT

## PENNANT PROSPECTS 2016/17

Having looked at where we sit in the New Pennant structure, given that we were demoted from P1, the level of comp should suit us and we should be competitive (all things being equal). We have lost a few players, of whom some will be missed. Ironically none have gone to play at a higher level. Our Second side is nicely placed at the third level and should hold their own (all things being equal). Of course they won't be equal because of the loss of players. This will open doors for current players and we may procure others but we **will** be competitive and enjoy more success than last year playing amongst Clubs of similar ilk.

This year goals will be to consolidate our position at all levels whilst working on promotion if feasible. **We must not be complacent.** It will require a dedicated effort to stay at this level because EVERY other team wants to stay. We will be blessed with two teams falling from above, two leaving and two wanting to make an impression so to aim to finish in the middle six is not that smart because aiming for mediocrity can quite easily result in missing one of the desired six spots at the wrong end see you next year – maybe !!

The Girls were promoted to P1 so a couple of noted departures will require some smart moves from Shirley. It is never easy at the top level (ask the men !) and she will be given all the support and incentives to be competitive to consolidate their position.

Going up is vastly different from going down. The expectations (going up) are only to give a good enough account to stay there. So if finishing 8<sup>th</sup> is almost a relief and a good platform to launch an assault next year.

Given our lot we should be excited about the possibilities this season so don't dwell on the past. There are a lot of Clubs that would like to be in our position so make the most of your opportunities and most of all – enjoy !

.  
George Ch.

## ANOTHER SIDE OF BOWLS

By Lesley Slattery

**(Lesley Slattery has been Secretary, Women's V-P and Selector at Hawthorn. Less well known, she also works for the State bowls authority. Here she describes some of those activities.)**

During my time with Hawthorn Bowling Club, apart from holding several positions within the Club, I have also been involved in Bowls SA.

Region 10 Councillor — Match and Programme Committee — Voluntary help in BSA Office — Metro Bowling Association Steering Committee.

As a Region Councillor I have been able to visit Clubs as a guest at Opening Day or to present an award from Bowls SA to a deserving member and also discuss and help resolve some issues that have arisen. The Region holds quarterly meetings which are attended by delegates from the 12 Clubs involved. Delegates discuss various issues pertinent to their Club and share ideas. If there is an issue that needs to be followed up, the Councillors either contact the appropriate Bowls SA Committee or discuss at the State Consultative Body. This is a meeting of the 12 Regions within the State (four Metro and eight Country).

As a member of the Match & Program Committee (four seasons) I attended monthly meetings to discuss pennant issues, amendments to pennant rules, annual pennant review and look at ideas to improve the game (although most members would not agree to this). When clubs forwarded their team nominations, etc at the end of August, it took about four days to organise and place teams in Divisions. There were the issues of clubs nominating how many teams home and away and more than one team in a Division. Travel was also taken into account for the lower teams. It was not an easy job. Then when you thought it was settled, some clubs change their minds — withdrawing a team. So then it took more hours to correct. The Committee also packed the stationery for distribution to the Metro and Country Clubs. During this time I was also able to manage State Events, which I enjoyed. As a Councillor I also had the privilege to manage the Women's Prestige Medley teams. *(Continued, p. 8)*

# OUT AND ABOUT

## DAUGHTERS IN DUSSELDORF

*Dagmar, a Dusseldorf dealer in frozen delicacies had two big, strong daughters, Demi and Dolly. One day he had an unexpected delivery of delicacies which required his very heavy freezer to be taken downstairs. He told Demi and Dolly to carry it, but unfortunately they buckled under the weight and fell down the stairs with the freezer on top of them.*

*The local paper reported that there was a fridge over doubled daughters.*

## CLARIDGE HOLDEN MAJOR CLUB SPONSOR

Your editor (who has a Claridge Holden in the garage) recently had a minor ding repaired at Claridge Crash. He came away impressed with the friendly, efficient service and regards the work as completely satisfactory.

Claridge Crash is no longer on Unley Road opposite the main showroom. It has relocated to 159 Caulfield Avenue, Clarence Gardens.

## PHIL HOFFMANN TRAVEL

## WINE DIRECT

## SAMTASS SEAFOODS

## EDINBURGH HOTEL

*(Continued from p. 7)* This included contacting and organising selected players for travel, accommodation, uniform. etc. The Ladies have been a strong, dedicated and competitive team and as a result have had considerable success.

Over the past 12 months I have also been involved in the Metropolitan Bowls Association Steering Committee. This Association will now come into effect for this coming season and will be responsible for the running of Metro Pennant bowls, leaving Bowls SA to concentrate on State and National Events, Sponsorships, Grants etc.

## CURRY AND CASSEROLES GO

Thursday, June 30, about 50 people braved the cold and dark for a curry and casserole night at the Club. Originally proposed by Penny McTaggart and given a push by Bernie Manser, the idea took off with a dozen members creating some really delicious dishes. We have some good cooks around the place!

It is my impression, and certainly my experience, that HBC folk enjoy one another's company in social settings off the green, and the format for this night might provide a successful model for the future. As George Charlesworth reminds us in the current issue, we need to make more use of the Club's facilities. On this occasion it worked like a charm. The evening included a showing of the film *Crackeerjack*. ASB

## PUNS a' POPPINS

*Mahatma Gandhi famously walked barefooted which caused calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him frail, and his odd diet often produced bad breath.*

*This made him a super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.*

Oh dear (Ed)