

THE HAWTHORN HERALD

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE HAWTHORN BOWLING CLUB

September 2016

SPRING IS HERE ! SPRING IS HERE !

‘THE RACE’ is on again!

The starting gun has been fired! We are now racing down the straight toward another great

Melbourne Cup Fun Day

on Tuesday, 1st November at our Club. Before you know it the day will be right on our doorstep. So don't delay, mark the date in your calendar.

The Planning Committee held its first meeting on Saturday, 6th August and we are planning an even better event this year.

For the **\$25 entry fee**, on arrival you will receive a free glass of bubbly. We plan to have hosts to greet you and make you feel welcome. A sumptuous lunch awaits you comprising BBQ shaslks, salads and a variety of tempting and hard to resist desserts.

In addition there will be sweeps, a raffle with fabulous prizes and magic squares. Into the mix will be a few brain teasers. There will be a men's and ladies' hat competition for those who wish to participate. If that is not for you don't worry. You can sit back to see if the judges get it right!

View the race on one of the two TV screens.

Members, please invite your friends to come. Any group with five + will get named corporate tickets. This means you will be assured that you will be sitting with your friends.

Be there and enjoy a memorable afternoon with friends and colleagues. The best thing about running an event like this is the buzz in the clubrooms that is generated from the 100 plus participants.

I am indebted to the many volunteers who willingly offer their help. It is rather special when you can sense the team work that propels this event forward. Thanks sincerely to all those who have come on board.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the 'finish line' in your sartorial elegance! I must say we all look rather different out of uniform!

Maree Schaefer

Melbourne Cup Fun Day, Coordinator.

To ensure your place at a table

add your name to the list in the club
or email Maree at bmschaef@bigpond.com
OR Phone 0427 933 109.

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NEW SELECTION GUIDELINES (3)

The Board of Management has completed its review of the selection guidelines. The final revision was to 17.13(g), rotation. This previously read:

“Rotation will start with players from the lowest side and thereafter move to the next lowest side and so on as necessary.”

The revised version reads:

“Rotation will be applied in a random manner by the relevant Chair of Selectors.”

Andrew Bear continues his discussion of these important changes. As before, the opinions expressed are his own and not necessarily those of the Board.

Rotation: Three improvements are expected: (1) The removal of the reference to the “lowest side” will make rotation fairer; (2) The concept of “random” (probably by some form of lottery) will make the application of the process less opaque; (3) A late withdrawal from a high side might no longer cause a seismic revision of teams at all lower levels.

Overall, it is likely that our total membership will be down in comparison with last year. This should mean that rotation will become less of a problem. We hope!

What is not included in the guidelines:

(1) The new guidelines specify that the single criterion for selection is “ability and form”, but they are silent on the key question of how selectors apply this criterion. This is as it should be: it is not the Board’s business to micro-manage selection. In recent years selectors have opted for “rating slips” by which players pass judgement on their peers in the form of a numerical assessment. All such systems are unreliable statistically and are always controversial, which is probably why they change so often. The obvious alternative is to rely on skippers’ judgements, which are also unreliable.

(2) The grass ceiling for many women bowlers.

Like the glass ceiling in society, no one knows what to do about this. By its nature, sport is meritocratic and elitist, so it was always a naïve hope that “open gender” could be introduced into bowls without frustration and resentment. Guidelines cannot solve an intractable problem, and so there are none.

PENNANT : ROOM AT THE TOP

A number of high level players have left the club and will have to be replaced, either by new members or by existing players moving up. At this stage, it does not seem that there will be enough new members to fill the gaps, so a golden opportunity presents itself to existing players who possess the right mixture of ambition and ability to achieve promotion.

Pennant trials will run through September, so they will be more important than usual for those seeking advancement. Most of the trials this season will be internal, so there are likely to be some tough challenges between players vying for the same positions.

Last month the *Herald* published the names of those who have been appointed Saturday selectors for the new season. Readers with sharp eyes for such matters will have noticed a sea of new faces — apart from CoS Trevor Strudwick and coach Steve Grant, Michael Nimon is the only continuing selector from last season. The newcomers are all experienced players, but some of them are new to the role of selector.

This is likely to produce a few shock waves. Players may find themselves in higher or lower positions than previously, and some may not like it. Such change is almost inevitable, however, because different selectors will see things differently, particularly given that HBC is coming off a relatively poor season. It is difficult to imagine the winds of change sweeping through a bowling club, but a gentle breeze could be felt.

THE HAWTHORN HERALD

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Contributions to the October edition should be sent to: gcharlesworth@hotmail.com

REPORT PAGE

THE CLUB PRESIDENT

By Terry Onto

Dumping of bowls is an issue of increasing concern to clubs with artificial surfaces. Whilst damage to grass greens from dumping is still a problem to be avoided if possible, repairs can be carried out, but this is not the case with artificial greens.

Dumping can vary from simply dropping bowls on to greens when removing them from the bowls bag to throwing the bowls at the time of delivery so that the point of initial impact is some distance in front of the bowler. The first problem can be dealt with by the bowlers simply taking care when removing his/her bowls from their bag. The problem with a faulty delivery action tends to be more serious. It can sometimes be remedied by coaching and practice but can also be caused by a physical problem with the bowler (occasionally to do with his/her advancing age...). If there is a chronic loss of flexibility the problem may possibly only be resolved with the use of a mechanical arm. Advice to me is that some clubs with artificial surfaces will stop dumpers from playing at their club. If you are a dumper you need to think about what you can do to fix the problem. We want everyone to bowl as long as they can and if the only way this can be done is by using a mechanical arm then it is well worth considering. Tranmere runs a session on the first Monday of every month providing free coaching with the use of loan practice arms. Well worth considering if I am describing your present bowling style.

NEW LIQUOR LICENCE

At the instigation of Bar Manager Colin Byrne, HBC is in the process of applying to change our existing "club" liquor licence to a full licence.

The problem with the existing licence is that it can only be used for club functions. Every time the clubhouse is hired for a private function, we have to apply for a special licence to cover that occasion, which is expensive and time consuming. The problem will be solved if we are granted a full licence.

THE WOMEN'S VICE PRESIDENT

From Carol Boyle, in summary form

Brochures, flyers, advertisements etc. of interest to women bowlers will be placed on the noticeboard in the western corridor.

This season, women's Thursday bowls, week by week, will be either all away or all at home.

Women's practice begins, Thursday, 1 September.
First Thursday pennant, 6 October.

It is noted with regret that there are no women on the Saturday pennant selection panel.

MALE PLAYERS THURSDAY?

Bev Ploenges, CoS Thursday pennant, would like to hear from any men who might be willing to make themselves available to play with the women on Thursdays. There is a problem of numbers. Without a few male volunteers, it may not be possible to field a third team Thursdays.

(The reverse could be the case on Wednesdays.)

OPENING DAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10

11.00 START : BOWLS 12.30

**OFFICIAL OPENING
START PENNANT TRIALS
SNACKS**

NEWS AND VIEWS

HBC WEST SIDE ROSE GARDEN

SHAWED UP AND JASSED UP

*Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,
Old time is still a-flying.
And this same flower that smiles today,
Tomorrow will be dying.*

Poets have been going on about roses for centuries (Robert Herrick, 1648), but in more recent times at HBC, David Sutherland has been fertilising, pruning, weeding and tending them. Thanks to David, our rose gardens have long been one of the taken-for-granted pleasures of our club.

It is therefore good to know that two relatively new members, John Shaw and John Jasson, at their own initiative and in their own time, have built a wooden surround for the rose garden on our side of the church. It looks good and improves an already attractive plot. The idea is to cover the area with deep mulch, which will prevent the blackbirds from scratching around, save water, and reduce the need for regular weeding.

Good on John and John, according to the *Herald*.

OTHER INITIATIVES

The same John Shaw has had a go at repairing the weather vane on the southern wire fence between us and the Tennis Club. He reports that it is less than flash and probably should be replaced, but at least it looks better than it did.

Meanwhile, our admirable Bar Manager, Colin Byrne has introduced snacks after Winter Bowls on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Woof, Woof! Biscuits, cheese and salami, then, on the day the skies opened, hot pies and sausage-rolls. Good on you Colin, we say

*pare, pear, pair — vane, vain, vein
words like these are quite a pain
laid bare, it would be hard to bear
who would know which fare was fair
or which ware to wear*

CLUB MATTERS

By Jim Bell

Men's Locker Room

The Board is aware that many bags do not fit the current lockers. If larger lockers were available, would you use one?

Please contact secretary Jim Young if you wish to have a locker so he can establish if there is a need. Should this be the case the Board will look at ways to make this happen. Deadline: ASAP

Visit by Concordia College

At present, twelve year 12 Physical Education students are being coached by David Sutherland, John Shaw and Jim Bell. They are very keen and some are very talented so hopefully they will be lawn bowlers sooner rather than later. Their assessment is an important part of their PE studies.

FOR HER EYES ONLY

A blond heard that if she took a bath in fresh milk all her beauty would be restored, so she left a note for the milkman ordering 25 gallons.

Knowing she was a blond, the milkman assumed that this was a mistake and that she wanted 2.5 litres.

He rang the doorbell to get the matter clarified. When the blond opened the door, he asked, "How much milk do you want?"

The blond answered, "25 gallons. I'm going to take a bath in it to restore my beauty."

The milkman asked, "Do you want it pasteurised?"

The blond replied, "No, just up to my neck — I'll splash it past my eyes if I need to."

THE IDEAS PAGE

WHERE'S THAT CHARGER?

By Rose Mitchell

The weeks leading up to Father's Day are prime time and space for the marketing of the latest tools. If you were new to this country, you could be forgiven for thinking that every Australian male's driving ambition was to own a full set of battery powered tools and garden appliances (electric and petrol powered are so passé). What about the dads who might be OK with a screw driver but believe that anything bigger is verging on demarcation with the territory of the handyman. There is a down side to battery powered tools. Battery powered anything. You have to remember where you put the charger.

It wasn't always like that of course. Life was simpler. Take the Price Memorial Oval when man/horse/and even cow power meant just that.

Mowing. Very important to a bowling green. Scything of greens was still common when HBC began in 1912 but the Minutes only mention mowers. Oh yes, and the uncontrolled excitement of eventually acquiring the first powered mower. Members came to have a look and watch it in action.

Rolling. The roller provided by the Trust is shown in our 1913 photograph leaning against a fence. It was for the tennis club as well but HBC kept it close. Man powered at HBC, it was a heavy barrel shape of concrete with a handle. The tennis club had two courts on the oval and they wrote a furious letter to the Trustees complaining that when the horse pulled the roller, it did not have its boots on over its shoes. That begs the question as to what footwear the roller pullers wore at HBC?

Edge trimming. The Trustees permitted the owner of a cow to tether her to the inside of the oval fence where she would keep down all those hard to get bits the mower couldn't reach. She would not be there on Saturdays and he would pick up the 'dirt'. Well, you wouldn't want to be running backwards determined to catch a ball destined for a 4, now would you? Not in your cricket whites.

To all the father Hawks. I hope you had a good day. Remember, you can't always blame the dog/cat/family if you can't find the charger. Or the remote.

NEW SA BOWLS MAGAZINE *Bowls plus: your Local Bowling and Lifestyle Magazine*

Reviewed by Andrew Bear

This new free monthly magazine was distributed in our club with no fanfare — it just appeared. In fact, it is not really new; it has been published in Queensland for six years, and has now branched out to what it calls a "South Australian edition", although the editorial address is in Queensland and there is little that could be described as "local" (SA) content.

The format is 32-page glossy, with good layout and many photos. As a giveaway magazine there are, inevitably, lots of ads, including two full-page promos for bird seed, which looks a bit out of place.

The content is a bit bland, which I suppose is to be expected in a first edition of a new venture in a new state. It looks and feels a bit like the old *SA Bowler Magazine*, which nobody seems to miss. Lots of stuff about bowlers you have never heard of and past competitions that you don't care about.

The most interesting page is the Letters to the Editor, which re-hashes an anonymous whinge from "The Grumpy Lead" — why do I have to play lead all the time? Nothing we have not heard many times before. There is another classic whinge "From Paul Attwood" (otherwise unidentified), who complains that he is selected so low that his team always forfeits. Tough. Four other anonymous short letters extoll the virtues of leading, and good leaders, in conventional terms.

The Grumpy Lead, however, elicited a more interesting response from Colin Johnson, self-described as "a state coach in WA". He refers the reader to his own coaching website, www.osborneparkbc.com.au/colin_johnson_coaching I looked at the website and found it thoughtful but pretty much like other coaching advice, with one exception. Colin Johnson recommends, as a regular practice procedure, to set up a head with four to eight bowls, jack in the middle, and practise the various shots possible to get into and change that head. This was new to me and may be worth a trial at HBC.

TRAVEL PAGE

Highlights of our 'top end visit'

We arrived in Darwin early June and the humidity was still high, but not unbearable. At Stokes Hill Wharf we had dinners on the pier, fed the large fish waiting for their evening meal and watched spectacular sunsets while enjoying a beer.

Breakfast at 5.15am and picked up at 6.00am for a trip to Kakadu. After a cruise on Yellow Water Billabong where we saw birds walking on water, we saw some Aboriginal rock paintings. One fascinating aspect was a human stick figure with the arms up, but the hands hanging down. It was a signal to other Aboriginals that there was a 'sickness' in the area if you stayed too long. Nearby is a large shallow uranium deposit.

Next day it was off to Adelaide River for a up-close visit with crocodiles. The Croc-Man barefooted and with a large hunting knife in his belt met us. Returning from an earlier cruise was a group of mud spattered tourists. Earlier the tide was low and the mud banks were exposed. The Croc-Man gets very close to the crocodiles and in feeding one, another came along and a fight ensued. The larger one smashed his tail into the mud which flew over the boat, leaving about fifteen 'not so happy' tourists to finish the day in rather dirty good clothes. The crocodiles can leap to amazing heights out of the water. One swam toward us with only its nose and eyes showing. The eyes tended to be sizing us up. It was an eerie feeling;

At the Wangi Falls we stopped for lunch and a dip in the large pool. Only friendly 'freshies in the water there. And at the lunch table we noticed a familiar face – that of Brian Harmer, up there for another of his fishing trips.

We left Darwin at 11.40am on an extremely fast jet and arrived at Kununurra at 11.20am.. After a good night's sleep at the Kununurra Country Club, interrupted only by a green tree frog sitting happily in the toilet we flew off to the fascinating Bungle Bungle ranges with the many multi-coloured beehive shaped domes.

At the park entrance we were given our lunch packs with water and then walked 2.5km into Cathedral Gorge. That gave us a close up view of the domes. On one we noticed what appeared to be a mud trail going 10m up the side to a larger mud nest. It was made by termites. One plant the guide showed us had sandpaper feel. It actually did sand a stick the guide picked up. One of the party said a finer one would also be useful. Well nearby was such a plant with a much finer sanding feel.

Next day it was off to Lake Argyle. On the lake we were shown an uncompacted dam which acts as a safety valve. If the dam did break, there is so much water there it would take four years to empty!

After lunch it was onto a boat with three 350 HP motors for a trip on the Ord river back to Kununurra a distance of over 55km. What a trip. As points of interest arose the skipper idled the boat and going through narrow defiles and minor rapids he accelerated. And could that boat accelerate.

Then it was off to Broome. Next day at 5.30am we were picked up by a large four wheel drive bus, for our ride to Cape Leveque for breakfast at 9.00am. Then we flew to Talbot Bay in a seaplane. After swimming in a cage next to sharks we had a great lunch and then in the boats for a wild ride through the Horizontal Falls. That is a 'must do' for any visitor to that area. At Talbot Bay the 7-11m tidal flows must travel through a 25m gap and then through a 10m gap from the Indian Ocean into Talbot Bay, creating a difference in the water height. Off on our boat, with its two 300HP motors for a trip through the falls. What a wild and exhilarating ride. After about five passes we cruised into calmer water before our flight back to Broome.

Finally a true fishing story with pictures to prove the catch. On our last day we went on a fishing charter boat and below is the result. After a slow start the fish kept getting bigger until the final result

Brian and Maree

OUT AND ABOUT

FOR THE LOVE OF VERSE

Steve Moloney's poem in the August edition aroused a lot of interest and at least one threat of legal action. It also prompted a reader to refer your editor to a website called *The Poet Laurie Ate* which, as a lover of great poetry, left him in a state of shock.

Your editor treasures the deathless words of the great English poets, as exemplified hereunder:

This Nicholas was risen for to pisse (Chaucer)

Out, damned spot! (Shakespeare)

Mark but this flea (Donne)

Where the Bee Sucks, there Suck I (Shakespeare)

A sweet disorder of the dress (Herrick)

maids turned bottles cry aloud for corks (Pope)

Nor any drop to drink (Coleridge)

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils,* (Wordsworth)

the last ooziings hours by hours (Keats)

But – oh ye lords of ladies intellectual! (Byron)
Inform us truly, have they not henpecked you all?

Hurry up please, it's time (Eliot)

Those are the immortal words of the bards, preserved for all time. Someone here at HBC appears to prefer the following appalling doggerel:

*The poet Laurie ate
Was Alfred Lord Tennyson,
Whom he found rather tough
But less so than venison.*

Laurie must the hound that put the dog in doggerel.

CLUB SPONSORS

**CLUB SPONSORSHIP MANAGER MAGGIE
FORBES ANNOUNCES TWO NEW SPONSORS**

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* * * * *

HAWTHORN PLUMBING

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HARRIS LAWYERS

OUT AND ABOUT

NAKED RISOTTO à la PHILPOTT

The following recipe is a variation of a recipe from Jamie Oliver (the Naked Chef) My wife (Sarah) and I therefore call it our Naked Risotto. We work together in making it but I assure you we are fully clothed at all times. *Creates four meals* Ingredients:

Two large chicken Breasts
One to One and half cup of Arborio rice depending on how large a meal you want to make.
Seven half rashers of Bacon
200 - 250 grams grated Parmesan Cheese
Two tins 400 grams whole peeled Tomatoes
Six to eight sticks of Asparagus
Glass of white wine or verjuice
Two bacon or chicken stock cubes
One tablespoon Oregano (dried)
Half tablespoon Basil (dried)
Half tablespoon Garlic (dried)
Quarter tablespoon chili (dried) Add more or less depending on your personal taste

Method:

Cut chicken into approximately one inch cubes and also cut up bacon into small pieces. Add some oil to pan and cook. Once cooked remove from pan and place in another receptacle. Your pan needs to be large and deep.

Open two tins of tomatoes and drain into plastic bowl using a colander. Dice tomatoes to remove as much juice as possible. Add herbs to the tomato juice. Make 600 mls of stock using two stock cubes and boiling water

Add one to one half cups of Arborio rice to the pan the chicken and bacon was cooked in. At the same time add about a cup of white wine or verjuice. Cook on a low heat. Stir rice until wine is absorbed. Rice will absorb moisture quickly. This part of the process takes time and can't be rushed. The rice will absorb the moisture then add more. Once the tomato juice is finished commence adding the stock.

Remember you will be continually stirring the rice as you add the juice and stock. Leave about a cup of stock to add with the meat. Sarah and I take turns at doing this part.

Cooking the rice will take about 35 - 45 minutes on a low heat. To test the rice try a couple of grains; they should be soft and nutty.

Cut the asparagus into pieces and cook in the microwave for two minutes.

Once the rice is cooked to your satisfaction add the chicken and bacon and reheat with the rice for about 5 minutes. Continue to stir and add the last of your stock. Add the tomatoes and asparagus and continue to heat and stir. Finally add the cheese and stir in until melted.

Serve in deep bowls

Sounds good. Other recipes welcome. Ed

ANOTHER ENGINEER

A priest, an acupuncturist, a poet and an engineer were playing golf. They became extremely frustrated because the group in front was unbelievably slow. Nigel, the head green keeper came by on his tractor. The priest called him over and asked what was going on. Nigel explained that the slow group were firefighters who had been blinded fighting the destructive fire that had burned down the clubhouse two years earlier. "We know they are slow, but we allow them to play because we respect their heroic efforts."

"That's terrible." said the priest, "I'll pray for them"
"That's terrible," said the poet, "I'll write an ode."
"That's terrible," said the acupuncturist, "I'll see if my needles can restore their sight."

The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

BAGS OFF SEATS !!!

THE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE WORK RE-TIMBERING AND PAINTING THE WOODEN SEATS IS CONTEMPLATING A RAZOR, WITH SLASHING INTENT.

SEATS ARE FOR SITTING