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GREAT BOWL

Newsletter of the Camden Bowling Club

March 2012

www.camdenbowlingclub.com.au



The year is now in full swing and if you are like most you are wondering where the first two months have gone.

Christmas is just around the corner again. Well not quite.

It is great to see our new green back in action and the new lights turning night into day. They are sure to get a good workout over the coming month.

Included in this months newsletter is an interesting member insight into the pennant competition. Please take the time to read it. While it has been written light heartedly it does have a lot of relevant points.

Special mention to all the Camden players who have travelled near and far to represent themselves and the Club at District level. As you will read in this issue it has been one of the most dominating starts to a year that I have ever seen from one club. Good luck to all those players that will be representing the club in pennants. Hopefully we will have some good results to report in next month issue.

BOWLS NEWS

Club Fours Championships

Our first championship of the year has been decided with Ian Hunt, Bill Matthews (Bear), Bruce Turton and Barry Smith winning the Fours. In a close game that was in the balance until the last couple of ends the team of Noel Gleeson, Les Sims, Col Missen and Rob Mellor took it to the champions most of the way. Congratulations to both teams.



District Pairs



An outstanding result for the club with Mick Shepherd and John Bugden being crowned District Pairs Champions for 2012.

It turned out to be a red, white and blue day for Camden with Karl Szynal and Brian Barnicoat winning the Senior District Pairs against another Camden team of Ian Couper and Dave Price on the same day. Both winning teams will now travel to Grenfell to represent the District at the Zone and hopefully progress to State. Good luck fellas.

Top - Mick, District VP
Bob Lang & John
Left - Bob Lang, Karl and Brian



District Singles

John Bugden continues what is turning out to be a sensational year becoming the District Champion winning the District State Singles this month. Playing the first three rounds on the synthetic turf at Robertson and then playing the final rounds at Bargo he is also proving to be very versatile. John never really seemed to be in trouble at any stage and the final was no exception winning by 15 shots.

If you want to improve your bowls and become a better player take the time to watch how John plays

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a game and his application to practice and you are well on your way.
All of the Camden Club should be well proud of our new Champion.



John receiving the Bob Pinkerton trophy from District Vice President Allan Wood. That certainly has a Camden feel about it doesn't it.

District Senior Singles

Col Missen and Ed Droscher played their way into the finals at Bargo putting on a great display of bowls. Both showed a good Camden spirit in the semi-finals coming from behind in both games with Col moving through to the final and Ed missing out by the barest of margin losing 31 – 30. Col made a great go of it in the final but in the end things just didn't go his way but a great result being runner up in this major event.

Player of the Year

Wollondilly Electrical has come forward and offered to sponsor a Player of the Year award. This will be based on a points system over the course of the year with each Member being awarded points for entering and placing in each club event. There is also some discussion on an award for those Members involvement in events held during the year regardless of placing. This will be confirmed over the next few months so get out there now and enter as many events as you can. All 2012 events from the last Presentation night will be accruing points.

Member News

We welcome more new members to our club this month. Father and son, Lou and Doug McPherson, have joined and have been keenly attending coaching lessons to get on the green as soon as possible. Terry Burgan has re joined the club after being away for several years. Welcome back Terry. I am sure everybody will make you all feel welcome.

Ladies News

The Editor would like to make an apology to Moya O'Farrell who was not mentioned in the Major / Minor results last year. Moya substituted for Jill Cotter in the final at the last minute due to her being unable to play. Well done Moya. It was a great effort and by all accounts Moya had a big impact on the result. Again, congratulations to the winning team of Michelle and Jill. It apparently also needs to be mentioned that Yvonne Alderson was not responsible for this error. She had no input into the story.



Razor Back Challenge

This year's challenge was scheduled to be played on a Friday night to open our new green and lights.

Seeing a full green of fours is always a great sight but under lights made it an even better spectacle. Unfortunately though for the Camden boys, they came a several shots short on the night handing Picton the trophy for the first time.

This Month's Health Tip

The thought of growing old scares everyone. The secret for better aging is to feel good about yourself and treat the symptoms that come naturally in the process of aging. You don't have to just live with these symptoms and feel bad. You have to embrace what you have and feel good about yourself.

Avoid your obsession with aging, and you'll be surprised just how much weight you've lifted off your shoulders

Working Bee

Some may or may not notice that there has been a bit of work done around the club lately. It certainly wasn't the magic fairy. Everybody knows the amount of work Joe Rainer does for us but many thanks also go to Ray Jones, Iain Ross, John Barrs and Dave Price for turning up on the working bee day and busting there little what's it's.



Good work guys. One thing of note must be mentioned. Smelly socks, wet rags, old shoes, hats and newspapers left on top of the lockers may become an extinct species. If they are left there, good chance is they will disappear. If you have anything on top of the lockers please take it home or put it in your locker. No excuses.

Ponder this....

If a tree falls in the woods and there is no one around to hear it, does it make a sound?
If a man speaks and there's no woman around to hear him, is he still wrong?



Bowls Australia Visit

The Club met with a representative who visited Camden this month. Peter Fahye met with representatives from the Men's and Ladies club to discuss a number of issues regarding how we are going as a bowling club.

This included doing a club 'health check' list, which took about two hours to complete. Open discussion then took place on a number of subjects including what we can do as a bowling club to improve our position.

There was some frustration with how the discussions went but those that were present gave it their best shot.

He has indicated that he will be making further visits this year so if you would like to meet up with him and have a chat please let the Secretary of the Men's or Ladies club know.

To the representatives that turned up, thanks for putting in the time.



The best way to succeed in life is to act on the advice we give to others.

The people sensible enough to give good advice are usually sensible enough

to give none.

To profit from good advice requires more wisdom than to give it.

When a thing is done, advice comes too late.

When we ask advice we are usually looking for an accomplice.

Old people love to give good advice; it compensates them for their inability to set a bad example.

The best advice is this: Don't take advice and don't give advice.

Where I Have and Have Not Been

(Member submission)

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone! You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've never been in Cognito I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm in Capable and I go there more often as I'm getting older. One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

But one place I don't ever want to be is in Continent.

2012 Sponsors Day

On Sunday 26th February the Bowling Club invited all current sponsors to take part in a bowls day and lunch to thank them for their contribution to our club.

The day turned out to be a lot of fun for those that turned up. The bowls at times were better than you would think and all seemed to appreciate the chance to have a go.

Many thanks to the Ladies and Men who turned up to help on the day and special thanks to those that brought along food for the lunch. I think all would agree it was a good spread.



Above – Winners of the day, The composite team of TRN and EEK.



NEWS EXTRA

A Timely Reminder on the Art of Bowling

(.....and the nuances of sportsmanship as they relate to the common man....or woman)

The Pennant season can be considered the highlight of a bowler's year, and definitely the primary focus for the club itself. It is an opportunity to showcase a club's superb greens, hospitality or even just their superior post-game nibbles. But just as easily as a visiting bowler can remember how awesome the fried little triangler spinach and cheese thingies were, they can also be impressed or unimpressed by a club's sportsmanship or lack thereof. And one bad fried triangler thingy can spoil the lot!

So, with a new Pennant season looming, it is timely that we all go over a few rules and behavioural niceties that our gentlemanly ancestors have set in stone. In actual fact they are not all set in stone, and some may certainly be vigorously debated, but it can't hurt to want to improve ourselves can it?

1. Look after your Manager

The role of manager should not be a thankless task. That does not mean that we wait until preso night to offer up a token of our appreciation for their hours of keeping score and flipping numbers on the big board. In bowls it is a given that at least one bowler will leave the green to visit the bar every 2 minutes. Take the opportunity to offer a beverage to your manager.

If it is particularly hot or cold, ensure they have adequate shade or beanies. This is something that perhaps the 2nds should do, as they do bugger-all else in the game.

2. Respect a bowler's personal space

I know you're excited and chomping at the bit to get your bowl down the other end, but the rules state that you cannot bowl until the previous bowl has come to rest, no matter how terrible a bowl that may have been. And skips should note - don't start walking around the head until the bowl is finished. There is nothing worse than standing on the mat watching your bowl glide along the last few metres of an impeccably delivered arc and

you've got the next guy treading on your heels. Relax, it won't delay the game much to let bowls finish their run, and you will still finish an hour before Allan Wood's rink.

3. Don't jump the gun

An increasing habit of 'fours' bowlers these days is for the Leads, 2nds and the other 3rd to sprint down toward the head in front of the 3rd who just bowled. This guy may be frustrating in that he wants to watch his bowl from the mat and I don't know why he wouldn't want to stroll up the green and watch it a little closer. But if he stays put, so should the rest of you. Perhaps take the extra 15 seconds to see if your manager needs anything.....

4. One or the other

If you have just delivered your bowl and want to chase it down the green, then chase it all the way and get behind the head before it finishes. That is the rule - you can't be halfway down when it stops. And if you are behind Mick McIlveen, grab his shirt so he can't chase it down.....he is not allowed to chase bowls.

5. Smile

It is only a game so if you happen to lose then don't blame the green, the dodgy fried triangler thingy or the fact that your skip is just plain hopeless. Shake your opponents hand (crush it if you must), buy them a beer (ginger or otherwise) and swear to take them down next time. You can always issue a press release in the morning which describes exactly how bad your skip was or how you always went to the head 3 down.

6. The driver is King

In our district there are inevitably some long drives ahead of us in Pennant season. One thing we all hate is people who pull out of a round just because there is an hour extra travelling at either end of the day. Don't be so

soft. I'm sure your missus will tape your shows and keep your dinner warm if you happen to be unable to make your own dinner. Soon enough you will be back home watching the recording of Young Talent Time or George and Mildred or whatever. And the car trip can be fun. You could play games like "who did that" and "are we there yet".

But remember to look after your driver. Sure they get a bit of cash to cover petrol and wear and tear on the vehicle, but they are still doing the hard yards behind the wheel. So they get to choose the radio station.....or auction it off to the highest bidder. And if they want to sit on 90km/h down the freeway that is their choice. If they want to sit on 140km/h you do have the right to ask where the bloody fire is...or close your eyes and pray.

7. Little circles on the inside

There is no law in bowls which states that a bowler must shout the green a beer if they send down a wrong bias.....Still, it would be nice.

8. The Selectors have feelings too

It might not be visibly apparent, but selectors do have feelings, and they are sometimes hurt when continually criticised for perceived errors in selections. And whilst it may not lead to an emotional breakdown, they will get discouraged from making the tough decisions and will end up making wrong ones. Leave them to do their job. If you want to put in your two cents then put your name up for selector at the next AGM. Or start your own club where you are President, Chairman of Selectors, Club Champion and so on..... Or sleep with a selector - that might do the trick.

9. Pack up

If you are playing at home, or even if you are away and feeling a bit generous with your time, you all need to help pack away the equipment. That means at a minimum you should roll the sun shades up. Then put your jack and mat away and give your magnetic club name thingy to your manager. And if you are last off the green, grab the corner flags. These responsibilities should not rest with the last person on site at the end of the day.

Remember we all want to get home to watch the Bush Tucker Man too.

And if we have put on some grub at the end of the game, see if you can help clean that up too (the cooking equipment I mean, not the stray hot doggies swimming in the pot).

10. Enjoy yourself

We all know it is the best way to spend a sunny afternoon with our clothes on (and do please keep your clothes on), and that is the point of it all - to enjoy ourselves. So if you are feeling a bit down that you have just put down yet another short bowl and you can see the steam coming out of your skip's ears, just remember that it is more than likely that you will put down a better bowl next end...and besides, that's why skips get paid the big bucks.

And strike up a chat with your opponents. They are often as interesting as you think you are. And they are a perfect audience for you to try out your latest rude joke.....or complain about your skip.

Go Camden!

This submission was made by an anonymous but very wise young Camden bowler. Guess who.....