



President's Report to the Annual General Meeting

Welcome and thank you for attending the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

At this time last year, together with the immediate past President, Malcolm Stevenson, I highlighted a number of priorities of the Board – attracting new members to build a fourth Saturday team, developing both a performance and cohesive Club culture, and good governance and financial management.

The highlights of the year point to success in these objectives.

FIRST, New Members

A highly successful Open Day was held in September at which 50 new members signed up for the year. This was on top of the 40 new members who signed up at open day 2014. By the end of the year, we had 70 new members.

It has been extremely pleasing to watch the progress of the new bowling members within that 70 across the Pennant year. An entire new team was created from these members, and others progressed through the ranks, at least two ultimately playing in our top Saturday team.

The dream of the Saturday Pennant Selection Committee and the Board to have a fourth team was achieved. While we held our breath to see how many players would be available, we gave only two forfeits for the season, and the Fourths certainly held their own in every regard.

Having attended Club Training recently, 70 new members is the envy of any other Club! The feature that Bowls Victoria made of us in the Shot Magazine showed just how successful we have been, compared to the somewhat parlous position that other clubs find themselves in. Special credit given to Rob Fairweather for his efforts in recruitment as well as all of our other members who mentored and supported our new members.

It was a strange position on the Board for our number 1 problem for 2014/15 to be how to accommodate the needs of our



Gold Coin after the AGM

new members. What a great problem to have! An example of this problem was a few weekends ago when we fielded two more teams than our opposition.

SECOND, Performance and Cohesive Culture

Our Club enjoyed great success on the green, with Saturday Divisions 7, 5 and 2 finishing very strongly in the finals in their sections. Given the competitive nature of Saturday Bowls, progress is never super-fast. However, Divisions 5 and 7 improved on their position from the previous year, and Division 2 finished third rather than second.

The Tuesday Pennant Division 1 and 3 sides also acquitted themselves well and finished well above relegation in their sections.

We have every opportunity to improve on these performances in 2015/16.

We congratulate the winners of the Club Singles Championship and Ladies Singles Championship, Mark Stoney and Noni Holman, respectively, and all the other Club championship events. The most valuable player as voted by opposition skips was Margot Keenan and the most consistent risk based on shots up was Dezi's rink.

The program of Sunday social bowls, Wednesday gold coin Tuesday gold coin (post-pennant season) hosted variously by Barendina, Martin Scriven, Sally and Dennis, were all well attended.

The social and clubs events program was more extensive than ever in modern times, including:



- Opening Day (opening of the green, with the Mayor and Local Member)
- Open Day (50 new members)
- City of Port Phillip Shield – 29 September 2014 – taking home the trophy
- Tournament 1 – Albert Park Travel Mentor Classic
- Trivia Night
- Christmas Break Up – 20 December 2014 – with our own Marlene Dietrich
- Australia Day – with live entertainment
- Angove's Skins – 8 March 2015
- Tournament 2 - Cliff White Day – 22 March 2015
- Presentation Night – April 2015
- Isobel Webster Day

If I can have one grumble, I would have to say that the year was made more difficult by the high volume of internal member complaints about conduct of other members. We really do need to learn to get along, and please always remember that we are here for a leisure activity. I know we live in a complaint culture – and I do encourage people to speak up, but I am certain that none of the Presidents on the Board opposite had to deal with as many inter-personal complaints as we have had this year.

THIRD, Good governance and financial management

Perhaps most importantly for the Club, is the Best Club Member award. Many thanks for Carole Rafferty's efforts in her second year at the Club, stepping up into the role of Treasurer, at the same time working with Don Mason in Functions. It came as no surprise to anyone that these and other efforts resulted in Carole being awarded with the Best Club Member award. She is the Club's nominee to the BV volunteer of the year award. Function revenue (at more than \$100,000) was the highest in 5 years.

York Partners completed a club audit thanks to Mark Stoney, and thoughts with the Stoneys at the moment, concluding that the accounts were in good shape under Carole's guidance.

The financial details will be covered in her report shortly, but suffice to say we have had a more than satisfactory outcome, with profit at the highest level in 7 years.

This was achieved without too much depreciation of our human assets – our member volunteers!! One-third of Club members assisted in at least one function, which is healthy volunteering.

We are having some capital works. This year, the green showed its first real signs of wear and tear since the carpet was laid 5 years ago, in 2010. Our rink was assessed at below World Bowls standard. A grid map by TigerTurf and a surveyor's level map arranged by Ken confirmed that showed that the surface level change was above the 3mm per 3 metres square tolerance permitted by Work Bowls.

As the surface was laser-levelled 5 years ago, clearly there has been some sub-surface movement. Tiger Turf is re-laser-levelling the top surface underneath the underlay, and we have our fingers crossed for the best result there, and have negotiated the best warranties that we could. The best news of the year came this week when our insurer accepted indemnity for the Green Works – for a cost of \$25,000 plus GST, the equivalent of a year's Club profit.

The works by the Contractor, TigerTurf:

- will commence from 18 May 2015
- should take 2-3 weeks depending on the weather
- will involve bob cats, rollers and a small tip truck
- require access for machinery from the Montague St north entrance to St Vincent Gardens.

During the gold coin event that follows, members should point out to Ken Gray surface blemishes so we can let TT know to repair.

We have replaced the outside awnings, which were half covered by insurance.

We have asked for Council assistance in 3 ongoing items – men's urinal upgrade, leaf fence on north side, and further post and rail

One-third of Club members assisted in at least one function, which is healthy volunteering.



Flattened mushroom, one of many found under the carpet



fences to reduce unauthorised access by the public to the green.

The Club was sponsored by Angove's, Cayzer, Spitting Image, and a new sponsor this year, Albert Park Travel.

The Club entered a new 9 year lease with the City of Port Phillip on excellent terms.

Finally, Votes of Thanks

No club can operate without the input of its member volunteers, and we thank all those who have contributed in so many ways. At the risk of forgetting a whole raft of individuals who contributed strongly, I would like now to highlight the efforts of Club office-holders: Mark Solonsch; Steve Mooney; Joe Magazzu; Malcolm Stevenson; Laurette Houniet; and Rob Nethercote for their thankless work on Selection Committees, and with the outstanding performance of our Pennant Teams as a result.

To all the men and women who without expectation of praise assist each week with food preparation and with green preparation and maintenance.

The Club's Executive comprises the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Can I thank:

- the indefatigable Margot Keenan, for all of her efforts as Vice-President and in the Club's social life and in our events;
- Carole, I have already mentioned as Treasurer;
- John, who brings his own special style staying on top of all correspondence and Club activity as Secretary / Executive Officer – telling us all we need to know about members, stakeholders and the neighbourhood. [John leaves the Board following the election subsequent to this report, and his service as Executive Officer for two years is gratefully acknowledged.]

Also in key office-holder roles:

- Malcolm Stevenson filled in for me more than capably in Bowls Victoria liaison and advocacy – I couldn't do it as I am conflicted, being on the Bowls Victoria Board also – and he also liaises with the key stakeholders Bowls Victoria, the City of Port Phillip and our insurance broker;
- Ken Gray for his ongoing role as Green Director in an unbearably tough year for him;
- Bruce Cormick for numerous handyman works, for which he has declined fees;
- Don Mason and Carole Rafferty for coordinating our function activities;

- Rob Fairweather for the Open Day, the Cliff White Day, sponsorship coordination and editing and publishing the Albert Parkers News, and Barendina as his assistant with *The Parkers*;
- retiring Board members Lambis Englezos AM (who ran our schools program and will continue to do so), Don Mason (who stepped in competently last year as Treasurer and this year again competently ran functions resourcing and managed a team of volunteers without fuss or pain), Joe Jamieson (who helped on a range of committee and maintenance items).

All in all, a great year, and given the bowls and social program and profit contribution, perhaps our best of the modern era, but without the jewel in the crown of Pennant side elevations. So there is still work to be done!

2015-2016

We are looking to enjoy another great year, but this time with the jewel in the crown of Pennant side elevations. So there is still work to be done.

As no one else has put up their hand, I am pleased to return to the job. Thank you to the members for allowing me to serve in the role a third time, which will be my eighth year in a row on the Board.

Although I am nervous about managing the combined responsibilities of the Bowls Victoria and the Albert Park Bowls Club Boards alongside a very full-time job, but I will

continue to do my best. I am confident that with the Dream Team Board this year the Club is in safe, responsible hands.

The Club's Executive comprises myself as President, Vice-President Kelly, Treasurer Carole and Secretary/Executive Officer Barendina.

And the ongoing members of the Board are Margot and Malcolm, with new members Michelle Gurr, Martin Scriven and Wayne Gill.

The priorities of the Board for 2015/2016 –

- attracting new members to build a fourth 16-member Saturday team (in Division 7 not Division 8) for 2016/17, and a third Tuesday team for 2016/17,
- getting our top Saturday team into Division 1
- improving the green surface
- further developing both a performance and cohesive Club culture
- ongoing good governance and financial management
- fill the vacancies in Tuesday match committee – support the Saturday match committee in



their difficult selection tasks across all teams.

Continuing the Club's social and club events program:

- Opening Day (opening of the green)
- Open Day (new members)
- City of Port Phillip Shield
- Tournament 1 – Albert Park Travel Mentor Classic
- Christmas Break Up – December 2015
- Angove's Skins – March 2016
- Tournament 2 – Cliff White Day – March 2016
- Isobel Webster Day
- Presentation Night – April 2016

Albert Park Travel



- Annual General Meeting – May 2016

We are looking to enjoy another great year, but this time with the jewel in the crown of Pennant side elevations. So there is still work to be done.

Thanks to all members for allowing me the honour of serving in the role again.

Stuart Kollmorgen

17 May 2015

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

This is now due:

\$160 full, \$80 Concession, \$80 Social, non-competitive

Payment Options

1. **By cheque** made payable to Albert Park Bowls Club. Post to Albert Park Bowls Club, PO Box 159, Albert Park, Vic. 3206 or drop it into the club.
2. **Direct Debit:** Albert Park Bowls Club
BSB 063 100 Account No. 0080 0244 Please ensure that your surname is inserted.

If your contact details have changed, please fill out a Membership Application Form available at the club or email apbowls@bigpond.net.au and a pdf of the form will be forwarded. Please ensure that the completed form is returned to the office.

By renewing your membership, you agree to comply to the Club's *Code of Conduct* and *Alcohol Policy*.

IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO BE A MEMBER PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR KEY TO THE CLUB HOUSE NEEDS TO BE RETURNED.

Reminders

Due to the works on the rinks, which have started in the rain, Sunday's Etiquette Session with Laurette and Laurie has been postponed. New date to be advised. Our club has been fenced off.

If you have left your bowls at the club, you can collect them between 8am and 3pm week days. You will need permission from Tiger Turf staff to enter the work site.

If you no longer wish to receive emails from the club, please email apbowls@bigpond.net.au with unsubscribe in the subject line.