

TORQUAY BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Edition 02 November 2014

Welcome to the November 2014/15 edition of the Torquay Bowls Club newsletter. In addition to the monthly club newsletter, members are encouraged to visit the Club website for pennant team selection and weekly results as well as a wide range of other information including updates on club bowls and social events.

Log on to: www.torquaybowlsclub.com

The Greens and Club Surrounds

Congratulations to **Bill Hamshere** and his trusty helpers to once again have the greens in such magnificent order for the start of the bowls season. Without any shadow of doubt our greens are the envy of most other clubs in the district.

Many thanks also to **Geoff Grigg**, **Laurie Polwarth**, **Ray Stares** for the refurbishment of the greens seating and **Claire Crameri** and her team of gardeners for having the surrounds looking just brilliant.

Geoff and Claire are always on the lookout for some additional help with maintaining the club surrounds, so if you have some time to spare and an interest in helping, you can get involved by contacting either Geoff or Claire. Contact details in the fixture book.

Improved Signage

The Board has agreed to erect new signs at the entrance of the club house and the function room. In addition the Bistro has been approved to mount a sign over the door way at the balcony entrance.

Improved signage will also be installed at the western toilet entrance.

The Board has also recently installed additional glassed notice boards, outside at the front of the club rooms for use by the bowls sections.

Greenside Shades

The Board has approved a contract to supply extendable shades on the southern side of the bottom green.

The shades are expected to be installed and ready for use over the next few weeks.

This is a welcome addition for pennant and social bowls using the bottom greens

Friday's Happy Hour/Members Draw

Every Friday evening the club has a happy hour(s) between 4.30pm and 6.30pm, with reduced drink prices for all members.

At around 6.00 pm the club membership draw happens, you've got to be there to collect if your number is drawn out, so don't be late, see you there Friday evenings.

Board of Management News

- **Appointment:** Chris Lewis who has been a TBC member for 28 years has been appointed to the Board for a 2 year term. Chris' key role is to identify, apply for and implement grants on behalf of the TBC.
- **Resignation:** Helen Haerberle has resigned as Barefoot Bowls Manager. The Board thanks Helen for her tireless efforts over the past couple of years in looking after this demanding position.
- **Barefoot Bowls:** The Board has reviewed the barefoot bowls situation and the demands it places on organisers and the club greens. As a result barefoot bowls will in the future be limited to two 2 hour sessions per week. Friday [4-6 pm] and Sunday [2-4 pm] and will require a 24 hour pre-booked notice. This compression means that members will need to check if the greens are available during the 2 x 2 hour sessions. 'Fixtured' events will retain priority. Club events that are altered to these times will need to book to avoid a clash.
- **Club Amenity:** The rapid increase in social membership and the sudden popularity of the club are combining to have the Board review the future. A cap on social membership appears likely. A more stringent application of numbers inside the clubhouse is another option. Bar staff have been instructed to not provide members discount prices unless the member shows their card without being asked when ordering at the bar. The Board will continue to review this aspect of its operation. Any constructive thoughts [only] to Michael Carey [Business Director]
- **Proposal for New Class of Membership:** The Board is considering the introduction of a new membership class for members with quality service to, and long membership of the club. Whilst agreeing in principle with the idea, the Board is awaiting recommendations to its November Meeting by a special subcommittee.
Conditions for the proposed new class of membership may include: only available to long serving members who for physical reasons are forced to reduce their bowls activity; subscription will always aligned with current charges and equal to Social Membership plus the full cost of affiliation [BV and GBR]; admittance only be by written application to the Board; limited access to organized bowls
- **Memorabilia:** Kevin McCormack and Michael Jackson have reported back to the Board on their investigation into placement of club bowls memorabilia. The Board will consider the recommendations and make a final decision shortly.
- **Pairs Championships:** Pairs championships are no longer State Events. The Board endorsed the Bowls committee suggestion that single gender pair's competitions be retained at TBC. An application to VCAT may be required for this to happen.
- **Deck Lights:** Have been approved. The favoured form is under the handrail LED lights.
- **Website:** Manager Karen Harrington reported to the Board that there are on some days over 500 hits on the new site – a high proportion of these are for information about pennant teams and news. If you have not yet visited, go there so you know just what is and will be available for members. Many thanks to Karen and Mac Smith and his I.T. Company for its creation and operation. All content to be added to the site must go through Karen.

Social Functions

Thanks to the efforts of **Bernie Convery** the club now has a vital and dynamic Social Committee.

The rock night organised by Bernie for the 1st November is a sell-out.

The next planned social function will be held at the club on **New Year's Eve**.

A disc-jockey is booked to provide for a night of music and dance. The Bistro will provide catering.

Contact Bernie for bookings Member \$40;

Non-member \$45;

FOR SALE

The Board has approved the sale of selected sets of bowls from the club loan bowls.

Interested purchasers should contact David McKenzie.

Members who wish to privately sell their old bowls should also see David re advertising these on the club notice Boards. As a number of members have notified of Bowls for sale, a list will be placed to allow for advertising

Positions Vacant

The Board still has a number of duty positions available. Anyone interested and available to assist should contact Des Bruhn or Ian Gribble.

TBC Membership

Membership of the Torquay Bowls Club now exceeds 700. The number of affiliated members is at a record high placing TBC in the top 5 in the state.

Junior Coaching Squad

The Board and Bowls Committee have resolved to encourage juniors to take up bowls.

It is the intention to form a junior coaching squad. Any club member who has a child or grandchild of 12 years or older who would like to try bowls this will be a great chance to get them started.

For further information or forwarding names contact David McKenzie.

TBC General Meeting

The Board has rescheduled the planned September General Meeting.

The General meeting will now be held:

Monday 27th October 2014 at 7.30 pm

News Items Wanted

Club members with an item of news or an event to promote in the club's newsletter or via fortnightly Surf Coast Times "From the Mat" should contact the Publicity Officer by email at caseyvb@live.com

New Seating

New aluminium seating has been purchased and will be placed across the front of the club room building in the next few weeks

A Message from the Business Manager

STEP-UP

VOLUNTEER RSA TRAINED BAR STAFF

This is an emergency call to those members who are currently trained in the Responsible Serving of Alcohol. The Club needs your help.

Please reflect on the illustrious words of JFK.... "Think not what your club can do for you but what you can do for your club"or something to that effect.

Trained RSA members will very soon be contacted with a Bar Roster laid out as is the TBC custom for the kitchen, the greens, clubhouse closure, twilight bowls etc.

It will only require your generosity one Friday night every 6 weeks and possibly a little help when major weekend functions occur. We need to do this to defray expenditure & keep our volunteers involved.

Of course if a number of additional members trained in RSA, then RSA experts could be rostered even less frequently. Michael Carey would like to hear from any interested trainees.

Please note that this is a totally different involvement to those members who are remunerated for their conduct of many tasks such as purchasing and transporting, to keep prices as low as possible, and allow our highly skilled bar manager to best allocate his skills to the bar.