

The Hawthorn Herald

News Magazine of the Hawthorn Bowling Club

The Hawthorn Bowling Club is a friendly, successful innovative bowling club offering the highest standard of facilities whilst promoting bowls as an enjoyable healthy sport for people of all ages and ability.

May 2010

SPECIAL EDITION - AGM REPORTS

FROM THE EDITOR

Rose Mitchell

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday May 8th 2010 and attended by a goodly number of members. True to form, the front row of seats was left vacant and the second occupied only by those already in office or those prepared to tough it out should extra duties requiring volunteers surface during the meeting.

President Lind gave her final report as she and partner-in-life Ron were relocating to Pt Elliot and would now be among the first to see the Southern Rights as they round the Bluff each winter. All whale watchers welcome at the Linds for a cuppa.

All other reports by office bearers were read detailing pennant results, our financial position, the state of the greens, tournaments, increased membership, social life both bowls and events and centenary plans for 2012 etc. All of these reports are reproduced in this edition for your enjoyment, some edited so this report would fit in an envelope and not a box.

The President and both Vice Presidents resigned and were thanked for their term of office. No nominations for President had been received so nominations were called from the floor. Neil Jenkins accepted the sole nomination and will take on the role of President for 2010/2011. Randall Gerlach became the next men's Vice President. There were two nominations for the women's Vice President and Myra Materne was the successful nominee. Helen Richter becomes the fourth Board committee member. Other office bearers remain the same.

Bob Wadsworth thanked the Linds and presented them with a farewell gift from the membership and flowers were presented to Jan on behalf of the women.

All members who presented reports paid tribute to Jan's term as President and her leadership and drive which had been inspirational. Like wise all reports wished the Linds well in their new home at Pt Eliot. For purposes of space I have deleted these comments from individual reports

The barbecue was ready and so ended HBC's 98th Annual General Meeting.

REPORTS**PRESIDENT****Jan Lind**

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the President's report for the season 2009/2010.

The Board continued to work well together and I appreciated their time and commitment.

Bob Wadsworth and Evelyn Manser provided valuable support in their roles as Vice Presidents. Both are retiring from their positions and we thank them for their serviceBob for 4 years in that position and Evelyn for 2.

Anne Wehr has again been diligent and reliable in her role as Secretary and I have valued her support for me in my role.

Andrew Kleinig has been meticulous in keeping financial records and making sure that we do not overspend!

He has also been responsible for updating our sponsors and attracting new ones.

This, on top of being treasurer, is very onerous and we hope that in the future we can encourage another member to take on this vital role.

Rose Mitchell continues to produce a highly professional newsletter on a monthly basis. To add to this she is now chairing a committee who are organizing celebrations for our centenary in 2012.

John Whittle is an outstanding House Manager....nothing escapes his eye for detail. He attends to issues promptly and effectively so that we can all enjoy a clean, welcoming environment.

Bernie Manser is to be congratulated on his thorough approach to the management of our greens in collaboration with our contractors. This is not an easy task as we all have opinions and criticisms when it comes to playing surfaces.

It is also noteworthy that Bernie has been instrumental in attracting many new players to our club.

Gary Mickan has taken on the portfolio of applying for grant moneys. He has applied for several this season and to his credit we have gained 2 when it has not been a good year for clubs to succeed in this area.

We received \$5000 for shading and seating (and we must add \$5000 to that) and \$2000 for chairs in the club house.

Michael Dempster, as Bar Manager, has spent endless hours at the club making sure that this money earning aspect of the club continues to function well.

The Board also extends their appreciation to Tom & Joan Dixon and Ron Lind for stepping in and taking some of the responsibility especially after the untimely death of Maurie Simpson.

We continued to follow our strategic plan which has been tweaked for 2010-2013.

Objective 1

We maintained our position on the committee planning the amalgamation of all sporting codes at Price Memorial Oval. Unfortunately this committee was unsuccessful in gaining a grant to fund a Project Officer to carry out the next important phase of this initiative and as such the future of the group is uncertain.

Objective 2

The membership base at HBC did increase by 10% over last season and that is the aim of this objective.

The membership committee under the guidance of Trevor Gilbert is functioning well and will continue to source new ways of attracting members.

Objective 3

While we have moved part way to improving the financial position at HBC, the Board recognizes that there is much work to be done in this area and the new Board will be challenged to address some of these issues.

Objective 4

It is worth documenting that this objective reads: "Maintain HBC at the highest competitive playing level whilst providing an opportunity for people to join and play at their chosen level."

I believe that initiatives were put in place at the beginning of the season to ensure that we remained competitive at the highest level and although some of those plans did not last, we finished the season very successfully.

With the help of Rose Mitchell and Anne Wehr a social bowls format was introduced on a Saturday afternoon and this attracted quite a number of new bowlers many of whom have now joined the club.

Winter bowls continues to be popular with our members and also visitors. Our gratitude is expressed to Alan Harris, Barry Whittle, Vic Magoch and Ray Price for overseeing this endeavour. Bill Booker and Alan Harris provide coaching for those who turn up before the matches start.....again a very valuable exercise.

Objective 5

We have upgraded some of our furniture and will continue to do so on a yearly basis.

We had a different catering arrangement at the club this season and at this point in time this is under review.

Objective 6

We are committed to improving club spirit and to this end the social committee continues to provide good opportunities for us to come together and enjoy ourselves.

We have developed a member's skills database and Anne has been diligent in keeping change of addresses and emails up to date.

We recognize the service given by Brian Schaefer in updating and maintaining our website.....a site that we can be very proud of.

You will receive more detailed reports from the various subcommittees of the Board at this meeting. I pass on to them from the Board our gratitude for their ongoing commitment and service.

To all the members of HBC thank you so much for your friendship and support. I have certainly enjoyed my 15+ years at the club.

I wish you well for the future....Go Hawks!

VICE PRESIDENT - MEN

Bob Wadsworth

Overall, I think it is fair to say that the results of the men's pennants this season has been good and there are signs that it will be even better next season. Prior to the beginning of the season, the Board decided to put increased effort into obtaining a club coach and a top quality player to strengthen the Premier one side on Saturday. We were able to engage Trevor Sharpe as coach and eventually we scored a coup in attracting Bill Cornehlis to Hawthorn. Unfortunately, all this came undone. At Christmas, we lost Bill back to Queensland for personal reasons and Trevor was unable to continue as coach due to a deteriorating back problem. However, fate took a hand for the better when we had an influx of players, most of who subsequently joined in our pennant teams and succeeded in strengthening all sides including Premier One. The acquisition of three younger players towards the end of the season was the icing on the cake.

The performance of the Premier 1 side this year was truly remarkable. Five weeks to the end of the season there was no way that the side could avoid relegation but suddenly it did "a Lazarus". Four consecutive wins made it safe from relegation and the fifth win secured seventh position. One can only conclude that the players suddenly began to believe in themselves and there is nothing like a good dose of confidence to boost performance. This surely is the springboard to even better performances next season. Congratulations to all concerned.

The Metro 1 West side set out at the beginning of the season to regain a position in Premier two. Initial poor performances quickly put paid to that ambition. However performances in the second half of the season showed that there is the potential to take a pennant next season. The side finished fifth but only 25 points shy of second place. The Metro 1 South side earned promotion to Metro one last season and so it was important that this side consolidate its gain this season. It did so with distinction. It finished a very creditable fifth.

We had three other teams competing on Saturday. We need to remember that these are the teams that bear the brunt of all the players who are unavailable from the teams above. Furthermore the lowest two teams have to contend with the curse of rotation, which can result in form players sidelined for a game in the quest to be fair to all members. It is impossible to have the exact number of required players available every week and so, unfortunately, rotation is the only way to manage the situation. Our Metro 2 South side retained its position finishing eighth but well clear of relegation. Our Metro 3 East side finished comfortably in fifth position while Metro 4 South finished fourth. Congratulations to all players concerned.

Wednesday pennant results are also noteworthy. Our Premier 1 side flirted with relegation throughout the season but some late wins resulted in the team retaining its position in the Premier 1 league. This turned out to be vitally important. The Metro 1 South side was always well positioned on the ladder throughout the season but strong performances towards the end ensured

a pennant and promotion to Premier 2 next season. Had the Premier 1 side been relegated promotion of the Metro 1 side would not have occurred.

Our Metro 2 side also performed strongly securing second position on the ladder and in doing so, earned promotion to Metro 1 next season. The Metro 3 side, not to be outdone, finished fourth. Congratulations to all players involved.

I am aware that some of our members have been approached by other clubs to transfer their membership and play for financial reward. They have refused to be lured by such overtures and have made a commitment to remain at Hawthorn. I applaud their stand and thank them for their loyalty. For clubs to be strong and vibrant, it is necessary for members to feel a sense of belonging and to commit to the welfare of the club. It is a sad day when clubs, in their quest for a pennant, set out to buy the services of the better players of their opposition.

I think it is important, in reviewing the success of the season, not to overlook the great job done by our selectors. Selection is, by no means, an exact science. However, I am aware of the amount of time, effort and soul searching that has gone into the selection process and on behalf of the membership I thank the selectors for their efforts this year. As you are all aware, I recently called for expressions of interest in being a selector for the next season. The Board was of the opinion that it was important to maintain the momentum generated in this last season and carry it through to the next. The response has been excellent and in one case, we have had to have a ballot.

The selectors for the coming season are as follows;

Saturday.

Premier 1 ----- Alan Russell and Brian Starr

Second side --- Glen Barlow

Third side ----- to be decided in the early pre-season

Fourth side ---- Cliff Cope

Fifth and sixth sides ---- Alan Harris

Wednesday.

Premier 1 ----- Bernie Manser and Graham Giles

Premier 2 ----- Brian Harmer

Third side ----- Barry Hanna

Fourth side --- Ron Jones

I thank these members for their generosity in offering to take on this responsibility.

My thanks also go to Gary Mickan for again assuming the rather frustrating job of running our internal tournaments. He did, however, manage to win the club Singles Championship for the second year in a row, a feat that has not been achieved in this club for many years. Marc Evans continued his solid form by coming runner up. Two new comers to the club this year, Gordon Hay and Jim Philpott took out the club Pairs Championship defeating Dave Perryman and Chris Hart. Congratulations to all these players. I do feel, however, that as a club we need to give more support to those who have succeeded in making their way to the finals of our tournaments. I would like to see finals played (where possible) on a day that is well publicised, a day that is

designated as finals day at the beginning of the tournaments. I am sure we would find members interested to come and watch these games and give encouragement to the contestants if the events were well promoted.

The death of Maurie Simpson in April this year is a body blow to the Hawthorn Bowling Club. In lots of ways he lived for this club. He represented the club in pennants over 500 times from 1995. Much has already been said about Maurie and the respect that he generated here was reflected in the fact that 70 members attended his funeral service. It is gratifying to know that he now has a permanent place here at the club (under a rose bush).

Each year we find that there is a turnover of players for one reason or another. Often we do not have the opportunity to say goodbye. This year we know of four. Geoff Beare has been a good member of this club, both on and off the green, since 1995. He played 342 pennant games, acted in the capacity of umpire and selector and has assisted behind the bar. He helped foster sponsorship from his then employer, Alfred James. He and his wife are moving to a retirement village in Marden and we wish them both well. Geoff will continue his playing career at Payneham. You can be nice to him today but understand he becomes the enemy tomorrow.

Ray Price is leaving for the grey skies of Melbourne. Again, Ray has been a good member of our club and there is no doubt that his bowling skills have improved since he first arrived. He began in the sixth side in 2002 and steadily moved up to represent the club in the second side, both Saturday and Wednesday. Undoubtedly, he will be remembered most for generously cooking those magnificent sponges and providing them to the club for our raffles. I am sure Ray will treasure the memory of successfully taking out the Two Bowl competition against the current club champion Gary Mickan on the eve of his departure. I am sure we all wish Ray the best in the years to come.

Ron Lind is also leaving us to take up residence in Port Elliot. Ron has been a very valuable member of this club since 1997 both on and off the green. He has represented our club in pennants on 450 occasions. He has been a willing worker behind the bar, cooking BBQs, umpiring and generally prepared to fill in where necessary. We will undoubtedly miss him. He assures me that he is in close walking distance of the Port Elliot bowling club but I note that it also means he is in close walking distance of the beach and all its attractions. It will be interesting to see if Ron is able to maintain his focus on his bowling skills.

This is the last time I will be presenting a report at the AGM as Men's Vice President. I have enjoyed my four years in this position and wish to thank all members who have, in one way or another, assisted me to carry out the demands of this office. However, due to pressures outside of the club, I do not see myself able to continue to give the time and attention necessary to continue. Thank you for your support which I am sure you will continue to give to the incoming Vice President.

VICE PRESIDENT- WOMEN

Evelyn Manser

This has been another interesting and successful year for Hawthorn Bowling Club, both on the bowling green and socially. Our Premier 2 team maintained its position and played in the Finals, and our Metro 1 team finished a creditable position on the table given difficulties experienced during the season. Our commitments outside the club e.g. S.A. Bowls events went off very well,

with visitors being very happy with their treatment and the friendliness of our members. Many thanks to those who ran these events, those who helped in the kitchen and our greens' staff who presented the greens so well.

Praise must also be given to our Tournament and Social Committees; their efforts in running events successfully, and raising funds for the Club, were top class. Likewise our Membership Committee (mostly staffed by new members) who strive to make Hawthorn the place to join! Thanks also to Margaret Lamshed for her capable running of our club tournaments – a hard job given the hot weather which made the job so difficult and also to her managing the Saturday Women's competition. Thanks to the caterer Fiona, the greens staff and all those who voluntarily gave their time and effort to make our Club the success that it is – we are forging ahead while others around us are failing. Keep up the good work.

This is my last report as Vice-President, and I would like to pay tribute to the members of the Board, ably led by Jan, for their efforts on behalf of the Hawthorn Bowling Club. Each member has brought their own special talents to the task in hand voluntarily and has contributed to the smooth running of the Club. We can help the continued future success of the Club by supporting the new members of the Board and assisting them whenever we can to continue our steady progress forward.

I have enjoyed my time as Vice President and Region 10 representative and thank those who have (a) helped me and (b) put up with me. Please be as kind to my successor.

TREASURER

Andrew Kleinig

I would like to congratulate the Tournament Committee chaired by Brian Harmer for their efforts throughout the season. All tournaments were conducted very successfully in a professional manner and the resultant income from entrance fees, raffles and bar was substantial.

A variety of people and organizations have used our facilities for various functions and during the past year. Hopefully this can be substantially increased and we need members to let their friends etc know that this facility exists. We all know the hot weather effected the playing days this season and no doubt had an adverse result on our overall takings of raffle and bar activities, however, we may have to devise other activities on these occasions to overcome the loss of income to the club.

Our Club will celebrate its centenary in 2012 and this somewhat accounts for the increase of \$4439 in general repairs of building and equipment which are all ageing! My and the Clubs thanks are due to our House Manager John Whittle who closely monitors and attends to all matters connected with the maintenance and upkeep of our clubrooms.

In closing I would like to thank Brian Starr and Barrie Hanna for counting, balancing and banking our weekly takings and to Secretary Anne for putting up with me and hopefully providing what I feel is an efficient and welcoming office staff.

GREENS MANAGER

Bernie Manser

The greens have presented well again this year. There has been little difference between A, C, & D greens all year. B green is still a work in progress. You will have noticed that it has recently been vertidraind and top-dressed. It will be rested over winter, brought into play at the start of the season and the recent treatment repeated over the Christmas break. Our curators believe that this will further improve the drainage on the eastern side and hopefully Lake Hawthorn will disappear. The sure cure is to completely replace the whole green; this would cost in excess of \$40,000 and is beyond our present financial means. The western half has played well most of the season, with the eastern side playing reasonably, but looking poor. We will continue to look at ways of bringing this green up to the standard of the other greens. It is my personal view that B green now is as good as the best of our greens when I joined the Club.

The question of pace of greens is often raised. Current policy is to aim for a 15 second speed where possible. We know that there are clubs who at times present their greens at 17 or 18 seconds. Our curators consider that 15 seconds is a speed that can be maintained through summer without putting the greens at risk of loss.

The general appearance of the greens area has improved with the painting of the shelters and the installation of artificial grass on the ditch walls. A grant has been obtained to install roll back sun shelters between C & D greens. This work will be completed before next season.

I thank Simon Barriga our dedicated greenkeeper for his presentation of the greens, and David Sutherland for the many supporting roles that he fills.

MEMBERSHIP

Trevor Gilbert

The committee consisting of Jan Lind , Fiona Sumner, Pam Bowling, Evelyn Manser, Joe Grieve, Bob Wadsworth, Murray Evans, Alan Russell and myself met on several occasions during the past twelve months.

This year we held a "Come and Try" introduction to lawn bowls sessions on 18th April and 2nd May. Anne Wehr also emailed all members a copy of the flyer to pass on to their friends. A special thank you to Pam for designing the flyer.

The second session held last Sunday attracted 19 adults and 4 children.

Bernie Manser gave a quick introduction to lawn bowls and attendees were then split into groups for basic coaching. After the adults completed a game over a few ends, it was followed by a sausage sizzle. All participants appeared to enjoy themselves with the majority remaining for a sausage and drink. The feed back was positive. Attendees were given a notice advising them of Wednesday and Saturday Social Bowls and coaching. I sincerely thank the members of this committee, Bernie and Greg McGregor who gave their time to make "Come and Try" the success I believe it was.

Members of the committee have also been actively talking to NightHawks offering them the opportunity to attend free coaching sessions with Bill Booker on Wednesday and Saturday mornings and stay on to play social bowls if they wish. Each Night Hawk was given a copy of the pre mentioned notice prior to the end of their season with a number indicating their interest in progressing further. Since 11th April 2009 there have been 36 new members join the club including social members. Seven of these attended last year's "Come and Try."

We again encourage members to wear their name tags at social bowls, to make themselves known to new members and to offer them encouragement if playing with or against them. I hope that all existing members of the Membership Committee will stay on for the next year.

Tournament

Brian Harmer

GROUP MEMBERS

Brian Harmer, Jenny Whittle, Bernie Manser, Lesley Slattery, Brian Starr, Bev Ploenges, Graham Giles, Barb Payne and Tom Dixon.

EVENTS CALENDAR (EC)

TOG is also responsible for the preparation and distribution of the EC. Our printer sponsor went broke in 2008 and so we have printed the EC for the past 2 years. Unfortunately we have learned that members change their email addresses about as frequently as they change their bowls – this is a bit of a problem.

TOURNAMENTS

Our group started with a very basic tournament program 4 years ago & an even more basic tournament attendee database. We now have a good annual tournament program and we have tidied up the database.

EVENTS

Melbourne Cup strawberries & champers day (54 persons)

Hardy Wines Day –November (26 teams)

Community CPS PROAM –Adelaide Cup Day in March. (38 teams)

Autumn series –after Wednesday pennant season (18 teams)

Cappo Bros Seafood Day –after Saturday pennant finals(36 teams) exactly 502 tournament person days

ADVERTISING

I wish to record our thanks to Gavin Oliver who prepared all of the advertising material in particular the flyers, table stand ads and ads for the bowler. Direct mail to repeat customers is the most effective and the second to be the flyer handouts that are given to our opponents each week. I thank the team managers and seconds.

RESULTS

2009/10 has been our most successful tournament year.

SOCIAL

Jan Lind

Members: Marilyn Gerlach, Trish Cook, Helen Richter, Fred Gilbert, Ron Lind, Jan Lind. The committee decided to again run with the concept of providing one activity per month for our members and the wider community.

September: Opening Day afternoon tea

October: Welcome Back to Bowls was held at night on the first Saturday of the new season. Catering was provided by our new caterer in Fiona.

November: Quiz Night. Even though numbers were down on last year we were able to make a profit in excess of \$2000. This was due to the excellent support given by traders

from the Mitcham Square and surrounds. Ron Lind and Fred Gilbert did an excellent job in seeking out this sponsorship.

- December: Christmas Dinner. Again catering was provided by Fiona.
- February: Irish Albert. While this continues to be a viable floor show, we believe that it is now time to look for something different.
- Catering again by Fiona, but we did make a profit of over \$600 for the night.
- March: End of Season Dinner. Trish and Marilyn catered and as part of the dinner costs we included one free drink.

The committee has several ideas for other functions but we are conscious that there is a limit to the number that members will attend. We would appreciate any suggestions you have and we would ideally like to have a few more members join our group. Thank you for your continued support.

2012

Rose Mitchell

The Board has agreed to the outline of centenary events proposed by the 2012 committee who are - Joy Kirk, Noel Alison, Graham Dodd, Alan Reid, Clem Case and myself. On the committee's recommendation, the Board has appointed a club historian as we must now keep our records correctly both paper and electronic.

Our theme for the centenary is "Celebrating the past, enjoying the present, planning for our future." We plan to have something to support each of these three aspects. Clubs who have already celebrated their centenary were approached for ideas and do's and don'ts. Because it is also the World Championships we wanted to include something in our program if possible to include and overseas club so we sought Ben Scales advice. Our plan therefore is

The centenary celebrations will span the 2012/13 season and events would fit in with things we usually do, as opposed to having extra with the exception of one official occasion. Opening day 2012 – unveil a centenary clock, plaque, weather station, something of that nature. A new club flag with the dates 1912- 2012. A birthday celebration to recognise the women's club which with Kensington and Payneham formed the SA Women's Bowling Association in 1928.

A cocktail party in November with VIPs etc and the book launch . A game. The first game was played under lights on January 28th just 7 weeks after this meeting on 19th November. 4 rinks on A green. Mrs Culley turned on the lights and the Mitcham Brass Band was in attendance. Our Australia Day (2 days difference) function that year will follow this game, a descendant of Mrs Culley will be asked to do the honours and the Mitcham Brass Band are delighted to attend. – 100 years since they have done a gig here. Problem is the only rinks without lights are the very ones. A tournament. Our best is Seafood Day so we will ask the tournament Committee to maybe reflect the centenary in their prizes – though not a hundred year old crayfish. This will be the final event.

There will be memorabilia for sale, - the book, maybe badge, whatever and each member will receive a memento. Also our ideas for schools competition on Saturday mornings at Hawthorn was strongly supported by Bowls SA

26 countries are coming for the World Championship and each will have a host. No bids will be taken until next year, so he suggested that meanwhile we develop a relationship with a club.

Graham Dodd was playing with some folk from Somerton a few days later and during the chat it transpired that they were originally from Wales and his grandfather had been the greenkeeper at Llandrindod Wells, mid Wales and - wait for it, their centenary was in 2012. Contact has been made and an answer was received last Thursday from the Llandrindod Wells Bowling Club indicating their interest in developing a relationship with Hawthorn especially as we both celebrate our centenary in 2012. So we are likely to ask to host Wales.

NIGHTHAWKS

George Charlesworth

On behalf of all those involved I have much pleasure in presenting this report to outline the positives as to the 'health' of this very important aspect of the Clubs overall viability.

We went into this season without the benefit of any Come'n'Try programme which, in the past has swelled NightHawk, Pennant and Social ranks. We also made changes to our Tuesday night format during 08/09 for our benefit which was not received well by many (Tuesday) participants. As a result we had a net loss of 4 teams participating at the start. The very nature of this programme means we normally average about 10 new teams come and 7-8 teams leave during each year.

We had a total of 63 teams at the end of the season. That's 250 odd individuals who come every week for 20 weeks of the year.

This year we offered catered meals before the competition each night in lieu of regular, and very popular, sausage sizzles and pizzas. The catered meals in themselves were excellent and those who partook did so regularly. The majority did not and requests to return to sizzles and pizza were incessant. Young patrons, especially, can be very fickle and will try another Club or something else altogether if they don't have a good time and get value for money.

Tuesday night is very different from Wednesday night. Tuesday is struggling with 25 teams and Wednesday is cruising with 35 odd. We need to promote Tuesdays as is or move it to Thursday night or have both. Having said that many Clubs would relish having that problem.

The profitability of NightHawks depends on both bar trade and raffle sales so if they don't come in during or after the game we don't get that trade as I am sure is reflected in the balance sheet this year.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who, if asked, are more than willing to help in any capacity. Participants love the 'crackerjack' image mixed with professionalism and the contact with members in a Club environment is a very welcoming aspect.

The future of NightHawks at Hawthorn is not a given. Night bowling is certainly popular as a night out while it is cheap, simple and entertaining. Let's keep it that way.