

The Couta Courier



December 2011

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As I have earlier reported this has been a very busy period for your board and our Manager in particular.

Apart from the regular monthly meetings we have had three special meetings dealing with the Club's future including the effect of the changes in the Gaming Legislation, both State and Federal Government, with particular emphasis on the change-over in August next year which results in significant financial obligations on the Club and the potential serious effect on the Federal Government's debate regarding commitment.

To this end, we have projected our financial viability over the next ten years, which is the life our Gaming entitlements which we have obtained from the State Government Authority. Added to this is the expenditure needed to replace our existing machines when TABCORP remove them next August.

As a further strategy, we have reviewed potential additional revenue streams and have met with Clubs Victoria and an owner of a cabin park.

We are also aware that the Borough Council is about to embark on a further review of the total recreation reserve including Victoria Park. We have prepared a range of options to ensure that we maintain our current footprint and we expect these discussions to commence early next year.

Members are invited to discuss these issues with our manager or other board directors.

Given the challenges ahead we need the full support of our membership in utilising the Club's facilities, to justify not only the facilities, but to demonstrate that we need the land that we currently occupy.

I would hope that all sporting sections would continue to drive membership growth and enjoy success.

On behalf of the Board we wish all members a very happy and safe Christmas with a prosperous New Year.

MANAGERS REPORT DECEMBER 2011

Gaming Transition

Unfortunately the installation of our first lot of new machines I referred to in my last report look like being delayed past our summer season. The most frustrating part about this is that we have conducted ourselves throughout this transition process with Tabcorp in a professional manner for no reward. Still we are faced with what some would say is the inevitable uncooperative nature of a soon to be renounced business partner.

This is a situation that is temporary in the sense that the longest it can be drawn out is August 2012, only eight months away.

Funding has been secured for the remaining capital investment required to complete this process and we now head towards the operational implementation of our strategies that have been carefully developed over recent months. This represents a challenge, though one I am confident of meeting and delivering the best possible outcome for the Club.

Strategic Planning

One issue that has been dealt with concurrently to the gaming transition is that of the lease of the Crown Allotment the club currently occupies. Negotiations in this area have led to the Board engaging in a rigorous strategic planning process. An early development in this process has been the development of a vision for the organisation. The vision that the Board has drafted is detailed below and any member feedback is welcome:

An open, member based community club providing the best possible sporting and recreational facilities and services through partnerships in the region.

Members are encouraged to provide feedback on this vision through the office.

The planning process will continue on into the New Year with lease negotiations becoming more active at this time as we work with Council towards an acceptable outcome on the issue.

Tennis

Our Wednesday night social tennis has got off to a modest start with only one week where we needed two courts for the entire night. That being said we have had people turn up every week and have not had to cancel once due to lack of numbers so that has been positive. Those who have been coming along have been having a great time, hopefully there will be more turning up after the Christmas break when our holiday members hit town. Commencing on the 14th December we are running some in-school clinics with the assistance of Julie Golightly and these clinics will be based on the Tennis Victoria "Hotshots" program. These clinics will culminate with the Australian Open Trophy Tour which will visit the Club on Thursday December 29th. This should be a great family fun day with plenty to do and a chance for all attendees to win one of two family passes to the Australian Open. The event will run from 10:30am through to 12:30pm and there will be a BBQ lunch afterwards where members and guests alike are encouraged to hang around. I thank Julie for her assistance with this program. Julie is currently coaching at the club and anyone who has considered being coached should get in touch with her through the Club. SO - KEEP DECEMBER 29TH FREE IN YOUR DIARY

General

The climb out of the winter doldrums has been slow and we have just entered into the traditional slack period just prior to Christmas. Substantial rain and wintery cold have been an unwelcome addition to this trading period, so the heat of January cannot come soon enough! That being said we are fully booked for Christmas Lunch and are hopeful of better weather come the new year for our peak season which rely so heavily on for club revenues.

As a Christmas treat to members we have some great wine specials which will make for great presents for family and friends, the pricing on these is as good as if not better than Safeway and Dan Murphy's so get in before Christmas as the sale ends Christmas Eve. Those members for whom we have a valid email address will have received an email detailing the deals, for those who did not get it I have detailed it below. Heading forward we will be utilising email and SMS to communicate these type of special offers to members so make sure you have your mobile phone number and email address noted on the clubs members list to receive these communications.

*Offer 1: - Scotchman's Hill "The Hill" Cab Sav Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc twin pack - \$20 (Cheaper than Safeway) *** Now added value - Scotchman's Hill Swan Bay Sparkling Brute Rose - add a bottle to your twin pack for Just \$10****

Offer 2: - Wolf Blass Bilyara Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc Twin Pack - \$20

Offer 3: - De Bortoli "Deen" Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc twin pack \$20

Offer 4:- (AVAILABLE BY PRE ORDER ONLY AND COLLECTION FROM MONDAY 19th DECEMBER)

Buy any six of the following Buller wines in any combination and get 50% off the regular take away price.

- Beverford Moscato*
- Beverford Merlot*
- Beverford Cabernet Sauvignon*
- Beverford Semillon Sauvignon Blanc*
- Black Dog Creek Shiraz*

At 50% off you will get six quality bottles of wine for just \$45. – To pre order please email the club on admin@queenscliffbowling.com.au or phone or call in to the club.

These offers will be available at these prices to members until Christmas Eve only.

With that I wish all members a very happy and safe Christmas and wish all well for the coming year...

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Rod Wayth **MANAGER**

Croquet News

20 members enjoyed a lovely Christmas get together at Rip View Bistro for our Christmas lunch last Saturday and all shared in a very warm and friendly atmosphere which together with some nice meals enjoyed by all made it a great time. It was a nice time to relax and share the Christmas Spirit together.

Golf Croquet Grand Final WINNERS!

Our boys won the Golf Croquet Pennant Grand-final for Section 8-12, with an outstanding 5-0 win against Drysdale Red.

Scores Frank Starkey beat Graham Carrol 7/5, Frank Starkey beat Barbara Watkins 7/3, Darren Richmond beat Graham Carrol 7/5 and Darren Richmond beat Barbara Watkins 7/6. Then they both teamed up to play the doubles and beat Barbara and Graham 7/3. A Win very well deserved as they were the outright winners of both of their sections on points before the finals... Congratulations to both Darren and Frank... both have as a result of pennant also improved their personal handicaps.



Ladies Bowls Section:

As 2011 is coming toward Christmas, we will soon be having a short break.

Gwen Awty is 2011 Champion and Elly Anwyl Runner-up. Well done to both ladies as very good bowls were played in the Final. I am sure Gwen will do us proud in the Champion of Champions play off.

We are hosting a State Event in January, the Novice Singles Finals, held over two Sundays 15th and 22nd January. This will be very good for the Club, the newer bowlers would appreciate some support.

Please put your name down on the list in the Ladies room for our Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 20th in the Bistro.

Thanks to the men who have played and marked for events and to Geoff Stephens and John Anwyl who are a big help of a Tuesday.

Don't forget the Social Bowls and BBQ's starting on Wednesday nights 28th December through till 25th January from 5pm till 7 pm. \$6 for Bowls and BBQ or \$6 for BBQ only. These are Charity nights and we hope for support from our Club members.

In closing, I wish you all a Happy Festive Season and a Happy and Healthy 2012.

President Janet.

REPORT FROM LADIES SELECTION COMMITTEE

All teams are performing well. Div 1 on top of ladder after 10 rounds, Div 2 are 6th and our third side are 3rd in their Division. Well done girls and boys. We could not field our teams at times without the support of our men.

4 Club events have been played so far, the Championship Singles (Winner Gwen Awty, Runner-up Elly Anwyl) and 100 up Handicap Singles (Winner Gwen Close, Runner-up Gwen Awty). The new event for this season, Club Championship Pairs was won by Gwen Close and Lesley Taylor, Rhonda Stephens and Joanne Wurfel were Runners up. The final of the Hoppen 2 Bowl Singles – Gwen Awty v Lesley Taylor will be played on 15th December at 10.15am. Glen Byers and Henry Dahler won the Club Mixed Pairs and the Regional Final at now play for the State Title at Geelong West on 18th December.

Gwen and Barrie Close represented Geelong Region in the Finals of the 60 and Over Singles at Mornington Bowls Club on 7th and 8th December, Barrie won the State Title with some super bowling. Gwen was happy to reach the last 8, where she was beaten by the eventual winner. Barrie and Dennis Arthur are at Keilor Bowls Club, this week for the Finals of the 60 and Over Pairs. May they have success there.

Keep an eye on the Notice Board for entry into coming events (State and Club). It is good experience to play in these events.

Mens Bowls Section:

The pennant season is halfway and we are not looking too good on the ladders. There are still plenty of games left to improve our positions but all players must perform better. When we under perform as I think we are there must be reasons. I believe more players should be on the greens during the week. It doesn't have to be for long but must help. I would like to suggest that some self analysis would assist. Ask the questions- What was I doing wrong? Where did my bowls finish. Do I need to concentrate on grass or pace. I think we have become a bit complacent.

On December 17 our last game before Xmas vice-president Kevin Thompson is organising a windup for players and family. More details will be available during the week.

I think we should congratulate Barry Orvis for his efforts in preparing greens especially No 1. It is a new green and while some adjustments are necessary it is playing very well.

The lack of social bowls in our club is a worry especially during holiday times. The number of bowlers are not around as in years past but I am sure with some enthusiasm benefit could be gained. Would any member interested in helping please make themselves available.

On behalf of the committee I wish all bowlers and their families a very happy Xmas.

Keith Wayth
President Mens Bowls Section



So Far

I thought I'd write a little poem about the bowls I play
And dedicate it to all the bowlers who've helped me on my way.
First of all there's my husband Rob, who gives me good advice
He makes me earn the shots I get and says to check the bias!
When Gary, Rob and I bowls together and I happen to win an end
They claim it must be a lucky bowls and not what I inted.
Then there's Gwenie Close, my coach, who's take me under her wing
She enures I walk forward off the mat – it really is her thing!
'Low and slow' is in my head when an end is short
To get two bowls into the head is what a lead is taught.
There's Barry who says to listen to all that people have to say
Then use the things that work for you and throw the rest away.
There's Ted who says to make the most of the two you've got
I'm sure it's bowls he's referring to, unless he's lost the plot!
Sister Bet supports me and encourages me to do my best
She always says I can lead for her – I'm just as good as all the rest.
Michael suggest I need more rhythm in my delivery
He wants to help improve my style and make a bowler out of me!
Thommo says to take more backswing to add to my control
So I practice hard to get it right when I have a roll.
Lesley's keen to tutor me and teach me more about the game
She umpries important matches and knows the rules by name.
I'm learning how to measure and to chock a leaning bowl
To know as much as she does must surely be my goal.
Nath thinks I'll make a bowler and comes and watches me
When Bob ses me hit the ketty, he's as impressed as he can be!
So far in my short career I've adapted quite a lot
From grass, syntehic, tift dwarf and carpet, it can be hard to get the shot.
On Tuesdays and and Saturdays it's good to bowl with friends
We try our best and have a laugh and try to win the ends.
I'm learning all the protocol and etiquette of the game
I pour the tea and wear uniform so we all look the same!
I'm leaving out the politics though lots of people have their say
The selecotrs never seem to get it right; it should be done another way!
But I'll persevere as I go along and try to build my repertoire
I've learnt a lot about this great game in my time so far!

Di Warren 24/10/'11

Member Profile: Geoff Close



VRI Life Membership Awarded Nov 2011

Geoff Close has played bowls since the 1984/85 Season, playing in Melbourne for Tooronga, Glen Iris & Ashburton Bowls Clubs. In 2009, he joined the Queenscliff Bowling Club, and has played in Division 8 and 4 since then.

Geoff also plays bowls for the Victorian Railways Institute Bowls Club – a social group of VRI Members, who play regularly throughout the year. With this group, Geoff has done a full circle of Australia and New Zealand, playing or officiating in the Australian and New Zealand Railway Institute (ANZRI) Lawn Bowls Carnivals. In 2002, following a decade of being the VRI Bowls Treasurer, along with other duties, he was awarded a Life Membership of the VRI Bowls Club.

Geoff retired in 2006 (ill health) and since then has become more involved in volunteer work for the VRI and other bodies. Currently, Geoff assists in the running of the VRI Website, and does regular Newsletters for the VRI Bowls Club and Queenscliff Bowling, Tennis and Croquet Club. He is also starting a new role with the Bellarine Community Health centre, assisting in computer training and issues with computer programmes.

Last season, Geoff started also playing for the Old Scotch Bowls Club in Melbourne a few times a year.

Geoff's parents (Gwen and Barrie) are well known in this area, and the appearance of another Close on the greens is sometimes off-putting for opponents... although he is sometimes mistaken for the Brother of Barrie and not son.

This year, Geoff was awarded a Life Membership of the Victorian Railways Institute, following many years of voluntary service in Website and recruitment roles. The VRI is an important part of his heritage and life, and this Geoff feels is indeed an honour.

Geoff is a proud Uncle, and a collector of Disneyana and Animation history. If you are after a cartoon, ask Geoff!