



Established 1958

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Rye BOWls Club

Unbiased Opinion

Inside this Issue

Edition 14

December 2019

Editor's Notes	1
President's Notes	2
Secretary's Report	3
Club Championships	5
The great Battle won	6
Social News	6
YPA Open Triples	8
Life Explained	9
Farewell	10
Discussion	10
Believe it or not	12

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the
RBC newsletter



"Editor's Notes"

As we take a short break from our game over the Christmas our thoughts turn to our families and friends as we celebrate this special time of the year with our loved ones. I wish to express my gratitude to those members who have contributed to "Unbiased Opinion" over the last 6 months and hope this continues through 2020, along with new contributors of course. This newsletter can only continue with contributions from members, it's your newsletter so let's all help to keep it going. Meanwhile I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a very happy, meaningful and safe Christmas with very best wishes for 2020.

RYE RSL CLUB



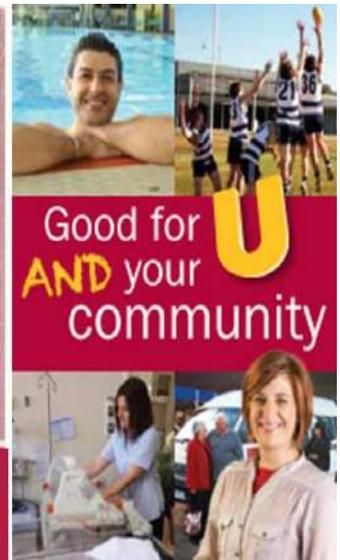
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"President's Notes"

- Firstly, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas with much good fortune for the New Year.
- Our Monday and Wednesday Club games are going well, with Alan Jones and his helpers doing a great job.
- Barefoot Bowls started on 14 November and has been well attended, despite the cool weather. To date we have had 118 players with many of them trying bowls for the first time. These numbers present an ideal opportunity to increase our club membership, and all members are encouraged to attend on Thursday nights to assist and encourage these new players. We are after all, "The Friendly Club".
- The Pennant competition is well underway with all three sides having mixed results to date. We are down in numbers, but let's all get in and have a go. There is no better way to represent your club than to proudly wear the Rye Bowls Club uniform.
- Work in the gardens is ongoing with Peter Cutriss and his band of merry helpers, their results stand for themselves. Beautiful!
- The greens with John Collery, what more can I say, they're simply THE BEST.
- To the volunteer bar staff, thank you all, a great job.
- This is my last year as President and I thank you all for your wisdom, guidance and support.

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"Secretary's Report"

Wednesday Twilight League

We entered two teams of 6 players into the South section of this competition. The competition consists of Two Bowls Triples. Matches comprise 2 games of 8 ends. The competition is open to affiliated and non-affiliated players in an attempt to widen the participation of lawn bowls and to introduce new players.

After 3 matches, Rye Maroon team is in 3rd place and Rye Green team is in 5th place.

The competition is being co-ordinated by John Adams, one of our new Club members this season

Stronger Communities Grant

Our application for a grant under the Federal Government - Stronger Communities Programme has been successful. We have been allocated \$8,000 which will be put towards the replacement of the north and west sunshades of the Thomas Green with new structures and cover to match those on the Glew Green.

Thank you to Philip Hedley who co-ordinated the grant application.

We anticipate the construction of the new sunshades will be completed by the end January 2020.

Bunnings BBQ

The Club has been allocated Friday 15th May 2020 as our fundraising sausage sizzle day at Bunnings Rosebud. Doug Fitcher will soon be looking for volunteers to serve on the BBQ day. It is a great way to promote the Club, raise some funds and to have a bit of fun.

Membership

Since the last Newsletter, we are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Club:

Full Members

- Rod Bryant-Smith
- Mark Ivory
- Vic Ceppi
- Peter Witkowski
- Christel Witkowski
- Andrew Porteous
- Alan Knell (on permit from Rosebud Beach for Saturday Pennant)

Social Members

- Lyn Maxwell
- Maurie Furlan
- Chris White
- Jill Morgan
- Julie Whinney
- Mark (Wombat) Whinney
- Elena (Sam) Vikhrova
- Anthony (Bones) Fielding
- Christine Jones
- Nathan Hose
- Carol Dyer
- John Dyer
- Kerry Ferbrache

Transferred from the Club have been:

- Todd Hamling
- Don Padezanin

Sadly, Frank Perry passed away recently. Frank was great clubman, a fierce competitor on the green and a good bloke to have a chat and socialise with. Frank was always willing to volunteer around the Club and prepared the Club Fixture/Syllabus for many years. Farewell Frank - you will be greatly missed. Also, Valerie Williamson (an Indoor Bowls member) recently passed away



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"Club Championships"

Friday 13th December saw two internal battles with the Club Championships being played out between Oscar Bocskay and Joey Turner in the Men's and the Ladies between Marita Lavender and Katty Lucas. The grandstand was packed, with only standing room available as spectators flocked to the venue to witness the day's events.

In the Ladies, Katty fought valiantly, but was unable to match the accuracy of Marita who triumphed with the score at 25 - 10, whilst in the Men's, Joey Turner fought off a strong late challenge by Oscar to take the championship at 26 - 19.

Congratulations to Marita and Joey, Champions for 2019.



CHAMPIONS 2019



"The great Battle won"

Word has come to hand from our war correspondent of an historic battle that took place recently, the communique reads as follows -

Both armies had gathered at the site of the proposed battle, with the home Northerners side smug and aloof, confident of an easy victory over the once great, but now depleted Southern invaders. Whilst the invaders quietly readied themselves by cleaning and polishing their weapons, occasionally exchanging nervous bantering between themselves, the more confident Northerners now well prepared gathered together in full view to review and adjust battle tactics, looking menacing in their colourful uniforms, and casting scornful looks at their Southern opponents.

Oh yes! They were confident, full of bravado and self-glorification, they were determined to send these invaders packing back to their homes with their tails between their legs, licking their wounds. But was it luck, was it sheer determination, or heroic feats that saw the Southern invaders turn the tables on this day? We may never know, for many stories will be told, of individual feats, but one thing remains unchanged.

History has recorded that on 9th November 2019 at Dromana on a cold and wet day the Division 1 battle between Rye and Dromana was fought, with Rye being the victors 14 points to 4. Well done Rye.

"Social News"

Barefoot Bowls:

Despite rather chilly weather Barefoot Bowls continues to thrive with over 110 players taking part in the first 4 weeks of the season. This is a great way to introduce new players to bowls and our club and the warmer weather should attract even more.

Scroungers:

Has not been well attended with only 6 players week so far, the weather has not been conducive to leaving the fire and braving the cold and wind, so hopefully our numbers will increase in the New Year. We start again on 12 January at 2PM and remember it's open to all with full or social memberships.

Trivia Night:

Our club hosted another trivia night in conjunction with Bendigo Bank, to raise funds for another assistance dog for a young member of our community. The night was an outstanding success with over 160 people attending and \$12,00 being raised. Well done to Steve and Jan. This is a great example of RBC contributing to and assisting our community.

Xmas Dinner:

Friday 13 (unlucky for some) saw a fantastic attendance at the Club's Christmas Dinner. A great meal was enjoyed by all and a visit from Santa complete with lollies, added the extra dimension. In all some 25 raffles were won by some very lucky recipients. Our grateful thanks to Dawn Skiba and her band of assistants for organising the prizes.





"YPA Open Nominated Triples"

Wednesday 4th December saw players from all over converge on RBC for this important event. The day ran very smoothly thanks mainly to Alan Jones and his crew and was enjoyed by all participants. Final placings were:

1st - Justin, Gary and Michael Breen

2nd - Doug Corrigan and his team from Heathmont

3rd - Barry Twentyman and his team from Somerville



Congratulations and well done to the Breen family and all who participated

"Life Explained"

On the first day, God created the dog and said "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes close or walks past, and for this I shall give you a lifespan of twenty years. The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking, how about only ten years and I'll give you back ten." So, God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks and make them laugh, for this I will give you a lifespan of twenty years." The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years, that's a pretty long to perform, how about I give you back ten like the dog did?". And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow, and He said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long, and suffer in the sun, have calves, and give milk to support the farmers family. For this I shall give you a lifespan of sixty years." The cow said, "That's a pretty tough life you've given me, for sixty years, how about twenty, and I will give you back forty?" And again, God agreed.

On the fourth day, God created man and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry, and enjoy your life. For this I will give you twenty years " But man said, " Only twenty years?, could you possibly give me my twenty, plus the forty the cow gave back, and the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back, and that makes it eighty, Okay ?. "Okay" said God, "you've got it."

And that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play, and enjoy ourselves, for the next forty years we slave and work in the sun to support our family, and for the next ten years we do monkey tricks to amuse and entertain our grandchildren. Then for the last ten years we sit around and bark at everyone



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"Farewell"

VALE

Frank Perry

6/11/1933 - 2/12/2019

Most bowlers on the Mornington Peninsula have had contact with Frank Perry over the years, that obstinate, and pedantic fellow who when rubbed the wrong way could be very uncompromising. But underneath a man who was loyal to his beliefs and loved his bowls and his club.

Frank started his bowling career at Vermont South bowls club on 18th August 1996. Then sought a clearance to West Rosebud bowls club in July 1998, in his years at West Rosebud he served on the clubs Committee of Management being Deputy Director 2000 and 2001, the Director 2001 to 2004, between these management commitments he managed to fit in the club triples championship in 1999/2000 and the club pairs championship in 2003.



Frank transferred to Rye Bowls Club in October 2005 and immediately threw himself into the fray serving on the Committee of Management as Assistant Secretary. He has also served on the FBA Competitions committee as Senior Vice President.

Frank was an accredited umpire, and on the 10th October 2007 was awarded the R.V.B.A. Service medal. Well regarded for his work in producing our Club Syllabus for many seasons, he also designed our current club flag. Joan, his wife of many years predeceased Frank by only 12 days and her funeral was delayed when Frank fell ill. However, he was not to recover from this final illness. A joint funeral for Joan and Frank was held on the 10th December.

Frank will be missed by all members, and bowlers in general around the Peninsula as a competent and fierce competitor, and loyal club man.

"Discussion"

It is clear that many bowling clubs on the Peninsula and indeed right throughout Victoria, including RBC, are experiencing some difficulties in attracting new members. Indeed, in all cases, not only is membership falling, but the membership is aging which places all clubs in difficult situations. RBC is not immune to this problem, even though our recruiting programme remains strong and relatively successful. Falling membership is I believe, not because of the game but because of the social and economic

demands placed upon those who otherwise might consider a membership. Working hours, lack of free time, family responsibilities, and financial constraints are just a few of the very real factors working against us in our drive for members. Such are the problems of today, but what of tomorrow? There will inevitably come a time when clubs begin to close due to lack of numbers be that in 2, 5, or 10 years.

The membership base of a club is vitally important to the future, not only in purely monetary/subscription terms, but in the efficient and effective management of day to day club matters. For instance, RBC currently has the advantage of utilising approx. 100 hours per week of volunteer labour, this includes Pennants, Match Committee, Barefoot Bowls, Kitchen, Executive Directors time, Bar Staff, Garden/Maintenance, Provedore. This equates to \$4000 per week at today's accepted volunteer value. Therefore, RBC simply cannot exist without volunteers from membership. As it stands today many of our volunteer staff are doing multiple tasks in different areas which places an undue workload on them. Yes, there is pressure on them.

Pressure will also come from the Council in regard to costs of maintaining old buildings and increasing land values. We must consider the land value to Council if RBC were to close. Any land developer would love the idea of such a parcel of land to develop into town houses, apartments, or holiday units. Sure, if Council wishes to sell the land at any time it can, but they must rehouse the club somewhere, but if the club folded, obviously that doesn't apply.

It is therefore imperative that if this club is to not only survive, but thrive in the longer term, we need to develop plans which will assist in:

- Increasing membership
- Developing and maintaining a good relationship with Mornington Shire Council with regard to maintenance and Capital works.
- Staying "ahead of the pack" when it comes to community engagement, management practices, and conduct of events.
- Streamlining internal systems and procedures.

The future of this club depends entirely on our current membership, [WE CAN EITHER SIT BACK AND WATCH IT HAPPEN.... WONDER WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED..... OR MAKE IT HAPPEN IN OUR FAVOUR.](#)

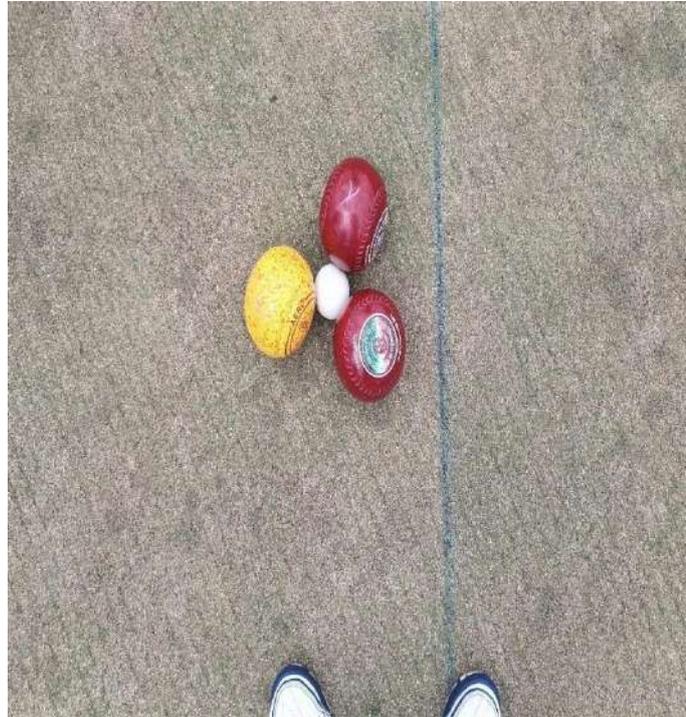
All the above represents the views of the Editor and should not be construed as an official comment from RBC, nor should it be seen as a criticism of our current practices. RBC is doing very well, but we need to think about the road which lies ahead. I welcome feedback in any form, be it criticism, ideas for the future or indeed, anything which will help to ensure the longevity of our great club This is an open forum for all to have their say. Responses will be published in the newsletter in the hope of generating discussion. If you wish to remain anonymous, please indicate with your response. Please respond to me at kenfbowen@gmail.com or via SMS to 0439684086

"Believe it or not"

This is an undoctored photo taken during a game here at Rye in 2019.

THREE!! resting touchers.

Whose were they?



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