



Established 1958

Telephone: 59852450

Rye BOWls Club

Unbiased Opinion

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Edition 15

February 2020

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Welcome to the fifteenth edition of the
RBC newsletter



"Editor's Notes"

Welcome to 2020 and the final stanza in what has been a bumper season for the club. An influx of new, experienced members has provided a much-needed boost to our pennant teams, participation in club games has increased and the social side of our club is swinging along merrily. There have been no responses to the discussion notes in the December edition, so it appears that all are comfortable and happy with the status and future direction of our club. No feedback can be taken as a positive!

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"President's Report"

- How fast the year is going, Xmas long gone and the Easter Bunny due to visit.
- I would like to thank all the members and non-members who help around the club....well done.
- Our financials are in good shape and with new members the club is heading in a positive direction for 2020-2021
- April is only a few weeks away with our AGM and if any member would like to nominate for a position on the Board of Management please put your name in when nominations are called for.
- As we look forward to next year, the club will be looking for someone handy in the kitchen, or may even 2-3 people, so if you are a budding Nigella Lawson please let's know.
- I believe that soon we will have to look at a synthetic green for the club, some members will not like, but it does need to be looked at.

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"Secretary's Report"

Wednesday Twilight League

The competition concluded on Wednesday 19th February with Main Ridge defeating Sorrento Gold at Rye.

After 10 weeks competition, Rye Maroon finished in 3rd place and Rye Green in 7th place. Although playing on a Wednesday evening proved difficult to attract players, we had 19 Rye members who represented the Club during the competition. Thanks to those who competed.

Grants

a) Sunshades

The replacement of the north and west sunshades of the Thomas Green with new structures and cover to match those on the Glew Green will be completed by the end of February 2020.

We received a grant of \$8,800 from the Federal Government - Stronger Communities Programme as a contribution to the project.

b) Small Sized Bowls

We have applied to the Victorian Health Active Clubs for a grant of \$4,000 for the purchase of 10 sets of new Henselite small sized bowls. If the application is successful, these bowls would be available for women and juniors in Barefoot and Social Bowls events.

We should hear the result of this application by early May 2020.

c) Lighting of Greens

With the encouragement and support of Bowls Victoria and Mornington Peninsula Bowls, we have submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a \$100,000 grant through the 2020-2021 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund to install competition standard lighting to Glew Green.

The EOI must gain Mornington Peninsula Shire Council support before it goes to the Victorian Government.

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:

a) Full Members

- Ian Bartlett
- Melissa Burich
- Peter Pearson
- Murray (Buzz) Price
- Paul Rossetto

b) Full Members (First Year Bowlers)

- Antony Trivett
- Lyn Hillas
- Bill White
- Brian Keogh

c) Social Members

- Ryan Fisher
- Peter Sullivan (currently a member of Corryong Bowls Club)

Please introduce yourself to each of our new members and make them very welcome to Rye Bowls Club.

Next Month at Rye Bowls Club

Sunday 15th March - Elvis is coming to Rye!

Sunday 22nd March - Rye RSL Gala Day 11.00am

Friday 27th March - Sippers

Sunday 29th March - Bendigo Bank Invitation Fours

Annual General Meeting and Presentation Night

The AGM will be held on Friday 24th April 2020 commencing at 3.00pm. The AGM will be followed by Presentation Night and Snacks

Formal notice of the AGM will be emailed and posted at the Club in the first week of March.



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"Saturday Pennant"

Coming into the last round of the home and away games, all divisions still had a chance to make finals.

Division 1 went down by a mere 2 shots to Mt Eliza but managed to hold onto 4th spot.

Division 2 won by 35 shots which was probably their best win for the year against Main Ridge, but unfortunately just missed out on 4th spot by (can you believe it) 1 point.

Division 4 went down to the Village Glen but kept themselves in 7th spot on the ladder avoiding relegation.

Overall a super effort by everyone to stay so competitive with what looked like being a very hard season at the start of the year.

Next Saturday Division 1 takes on Karingal at Karingal in the first final. If you can get to the game and cheer on the Rye boys we would love your support.

Breaking News - Unfortunately the Rye Boys lost to Karingal in the preliminary finals. Karingal played extremely well, and the Rye Boys unfortunately couldn't match Karingal. Great year for all Divisions.

"Have a Laugh"

SPIN, THE AUSTRALIAN WAY

No matter what side of the political fence you're on, THIS is FUNNY and VERY telling! It just all depends on how you look at the same things.

Judy Rudd, an amateur genealogy researcher in south east Queensland, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that ex-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Melbourne in 1889.

Both Judy and Kevin Rudd share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Melbourne Jail.

On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:

'Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Melbourne Jail 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Melbourne-Geelong train six times.

Caught by Victoria Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently e-mailed ex-Prime Minister Rudd for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd.

Believe it or not, Kevin Rudd's staff sent back the following for her genealogy research:

"Remus Rudd was famous in Victoria during the mid to late 1800s.

His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Melbourne-Geelong Railroad..

Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad.

In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Victoria Police Force.

In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

NOW That's how it's done, Folks!

That's real POLITICAL SPIN.

"Social News"

Barefoot Bowls:

The program for Barefoot Bowls is nearing completion with the final game to be played on 12 Mar. The weather has not been too kind this season with only the real diehards turning up each Thursday. The last game will be a "dress up" for St Patricks Day

Scroungers

The formal program for Scroungers is now complete, although there's no barrier to those who want to play each Sunday on an "ad hoc" basis. The "King or Queen" Scrounger will be announced on presentation night. Although low in numbers of attendees those who did participate enjoyed the concept. Next year

we will formalise things by including the games in our annual fixture booklet. Remember, social members are welcome to participate.

Elvis is back



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and social bowling

Sunday March 15

2pm-5pm

Reserve your table / seats now at the club !!!

or

Call Steve on 0481 481 354

BYO Nibbles only Bar will be open

"Know your members"

A well-known and respected member of our bowls club, is one **John Francis Wilson**, born on 13th March 1945 to his father of the same name and his wife Ellen Bain nee McKay. John is the eldest of 8 children, and as a child attended St. Patricks College Sale. He had aspirations of becoming a wool classer, unlike his father who was a butcher and later a retail milk distributor, but his ambitions of treading the greasy boards was shattered early and John followed the family tradition of military service joining up at 18 years of age. His military service lasted 21 years, during which time he graduated from Officer Cadet School Portsea to the Armoured Corp.

Tanks and Cavalry, serving in Vietnam in 1968 / 1969.

This was the first time Australian tanks had served overseas since the Second World War. After returning from Vietnam, he was posted to various positions around Australia. Somehow during this hectic period and serving overseas John managed to woo Dorothy Harkness and they were married in 1969.

1980 saw John attending a 12-month course at the Staff College Queenscliff, again various postings in Australia followed. But as often happens in military service constant moving and disruptions can place an enormous strain on any family. So, in 1985 John, now a Lieutenant Colonel decided to part company with the military thus ending an unbroken line of service in the Wilson family dating back to 1702. Quite an achievement.



Civilian life saw John interested in buying a hotel, but a very wise, and unusually honest hotel broker advised against this, saying that soon " Pubs will go broke ", and a lot of them did. He then worked as a project manager with a group of friends supervising renovations and extensions to hotels, two of these being Delgany House Portsea and the Arthurs Seat Restaurant.

But the financial crash of 1987 prompted John and his partners to close the business and he eyed off a well-deserved six months holiday.

But not long into this sojourn he was contacted by the President of the Defence Housing Authority who explained that they had 30,000 houses around Australia for the use of married couples that were below standard. This was a major cause of low morale in the Services

So, John was appointed Manager Victoria ,South Australia, and Tasmania and, from a small foundation the Authority grew to 54 offices around Australia managing 27,000 homes. Some demolished or re-leased.

John was appointed to the Management and Advisory Board and Business Review Board travelling up to 40 weeks per 52 year throughout Australia. Often to Darwin which was a high priority area with the relocation of major forces to that area. By 1999 the Department had accrued a debt of 2.2 billion dollars, in repairing and erecting new houses, but the morale problem was fixed.

And so, instructions from above came that they were to reduce this debt.

So John, along with a small group of people instituted the Sale and Lease back program, whereby the houses were sold off to interested parties and leased back for a period of 9 years with guaranteed tenancy, fully maintained and then handed back at the end of the lease in pristine condition.

All this responsibility and travelling again took its toll and in 2002 he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. So, John finally ??? retired.

Never one to dwell on the past or re-live old memories John never attended military reunions or the like but did attend the Dawn Service each year at the Shrine of Remembrance making his way home immediately after the service. John and Dorothy decided to make Rye their home in the future, so John commenced building his home at Rye near the Back Beach. Dorothy was teaching at school and remained in the house at Black Rock, she dutifully travelled to Rye each weekend. It was not long after the house was habitable that Dorothy decided to move to Rye on a permanent basis.

It was in 2006 that John attended a Dawn Service at the Rye R.S.L. And was approached to join the committee, he declined, but met with the management and soon realised that the club was going downhill, he accepted the position of Treasurer, and 6 years later became President.

Rebuilding of finances now well on the way the club looked to renovations and we can now all see and enjoy these first-class facilities, and service, thanks to Johns astute shrewdness and his team in selecting and maintaining top staff.

John admits that he takes great satisfaction from his work, helping veterans and other clubs and persons in need. Also making donations to schools, junior sports clubs, charities, and even our own bowls club.

His bowls sporting prowess is indeed another matter, no great shining light here, however he was a good athlete at college and in the Army,

He and Bill Williamson decided they would like to play bowls, so trotted over to our club and were assigned to the less than receptive and sometimes ill-advised hands of Adrian Vine, President and Coach who after a short lesson assigned them to the Nan Taylor green to "practice". Far from happy with this treatment John and Bill looked to greener pastures, Sorrento being their choice, however luck intervened in the form of Ken Taylor who managed to convince them to stay at Rye and the rest is well known. He remains a devoted member, has served two terms as President, and introduced mufti bowling for all but pennant events, streamlined the committee, and generally helping us to be the friendly club we all enjoy. John is hoping that he will be able to return to bowls soon now that their 4 children, Justin, Sarah, Damian, and Nathan are adults.

John and Dorothy really deserve to retire and enjoy life. But will another challenge raise it's head ?. Ah well if it does, we know just the man to tackle it.



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