



Darwin Bows and Social Club

8 Conacher Street
Fannie Bay NT 0820
PO Box 545 Darwin 0801
Phone: (08) 89813221
Fax: (08) 89413476

Email: darwinbowlclub@bigpond.com
www.darwinbowlclub.com.au

Newsletter – May 2011

In This Issue

- Greens Update
- Friday Night Fun at the Club
- Changes Around the Club
- Bowls News
- DBC Management and Committee
- Job Opportunities
- A Close Shave for Charity
- And much more

Welcome

After a very long and very wet Wet Season, it looks like the Dry may have finally arrived, so it's definitely time to break out those bowls and hit the greens. The weather has certainly impacted on our ability to get out and bowl this year, but it shouldn't take us long to get into it now. As always, the Calendar this year is very hectic during the Dry Season with Carnivals, Pennant, Club Competitions, the Territory Wide Shield, State Championships and, of course, social competitions and events.

A lot has happened over the Wet Season. We finished off our 50th Anniversary Celebrations with a very successful formal dinner dance in December – there are photo's at the Club if you want to check them out. There have been a few cosmetic changes around the Club – plant boxes in the outdoor area to define the smoking area, a new TV, especially for those sports buffs and comfy furniture inside.

The greens have continued to be a problem for the Club, however Pete Sinclair (our new Green Keeper) and our dedicated Board and volunteers have been working hard, seeking advice and renovating, to try to get them back up to scratch – a report on the greens is in this newsletter and a full report is available at the club. The Board will monitor the progress and develop strategies for future playing surfaces.

Earlier this year we sent out a questionnaire to members to help the Board develop a Strategic Plan for the future of the Club. These are currently being collated and a summary is included in this Newsletter. The responses will be considered fully by the Board, with more information to be provided to members at a later date.

We hope you enjoy the Newsletter and have a very good bowls season in 2011.

Greens Update

Peter Sinclair has been appointed as the Green Keeper for the Darwin Bows and Social Club and commenced in February this year. Peter has taken on a huge challenge, with the greens being badly affected by hard to treat disease and in a bad state of repair when he started. Peter has worked tirelessly, since starting in the job, to treat the problem and get the greens up to playing standard.

Peter has been assisted and advised by Mick Holdstock, who the Board would like to thank very much, as well as Tony Shelley in the role of Greens Director. To help get our greens back to a good standard, more volunteers are needed to help, so please let Peter know if you can assist. Peter is also happy to teach people who may be interested in learning, how to cut and roll the greens for when he takes holidays or is otherwise not here

Tony has provided a detailed report to the Club with copies available for members at the Club and on the notice boards. A brief summary of actions being taken in relation to the greens are provided here.

In assessing and treating the problem, advice has been sought from a number of expert areas interstate and regular re-testing and soil analysis is being undertaken. Expert recommendation has been that the soil profile of both greens needs to be improved and a number of options were put to the Board, including:

- A. Dig both greens up and start again – this would leave the club with no playable greens,
- B. Make do with the Rex Eddy this year and renovate the Jack Tennant as soon as possible,
- C. Get a contractor to come up from interstate and inject material into both greens – this option is not accessible at this stage,
- D. Pull one or both up and put down a synthetic green – installing one or more synthetics is unlikely to be possible in time to enable play during the 2011 bowls season.

The Board considered the report and options provided to them and agreed:

- A: Given time and constraints and financial implications Option B is accepted.
- B: The Board will review the condition and progress of the greens in October and re-consider all options for future playing surfaces.
- C: The Board will immediately pursue planning approval for a third green, in order to provide a further option for the





Boards consideration in October. If the Board decided then to install a third green it will be able to be acted upon quickly and completed in time for the 2012 year. If the Board does not pursue that option, the planning approvals will still be in place should a future Board decide to build one.

Currently the Rex Eddy green is open for bowls with some general maintenance still being carried out. The Jack Tennant green is closed while maintenance and renovation is undertaken.

Friday Night Fun at the Club

Friday evenings at the Darwin Bowls Club will be taking on a new look with two new fun events about to commence.

On **6th May Rock n Roll Bowls** will kick off from 6-6.30. The cost is \$15 per person and includes a fun evening of bowls followed by a BBQ and dancing to funky groovy tunes into the night. Rock n Roll Bowls will become a regular event during the dry and will be held on the first Friday of every month (3 June, 1 July, 5 August, and 2 September).

On **20th May** you will be able to combine your excellent knowledge of all things trivia with some fun bowls at our **Trivia Bowls** night. Bowls will commence from 6-6.30 and be followed by a BBQ and brain teasing trivia. The cost will be \$15 per person and Trivia teams will be limited to 6 people. Trivia bowls will also be a regular event throughout the Dry and will be held on the third Friday of every month (20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August and 16 September).

Please contact the Club to get your name down for these functions as places are limited.

Meat Voucher Raffles will be held on the second and fourth Friday of every month. The voucher is from the delectable Fannie Bay Butchers so you will certainly not want to miss out on those.

Lots of things to look forward to on Friday nights, so come along and join in the fun and for those footy fanatics out there, don't forget your tips.



My wife told me not to win any more chooks as the 'fridge is full of them.

Changes around the Club

The Board and Committee continually look at ways to make the Club more welcoming for members and guests and there have been a few minor changes made over the wet season that we hope you will like. These include a new flat screen TV in the outdoor area in addition to the TV inside so you sports buffs can keep an eye on the football, new comfortable seating inside the club, and the smoking area defined with some very tasteful planter boxes.

We hope you enjoy the new additions to the Club and if you have any suggestions to improve the club, please let the Board members know.

Locker Update

All of the Men's lockers have now been snapped up and there are only four (4) potential places left for the Ladies. So Ladies, if you are interested in hiring a locker please put your name on the list at the club. Construction of the Ladies lockers will commence in the very near future.

Kitchen Update

As advised in the last newsletter, the Club has been successful in obtaining grant funding to renovate the Kitchen. In depth planning has commenced and work is set to begin in May.

Bowls News

Club Competitions

Due to the long, very wet, Wet Season, and the issues we have encountered with our greens, the Club championship competitions have been a bit slower to start than hoped and the handicap events will now be held later in the season. We expect to get events underway in the near future, so keep an eye out on the notice boards for nomination sheets and dates of events.

Carnival

This year the Darwin Bowls Club Carnival will be held from 16 to 22 July. The Carnival will commence with Men's Fours and Pairs from Saturday 16 to Wednesday 20th followed by a Mixed Fours event on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd. This is sure to be a lot of fun and the prize money is good so make sure you get your teams together and register.

Keep an eye on the Website for details as they come to hand.





Calendar

The Club Calendar is now out and a copy is up at the Club. We will shortly have a copy available on the Club's internet site.

Darwin Dedicated Day – Sunday 6th August State of Origin Fun Day

As we had such a good time last year with our "State of Origin Fun Day", we have decided to do it again this year for our dedicated day. The day will be held in a similar format to last year with Teams selected with players based on their origin of birth, the cost will be low and the fun will be great. More information will be provided closer to the date, but make sure you lock the date in your diaries now.



©RonAtkinson2008

Darwin Bows Club Board of Management and Bows Committee 2011

Darwin Bows and Social Club has a volunteer Board of Management and Bows Committee who are elected at the AGM, usually held in November of each year. The Board of Management has overall responsibility for the management of the club, while the Bows Committee has responsibility for all bows related activities. The Committee and Board meet regularly on the second Monday of every month.

If you have any question or want to raise anything to do with either the running of the club or with bows, the office bearers for 2011 are:

Board of Management:

Chairperson:	Tony Shelley
Vice Chairperson:	Shane Lampe
Secretary:	Ally Frostick
Treasurer:	Roger Hamill
Green's Director:	Tony Shelley
House & Social Director:	Wayne Roberts (Robbo)

Bows Committee

Men's President:	Ian Belsham
Ladies President:	Sandy Brown
Secretary:	Scott Chamberlain
Ladies Games Director:	Arlene Foley
Men's Games Director:	Mick Holdstock
Ladies Representative:	Kaye Tyrrell
Men's Representative:	Warren Corowa

Board News

Earlier this year the Board asked those members who were interested to complete a short survey. The results were to be used for the purposes of future planning. Here is a summary of the results:

Responses:

There were 30 responses in total. 66.6% were full members, the remainder social members. 66.6% were men, and 86.6% were bowlers rather than non-bowlers. 46.6% were aged 50-60 and 43.3% over 60.

Attendance:

16.6% said they used the club daily, 53.3% used the club at least 2-3 times per week and another 20% used the club at least weekly.

Communication:

For general club information and social news 66% preferred information by either club notice boards or email, 13% preferred the website and 20% preferred ordinary post.

For pennant and bows competition information, the responses were largely the same, save that 6% wanted to be contacted with information by phone. 60% thought there was enough information on the Club provided to them, but 23% thought that more information could be forthcoming, and some of the areas suggested were a more regular newsletter, more information on bows competitions and pennant, information on who runs the Club, and more notice of when nominations go up.

Greens:

73% preferred playing on grass, 6% preferred synthetic and the rest did not care one way or the other. 93% of bowlers responded that they wished the Board to pursue options for a synthetic all-weather green, whether it be a new third green or on one of the existing greens.





Club Facilities:

Respondents were asked to give one rating: very poor, poor, average, good, or very good. Not all respondents provided a rating to each area.

All respondents though the bar facilities were average to very good.

36.6% rated club catered food as average, 7% thought it was poor, and the rest thought it was good or very good. 83% thought the kitchen facilities were very poor at worst to average at best.

10% thought the outdoor covered area was poor or very poor, 23% thought it average and 66% said it was good or very good.

7% thought the provision of smoke free areas was poor, but 79% said average to very good.

General Ambience/Hospitality

26.7% thought general ambience was average, whilst 57% thought it good or very good. 10% thought it was poor or very poor.

Bar service was rated from average to very good by 86% of responses, and 93% thought the general atmosphere was friendly and welcoming.

Some of the comments for areas of improvement (though not each and every comment) were:

- Less rock music
- Less blokey behaviour
- Less loud swearing
- Refurbish club with air conditioning
- Refurbish the bar so stock can be seen
- Refurbish kitchen
- Refurbish outdoor area
- Build new club house with upstairs
- Bulldoze the club house – too many drunks
- Shade over green
- Fix cool room
- Fix greens
- New furniture
- Less member negativity
- Car park is hard to walk through at night

The Board had projects under way to:

- a) repair the coolroom
- b) renovate the kitchen
- c) provide a disabled toilet facility
- d) explore options for a covered synthetic green
- e) continue to work on getting existing greens as good as possible

Volunteers are needed to joined subcommittees in charge of each of these areas and any members should approach Board members if interested or for more information.

Job Opportunities

The Club is looking for experienced bar staff to cover Saturday's 12-6pm and Sundays 10am-6pm. The hourly rate is \$20.50. Do you know anyone who would like to work either or both of these shifts at Darwin Bowls Club? Please contact the Club on 8981 3221 or email darwinbowlsclub@bigpond.com.

Volunteers Urgently Needed

The Club has a number of loyal and regular volunteers who keep things running smoothly, however more volunteers are always needed and welcome. At the moment we are urgently seeking volunteers to staff the bar on Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 6-8pm. This is a good way to hone those bar skill so why not volunteer some of your spare time and help the club out.

Northern Territory State Bowler Takes It All Off For Charity

Darwin Bowls Club's newest qualifying State representative bowler has left his 'wild man of Borneo' look behind and had the Territory's Greatest Shave. Pete De Greenlaw, 28, took it all off on Friday 18th March at the Darwin Bowls and Social Club in aid of the Leukemia Foundation.

The newly shaven Pete headed to Nelson Bay in New South Wales to fight the good lawn bowls fight on the greens as part of the Northern Territory side at the start of April.

Pete raised over \$700.00 for the Leukemia Foundation. What a baldy star!!!



GOING.....



GOING.....GONE!!!





THE LIGHTER SIDE OF BOWLS



NOBODY'S DARLING

Up and down, walking walking,
Often measuring, sometimes chalking;
Shifting mats - keeping score,
thirty ends, maybe more;
Aching back - tired of limb,
Cheers for others, none for him,
Night draws on, darker, darker,
No one cares for he's the marker!

Lead: "How much am I short?"

Skip: "You ought to know, you're closer to it"

A BAD DAY

He had played second in his first pennants game and looked rather sad after the match. One of his mates at the bar commiserated, "Were you a bit off today?"

He nodded his head in agreement and told a sorry tale. When I stepped onto the mat I put my first bowl into the ditch, then was six yards short with my second. On the next end I knocked the opposition in for another shot with my first bowl and niggled my own leaders shot bowl off with my second.

On the third end I put down an Irish draw shot,(wrong bias), and from then on I started to go bad. Barman, another schooner please.

KITTY AND JACK

My husband took up bowling
and he bragged upon the phone
about some dame called Kitty
whom he couldn't leave alone

He played with Kitty
he stayed with Kitty
he picked her up without a hitch

He missed Kitty
he kissed Kitty
he even layed beside her in the ditch

So I took up bowling
to win my hubby back
and found that what he could do with Kitty,
I could do with Jack

Coaching

Want to improve your game, get that bowl away a bit more smoothly, find out how to refine that line and length? Arlene is continuing here coaching sessions at the club on Tuesday afternoons from 5.00pm and Saturday morning from 10.00am. No need to book in, just turn up and learn how to improve your game.

Let Us Know How to Contact You

The Darwin Bowls and Social Club Board and Committee are keen to keep members up to date with club news. One easy way to do this is by sending information out via email, so if you have an email address, please come in to the club and update your contact details to include an email address, or send us an email to darwinbowlsclub@bigpond.com. If you don't have an email, don't worry, we still want to be sure you get updates, so just make sure we have your correct mailing address and phone numbers.

