

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY, 2012

Presidents update:

Time stops for no one! Christmas has been and gone and even with an unpredictable summer we are well on the journey with 2012. Already, so much has been happening that it is difficult to keep up. However, I will do my best to bring you all up to speed.

- Lets start with our Christmas party – what an afternoon and evening, great company, great food and the mystery gift concept with Ray Bowyer as Santa Claus was very enjoyable. I think we all know who Santa will be next year – I don't think any of our ladies missed out on a kiss or a cuddle from "Santa"
- The Nationals were held in Auckland over the Christmas and New Year period and Milford was host to some of the events. On one of the days the weather caused us to be transferred to the carpet green at Mairangi Bay, what a fiasco – everything had already been set up at Milford and at the last moment we had to take all our supplies etc to Mairangi which really says a lot for the initiative and patience of our members in both the kitchen and match room.
- Various club championships commenced during January and are ongoing as are junior interclub and centre events. Our open tournaments are attracting full fields which is due to the quality of our greens, sponsors and overall organization.
- Waitangi weekend saw the third Milford 5000 which is now accepted as the premier two day event for juniors throughout the country. There was a full entry of 34 teams with a waiting list. The prize pool was in the order of \$6,000 and the tournament generated close to \$14,000 gross revenue. This was a magnificent event and result for the club and the organization and tireless contribution from all our volunteers was almost beyond words. We were also fortunate to have Kerry Clark – CEO of Bowls NZ and Kevin Holland – President of Bowls North Harbour present at the prize giving and they both spoke highly of the event and the Milford Club. We have received numerous complimentary emails and messages from those attending. Again, these events would not be possible without the generosity of sponsors such as Heartland Building Society and Harcourts.

Note: After the tournament someone mistakenly picked up a white Mikasa oval shaped bowl- please advise Margaret Jones if you can help.

- **Last Friday (11th Feb) we received a visit from 28 bowlers from Jersey – one of the Channel Islands, 100 Km’s south of England and 16 Km’s off the coast of France. – They were in whites, had their own bowls and we played two games of 10 ends which was followed by a very enjoyable happy hour (or so) and concluded with a well prepared BBQ and salads plus dessert. They made a contribution of \$25.00 per person and presented the club with a glass plaque showing one of the Island’s Castles. They were lovely people and mixed well with our members – it was a great exercise in international relations and also good for the game of bowls.**
- **Barbara Davis our Coaching Convener reports a very good response to the coaching questionnaire that was circulated to members. As a result, coaching is set to resume as follows: There will be group coaching on some Tuesdays and Thursdays after 5.00pm. Lorna Donald will coordinate group coaching every second Tuesday at approx 5.30pm for 1 ½ hours. Barbara and Ted will conduct group coaching every second Thursday at 4.00pm for 1 ½ hours – other club coaches will assist as required. Several members have indicated a preference for individual tuition and a meeting will be held to allocate coaches to these members – these members will be advised shortly. If anyone who did not receive a questionnaire and would like coaching, please contact Barbara on 478-6779 and she will make arrangements for you**
- **The following are a number of “housekeeping” items that the Executive have been addressing :**
A new National flag has been purchased, no smoking signs erected, rubber chips have been installed on the Marac green, rusted bench seats have been repaired, dish washer to be replaced (not repairable). A grant application will be made to replace the dishwasher and stove (oven does not cook effectively)
- **Prior to Christmas, a Grant application was made to the Lion Foundation for chemicals and fertilizers, an upgrade to both the internal and external sound system and a power point projector and screen. The good news is - the Grant has been approved and all items have since been purchased and installed.**
- **Our flagpole is in a very fragile condition and requires replacement. It has already experienced repairs and I am pleased to report that an aluminium yacht mast has been offered to the club for the donation of a few dozen beers. Ted Davis, Phil Phillips, Bob Lucas and Eric Moses have all examined the mast and conclude that it would be most suitable –only a cross spar would need to be fabricated. The Executive have been looking at the flagpole issue in terms of condition and location. It was decided at our last meeting to proceed with the “purchase” and relocate the pole between the two greens where the windsock currently is. This will make it very visible from the clubrooms and greens and will also show the wind direction. This in turn will**

release the existing area where the pole is for any future development such as: outdoor social area and BBQ etc, a pergola could be extended from the clubhouse and a petanque area could be developed – it would/could open up a number of possible opportunities.

- Many of you would have read in the last issue of Upshot that Bowls NZ is looking at selected clubs to become partner clubs in order to promote bowling. Some members of the Executive attended a group meeting held at Browns Bay to discuss this issue and the key point to come out of meeting was that traditional playing members are declining throughout the country and that casual players are on the increase.

In order for clubs to survive: a) we need to be doing things to attract new members plus new forms of revenue, b) Partner clubs, c) branding promotions that meets players and sponsors needs, d) pay to play contributing to the sport, e) programme flexibility.

Bowls needs to be relevant: a) offer game formats that appeal to a variety of non members as well as existing members, b) recognize all participants as customers of the club and contributors to the sport, c) recognize that today's retiree has changed, c) accept that bowls is a part of the entertainment market. As a club, we need to decide if we want to investigate this partnership option with Bowls NZ further and consider if we have the resources, the will and the people to follow it through.

- **Upcoming events:**
March 9th, Champagne Breakfast any combination open triples. Milford club members need to register early at \$15.00 each as it will then be open by invitation to other clubs. The format will be – 9.00am – 10.am breakfast, followed by 3 games. It will be well sponsored with good prizes.

April 20th, Milford 200 any confirmation open triples. Club members need to confirm by March 14th then the balance of the teams will be by invitation. The format will be – combined age 200 years or more, 3 games of 10 ends etc.

- Finally, I am unable to conclude this newsletter without making reference and indeed a plea with regard to our approaching end of season and AGM in June. We need *all* members to give serious consideration and input on the selection of the incoming Office Bearers to ensure the continued momentum we have as a club. We have come so far over recent times and it would be a tragedy if we were unable to continue with the reputation and mana the club has achieved plus the spirit, contribution, dedication and attitude of not only your Executive but those members who have without request or prompting have always been there to help. Pareto's law is the 80/20 principle and quite frankly it can be applied to everything in life – a good example is,

80% of what is achieved in our club is essentially done by 20% of our members. If you truly read and accept some of the points made earlier in this newsletter you will have to accept that no club or organization can or will survive without the willing and unselfish contribution from all its members. As individuals, each of us has strengths, weaknesses, different talents and abilities and we need you to stand up and be counted at the club. At the risk of offending, it is no excuse to say that I have done it before, I don't have time, I don't know what is expected or don't worry, someone else will do it. Sadly, we have too many members who just pay their subscriptions and quite frankly, do nothing yet enjoy all the benefits of those who put in all the hard work. No matter what your circumstances are, there is always some way that you can contribute and help out. We need continuity in order to maintain and continue to develop the great club that we are.

Good bowling

**Trevor Duffy
President**

These are some entries to a Washington Post competition asking for a two line rhyme with the most romantic first line and the least romantic second line.

***1 My darling, my lover, my beautiful wife
Marrying you has screwed up my life*** ***6 I love your smile, your face, your eyes
Damn, I'm good at telling lies!***

***2 I see your face when I am dreaming
That's why I always wake up screaming*** ***7 My love, you take my breath away
What have you stepped in to smell this way***

***3 Kind, intelligent loving and hot
This describes everything you're not*** ***8 My feelings for you no words can tell
Except for maybe "Go to hell"***

***4 I thought I could love no other
- that is until I met your brother*** ***9 What inspired this amorous rhyme
Two parts vodka, one part lime***

***5 I want to feel your sweet embrace
But don't take that paper bag off your face***

***10 Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you
But the roses are wilting, the violets are dead, the sugar bowls empty and so is your head***

