



MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014



From Your President

The Milford 5000 seems like a long time ago, yet amazingly it is only three weeks. As it has been in past years, it was a fantastic event. All the hours of organising prior to the event, the organisation on the two days of the tournament and the simply superb food from the ladies and gents in the kitchen, ensured that the reputation of our flag-ship event was maintained as we would expect. However, as you will all probably know, an unfortunate error was made in the calculation of the prize winners; an error for which I have accepted ultimate responsibility. A mistake is, by definition, something no-one ever intends to make and feels badly (very badly) about it when the dreaded moment of realisation dawns. I apologise to you all, and especially to those who worked so hard on the Milford 5000. Our thanks go to Robin Taylor and Clive Howard who responded quickly to the situation, contacted all participants affected and rectified the prizes. The speed of their response was essential. I too have spoken to a number of contestants and have found, as has Robin, that everyone was absolutely ecstatic about the event, understanding regarding the error, and most importantly, have assured us they will be returning next year. Despite the error, the Milford 5000 still made a modest profit. This was due to a range of economies that were taken during the organisational stages, none of which we felt compromised the standard of the tournament in any way.

Over the two days we made a point of thanking all those who were in any way involved in the running of the event. Again we say "thank you" for all that you did during those hectic hours. The contestants love the Milford 5000, Bowls NZ acknowledge its importance on the bowling calendar, and Bowls North Harbour are similarly supportive. Equally as important, our sponsors were thrilled with

the organisation and with the level of exposure that they were given.

This was the first year that an entirely new team organised the event. Throughout the period of organisation and during the event itself, a great deal was learned. Plans are already in motion for next year's event and those lessons learned from 2014 will be incorporated into the 2015 tournament.

I cannot conclude this part of the newsletter without congratulating our own Milford teams who did so well. Logan Bridgens, Robbie McGrane and Don Whitley came fourth in the Championship event, whilst Robin Taylor, Val Kehely and Willie McIvor were placed 3rd in the Plate event. Diane Steel, Bev Stanford & Ian McKenzie qualified for the Championship event. Congratulations to you all. You did so well and made us feel so proud.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Two Triples Championships have been completed recently. Congratulations to our winners:-

Men's Championship

Triples:

Robbie McGrane, Ian McKenzie, & Roger

Stokes

R/Up Derek Fenton, Clive Howard & Don Whitley

Ladies Championship Triples:

Lorna Donald, Barbara Bowyer & Val Kehely

R/Up Diane Steel, Sandra Hocking & Nelda Knight

BOWLS NORTH HARBOUR APPOINTMENT

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Don Niven who has been appointed Coordinator of Coaching for Bowls North Harbour. A prestigious appointment, Don is responsible for coordinating coaching throughout the Bowls North Harbour district. In particular, he is responsible for the re-establishment of Collegiate bowls, a winter coaching programme aimed at junior bowlers, and arranging a Bowls NZ Coaches course.

COACHES WANTED



None of us would enjoy the game of bowls as much as we do were it not for those very special and equally dedicated members who are our club coaches. We owe them a great deal. For some years now, Barbara & Ted Davis, and Zelda Bridgens, supported by Russell & Sandra Hocking, Don Niven, Nelda Knight and Lorna Donald, have been our coaching staff. As you will be aware, the majority of the coaching hours for our junior bowlers has been done by Barbara, Ted and Zelda. Our club needs a few more dedicated people who are prepared to give a little of their time to share their skills and impart their knowledge to our junior bowlers. There is much joy to be had from sharing knowledge and watching bowlers develop their skills. Coaches, like umpires, have to go through some training, but the course is fun and you learn a great deal. I encourage anyone who is considering coaching as a way in which they can contribute to our club, to speak to Don Niven.

JUNIOR INTER-CLUB

Our junior inter-club teams continue to do well this season.

One of our teams qualified for the semi-finals which were held at Sunnybrae on Monday, 3rd March. Sadly they were beaten, however we are proud of them for doing so well and representing our club with pride and distinction.

HANDICAP PAIRS - 7th March 2014

The first round of this season's Handicap Pairs starts this Friday night. A slightly different but really exciting format has been devised this season. Be down at the club on Friday night in time for a 5.30pm start. Dates for the Handicap Pairs competition are:-

7th, 14th & 28th March
11th April

The barbeque will be going and the bar will be open, so please come down and enjoy some good bowls, playing with friends you may not normally play with, and enjoy the spirit of the event.

As we near the end of the season, some of our time honoured events approach. Those events being held this month include:

- 15th March - Founders' Cup
- 21st March - Ray Prewett Memorial Invitational Pairs
- Milford Cup – 20th & 21st March

A look at our club diary reveals lots of opportunities to play, so whilst the weather is still good, take advantage of the many opportunities that are available to you. All too soon our season will be over and we shall be putting on our winter woollies.

I look forward to seeing you all on the bowling green.

On behalf of your Board,

LORNA DONALD
President