

NEWSLETTER – MARCH, 2015

Presidents Update

Time stops for no one! Christmas and New Year have been and gone and we are well on the journey with 2015. The following will bring you up to speed with what has been happening.

- Our Christmas gathering was on Saturday, 20th December and was held in the form of a Ham tournament with a very well provided afternoon tea etc.
- The Nationals were hosted by Bowls North Harbour and were held during late December and early January. Many clubs were utilised by Centre for the event including Milford for five to six days. This placed a lot of pressure on individual clubs with regard to greens preparation, markers, kitchen and bar etc – again many thanks to our team of volunteers at a difficult time of the year. The Nationals plus the Trusts plus all the demands that Centre has placed on us for use of greens etc has created a lot of pressure on our Match Committee Chair (Kathy Brown) causing ongoing adjustments to our own club bowling programme – it hasn't made it easy!
- A number of club championships have already taken place and listed are the results so far:

| <u>Ladies:</u> | <u>Winner</u> | <u>R/up</u> |
|----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Singles | R Benton | Val Kehely |
| Graded 3's | B Bowyer, A Moses, J Hutton , J Howard, R Benton, A Barlow | |
| Pairs | Y Preston, K Brown | V Kehely, B Stanford |
| Peggy Phillips | Lyons/Bowyer/Kehely/Evans | Horne/Benton/Snook/Calver |
| Fours | Davis/Brown/Rundstrom/Smale | Stanford/Cheung/Benton/J Preston |
| Triples | R Horne, L Donald, J Evans | B Davis, K Brown, A Barlow |
| <u>Men</u> | <u>Winner</u> | <u>R/up</u> |
| Vet singles | K Fortes | T Duffy |
| Singles | R McGrane | C Howard |
| Pairs | P Bourke, S Hing | D Whitley, D Niven |
| Fours | Fenton/Niven/Howson/Whitley | Bourke/Cheung/Stokes/Hing |
| Triples | McGrane, McKenzie, Stokes | Fenton, Niven, Evans |

- **The hiring of club facilities particularly pre-Christmas has again been very financially beneficial to the club. Ian McKenzie and his team are to be complimented on their efforts – as you may be aware, Ian is responsible for Sponsors also. I know that it can impact unfavourably on some members through changes to programmes etc but it is a price that we pay for not having an artificial green – we do not have winter bowls but we still have financial outgoings, hiring is one way to help our revenue stream and keep subscriptions at a reasonable level.**
- **Waitangi weekend saw the sixth Milford 5000 which is now really established as a premier two day event for junior bowlers. There were 28 teams competing for a prize pool of \$6,000. We were blessed with good weather and we have received a number of complimentary emails and calls from those attending the tournament. Again, without the tireless effort and contribution from our team of volunteers plus the continued support and generosity of our sponsors (Heartland and Harcourts) this event would not be possible.**
- **Many members will be aware of Stan's (green keeper) impending retirement towards the end of the season. Thankfully, he has given us plenty of notice which has enabled the Board to search for and select a suitable replacement. I am pleased to advise that Hamish Russell will be joining us as the new green keeper during May. Hamish is currently the green keeper for both Mt Wellington and Rocky Nook bowling clubs. Stan has been fully involved in the appraisal of Hamish's experience and skills and is more than satisfied in all areas. You are probably aware that Stan is also the green keeper of Mairangi and we have been in full consultation with Mairangi during this process and Hamish will be their green keeper also.**
- **A new kitchen roster has been developed for the remainder of the season and is on the fridge door in the kitchen. Please read it and note any dates that might apply to you – if you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.**
- **Robin Taylor indicated to the Board that as he had developed other interests, he did not have the time to make the contribution expected in the role of Vice President. He resigned from that position but said he would remain convenor of the Milford 5000 as long as support was forthcoming from club members – the success of the 5000 demonstrates very clearly that full support was given. Robin has since resigned from the Board. Diane Steel has indicated that she would be prepared to come on to the Board in the role of Vice President until the upcoming AGM. This will be discussed at our Board meeting next Tuesday. Diane previously served as ladies Vice President and was very effective in the role.**

- **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. I am seriously concerned as to the makeup of our executive for the coming year. We need all members to give serious consideration and input on the selection of incoming office bearers to ensure the continued momentum that we have as a club. No club or organisation 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 risk of offending, it is no excuse to say – 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.**

Since our last Board meeting I have taken the liberty of having a discussion with a group of club members – some reasonably new plus a number who have also served in various capacities over time. The general consensus from this discussion was:

- **Yes, we have reason to be concerned about succession issues**
- **The AGM is too late to address these types of issues**
- **Yes, we should have a general meeting of all members and openly discuss any issues of concern**
- **Ideally this meeting could be on a Saturday morning at say 10.00 am and be held somewhere between mid-March and mid-April with a basic agenda with open and constructive discussion – I will keep you advised.**

Thank you and good bowling

Trevor Duffy

President