

MILFORD BOWLING CLUB

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2013

From Your President

The season is now in full swing, with Pennants reaching its concluding stages, our first championship having been completed, and as I write, the NZ Open shortly to start. Being so close to the action, as it were, standing back and observing just how things are going is a little difficult, but even so I believe the report card of your new executive would read "So far; so good." Concentrating on the good things, here are some achievements we'd like you to know about:-

- Sponsorship increase has increased 13% compared to last season.
- 11 new full members have joined our club plus social members (see below)
- Our financial position year to date is ahead of budget
- Entries are already coming in for the Milford 5000 (February 2014)
- Two "have a go" social events have been held and more are planned. We are receiving a number of social membership applications from these events.

All of these achievements are extremely important to our club. Members will recall my mentioning the Mowbray Report, initiated by Bowls NZ, the finding of which emphasised the importance of "moving with the times", of listening the Generation Y and how they wish to play the game, and ensuring that we accommodate these changes into our programme. Led by Vice President, Robin Taylor, and supported by our coaches and other members (including our dedicated bar staff), we have held two social bowls events and intend having more. We are confident that these social members will become full members as and when their circumstances change and they have more time available for bowls. Our thanks to those who have devoted their time to supporting this initiative.

NZ Open

By the time you receive this newsletter, the NZ Open will be well underway. Milford was chosen to host the Men's Pairs and Singles Qualifying Rounds on 7th & 8th November. It is an honour to be selected by Bowls NZ to host preliminary rounds of this prestigious tournament and a further "feather in the cap" of our greens team headed by Tony Rickerby, and supported by our wonderful group of volunteers. To those who assisted in any way during the two day the NZ Open was at Milford - "thank you". Green and garden team, kitchen staff, bar staff, markers - thank you very much to you all.

The Board would also like to say "thank you" to those members who came down recently and assisted in moving a delivery of soil into the shed.

Thanks to Nelda Knight

As many members will know, Nelda has recently moved up to Orewa, but thankfully, is intending to remain as a member of Milford. However her move up north has brought about her decision to reduce her workload in the bar, and so a vacancy has been created. If you feel that this is a place where you could take your turn and serve your members and club, please let either Don Niven (Bar Manager) or myself know. We truly are in need of more bar staff, so any assistance that you can give will be appreciated by your fellow members. It is a very good way of getting to know all the members.

To Nelda we say "thank you very much" and "we're glad we'll still be seeing you in the bar even though it will not be as often."

Veteran's Mixed Fours – To Be Rescheduled

This tournament was to be held on 30th October however a decision was made to reschedule it. The Match Committee will let us all know when it is to be held.

BIAS Fund

The acronym BIAS stands for Bowls Initiative Accentuating Success. The BIAS fund was established three years ago by Graham Dorreen and Tim Preston. Of the \$22k in the fund, \$13.4k was contributed by business contacts of Graham & Tim, with the remaining funds coming from tournament income, corporate events, Milford 5000 etc. The Board recently received a letter from Tim Preston advising that he and Graham wish to pursue coaching initiatives that would fall under the auspices of the BIAS fund in partnership with Bowls North Harbour, and given the history of the existing BIAS fund, requested Milford Bowls to relinquish all but \$7,500.00 of the existing fund. As you will appreciate this was a very substantial matter for the Board to deal with, and thus we took our time to make our decision. Our decision was to agree to the request of Tim and Graham. Our reasons for doing so were due to

- The composition of the existing fund i.e. how it has been funded to date. The board having considered the history of the fund agreed that Milford's overall contribution as a club was approximately \$7,500.00
- It was always intended that the BIAS fund would be established as separate Trust and that bowlers from throughout the Bowls North Harbour area would be equally entitled to receive grants from the fund.
- The BIAS fund has always been shown as a separate fund in our financial reports, representing its status as funds that did not belong to Milford Bowling Club.
- Members of Milford Bowling Club, especially junior members of the club, will still retain entitlement to the new fund being established by Bowls North Harbour. On behalf of your board, I would like to emphasise that this was not a decision made lightly, but one made after considerable research by our Treasurer Clive Howard, and discussion at our October Board meeting.

Subscriptions

Our Treasurer, Clive Howard, reports that subscriptions have been received well, however there are still one or two members whose subscriptions remain outstanding. If you are one of those people who are still to make payment of your subscription, please make a point of doing so as soon as possible. The 30th November 2013 has been designated by the Board as the last date for payment of subscriptions.

Vertical Industry Corporate Day

Members will be aware that in recent years we have held Corporate Days, where representatives from a number of different businesses have come and played in a tournament at Milford. A "vertical industry" corporate day is similar, but different! The difference is that those playing will all be from the same industry. For example, they might all be Real Estate Agents. Our Sponsorship Convenor, Ian McKenzie, is currently planning an event of this type for some time in 2014. We shall let you all know more as details become available.

Travel Costs

Whenever you travel with someone to Pennants or for inter-club, please consider the expense incurred by the driver and share the cost. A modest \$5 donation will always be gratefully received and appreciated.

Christmas Party

As we go to print, details of the Christmas Party are being finalised. You may be assured we shall make sure you hear details of the event in good time.

Best wishes to you all

LORNA DONALD
President