

FITZROY BOWLING CLUB

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER NO. 38



GREETINGS, CLUB MEMBERS

The silly season is well and truly behind us so it's time to read about what's in the melting pot on the bowling scene - successes, hard luck stories, and happenings around your club.

We welcome back New Zealand representative, **RHONDA ADAMS** to the fold following her creditable performances at the World Bowls PBA tournament in the UK early this year. Rhonda wishes to thank all her supporters' and filed the following report on her experiences abroad.

As I was ranked as the top woman for NZ PBA, my name was put forward to the World Bowls PBA tournament at Potters Resort in the UK for the Ladies Invitation Singles. The international spot was initially given to Australia and I was the reserve. She pulled out in November and I said YES to the opportunity. PBA ranking points are based on wins in the singles and pairs games played indoors over three winter weekends. The World Bowls tournament is played at Potters each year and runs for nearly three weeks. The games are televised by the BBC and many people stay at the resort just to watch the bowls. The skill level of players is extremely high and many return each year to play.

My first game was Mixed Pairs with Les Gillett from England. I didn't take my bowls with me. When you find out whether you are green or red you get a choice of bowls to play with. Practice times are allocated. I chose to play with Green Henselite Tigers. I was also given a green shirt to wear which was handed back after the game. In pairs we also wear microphones. Unfortunately we lost both sets so didn't progress any further in the pairs.

For the singles I was red so I chose to carry on playing with Henselite Tigers but red ones. I was very happy with how I played, winning the first set and losing the second set by a close measure. We then played a 3 end tie-breaker which I lost 2-1.

It took me 33 hours to get from New Plymouth to Potters Resort, two long flights via Singapore and a four hour bus ride but the trip was worth it. I would like to thank the Fitzroy Bowling Club members for all their support.

Rhonda Adams.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

A big welcome to the following new FBC members - Ada Senior, Peter Burge, Ian Cunningham, Scott McEwen, Paul Clarke, Murray Gibson, James Parker, Mark Whittaker, Jarred Newell and Rod Pulford as social members, and Toby Clark as an associate member. We hope you all enjoy your association with our progressive club.

MEN'S MATCH COMMITTEE:

Last weekend saw the completion of the Senior Men's open singles and the 1st/2nd year Men's final. Again we saw the evergreen senior bowler John Kurta take out the open singles 21 - 17 over Moe Kelly after an evenly contested game. Earlier, Alan White won 21 - 17 over Denis Toon. The semi-finals saw John Kurta win 22 - 9 over Grant Pease and Moe Kelly win 21- 19 over Alan White.

Our honours board shows John has won the open title on no fewer than seven occasions, including the last three years on the trot. That's a fantastic achievement and congratulations go out to him. No doubt John will be back to defend his impressive record next year.

The final of the 1st / 2nd year Men's final was a very good win for first year bowler Simon Rowe over Mike Gilbert 21 - 11. Well done to all singles finalists.

Junior singles: Neil McNeil is the 2019/20 champion defeating Evan Jones 21-12

The Mens' Fours post section games have been scheduled to be played on 14 and 15 March.

In the Triples, a total of eight teams have qualified. Owing to unavailability of players it has been not possible to complete this event at this stage.

GREENS:

Number 1 Green

Our head greenkeeper, Tony McAlevey reports the green has held up reasonably well, although towards the very end of the month a rise in temperatures and drying winds have affected the surface. There has been some cracking evident in a couple of places; however that has been managed with localised watering from the can. There are three small bare areas which don't cause too much trouble, and these will be plugged out once we get a more regular rainfall.

We had seven days of Taranaki Open play on the green this month and it seemed to play reasonably well. We have not heard any complaints from anyone to date.

Tony applied a little Ammonium Sulphate to the green during the month to give it a little kick, as the growth still is not as fast as the other green. He is not terribly concerned by the slower growth while the green is maintaining its cover.

Number 2 Green

This green is still suffering from nematodes and the unevenness in growth is marked. The bare areas will be plugged out once we get a more consistent rainfall, and may take place before the Sportys Tournament. We will take a more aggressive stance to the nematode problem shortly.

Machinery

Late in the month the Number 1 Green roller lost its transmission. There was a small piece of metal on the plate under the transmission and nothing could get it to work. I consulted with Simon Astill of Balmac Services in Tauranga who advised that the transmission would need to be replaced. The cost of the part alone would be \$2,700, before costs to repair. A new machine would cost \$9,200 and be available in three weeks. The purchase option has been decided on by the board. The machine has been dismantled ready to be scrapped, however the Honda motor has been saved and would be available for purchase at a very low cost to anyone who might have a use for it.

In general, a big thank you to those people who offered to help with preparations during the Open events.

MEN'S TOURNAMENTS:

Pelorus Triples:

The final round of the series was held on 1 February. Eleven rounds were completed compared with nine the previous season. Participation was slightly behind last year's 61, down to 55. An average of 30 played each round, down from 40. A financial statement will be presented to the next Board meeting.

Upcoming tournaments

The Wanderers Thursday Men's competition starts on March 5th. Intention to play notice is on the Pavilion white board now.

The clubs next major tournament is scheduled for 12/13 March. That is the two-day Craigs Investments two bowls triples. Entries are now open to up to 24 teams for this feature.

It will be will be closely followed by The Sporty's Invitation, a two-dayer on 23/24 March. Due to a new Sporty's Café & Bar leasehold taking over the business at beginning of this month the board is currently holding talks with the new operators in regards to future sponsorships, including the popular two men/ two women competition.

An informal approach has been made by the Fitzroy Golf Club looking at a Golf/Bowls Day sometime in April between both Clubs. A tentative date of Sunday 26 April has been pencilled in. More on this later.

WOMEN'S MATCH COMMITTEE:

The women members have finished all their championships.

We are playing the club mixed four's Semi-final and Final on the Saturday 28 March which should be finished by 3pm. Come along and support the players.

The women will also be playing the mixed pairs all day on Sunday 29 March. This will complete the match committee's year.

Well done Bianca Taylor for winning the 1st/2nd Year Singles.

MEN'S PENNANTS:

Having completed the Pennants for the season event convenor-selector, Bob Fowles, is pleased to report that the No.1 pennant team the Rovers finished 2nd equal. A few issues were encountered during the rounds but all in all a very good result. Well done.

No.2 pennant was a very cut throat affair with five teams fighting for the placings. Unfortunately we missed out. The Firecats 5th and the Tigers 7th, but again a good effort.

A total of 44 of our club members played over the nine rounds and I would like to thank them all especially those that made themselves available at short notice.

Overall a very good turn out and performance.

WOMENS' OPEN ACHIEVEMENT

The FBC had a total of three teams in the Taranaki Womens' open Four's played early this month, with the Rhonda Adams skipped side being our sole qualifiers and the last Taranaki team standing, making the last eight in post section play. Congratulations and what an effort ladies.

Recognition also goes to Bianca Taylor who took out the Womens' 1st Year Singles this season. A great effort in her first season playing lawn bowls.

Results in the Hexagonals being Under 8's placed 5th and the seniors placed 4th equal.

In upcoming fixtures, Fitzroy will have representation at Taranaki Rep tournaments in New Plymouth and Wanganui, Women's Open Triples and following that the Nationals. Good luck for your campaigns and enjoy the journey and the comradery.

BUSINESS HOUSE BOWLS

Convenor Derek Moles reports the competition has reached the half way stage of the post-Christmas series. He is pleased to report that the weather has behaved and all rinks have been filled to capacity on both greens over the past three weeks that we have played.

GRANTS:

The FBC has been successful in being granted \$1,000 from the TSB Community Trust as an operational grant.

An application has been sent to The Pelorus Trust for \$9,200 for a new roller for the greens.

SOCIAL & WELFARE:

A get well card to Ron Clough

On a sad note, Lil Carline, our Club Day convenor, is currently in hospital due to eyesight problems. On Friday, Jan Clarke reported that Lil has been transferred from Taranaki to Waikato Hospital for further treatment. Our thoughts are with you Lil and we wish you a speedy recovery.

PAVILION/HIREAGE:

The club was used extensively prior to Christmas by a wide variety of people. These functions grossed \$25,149.30 and 652 people came through our doors. The feedback from these people has been fabulous and again a big thanks to Jeff Blyde and Colin Christie for organising the volunteers and to Derek Burt for his tireless work behind the bar and all that he does behind the scenes. January grossed \$4,508.25 and we still have groups coming through including a couple of weddings, birthdays etc.

GOOD BOWLING

Communications Convenor

TONY BIRD