



Newsletter

OCTOBER 2018

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Welcome to City Bowls Club

The City of Geelong Bowls Club finally opened the new club in July to its existing members who have mainly come from the two amalgamated clubs of Geelong West and Drumcondra. Social bowls commenced with very good numbers for the first month before the novelty wore off a little and we returned to the old numbers of around 12 teams on Wednesday and 10 teams on Friday. Friday nights returned and the club set about getting itself ready for the future.

The committee sent out flyers to surrounding residents with a social membership offer to all golf club estate residents and many residents who live within a kilometer of the new club. The offer was of a family membership for the price of a single membership. Unfortunately this offer was only taken up by approximately 25 households of the 320 households in the residential estate with the committee's guess that many of the flyers ended up in the junk mail bin.

More to come regarding social memberships a little later in the newsletter.

Bowls News

The club has commenced its social bowls program with the addition of some new competitions for bowlers around the region. We are still running our Wednesday Triples which has now been going continuously for over 50 years. It is run by Russell, Terry and now David has joined the team. Friday Pairs is currently run by Daryl and with John Knell leaving; Alan Atkinson has joined to help run the day. With the numbers slowly dropping for these two days, there will need to be changes in the coming year to how we run both days in order for it to continue to run successfully.



Pre-arranged means Peace of Mind

Pre-arranging your funeral ensures that everything is taken care of for you and your family . . . just one of the reasons why Tuckers is the choice of so many Geelong families.

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Bowls News continued

These changes will be in the form of rosters where all regular players will be asked to come in once every 6 months a couple of hours early to help the existing organisers.

Unfortunately the days of everything being done for all by a few cannot continue due to the reducing numbers of members.

Two new competitions were commenced in August with the ladies running a Tuesday morning triples competition for the region's best bowlers and Lance starting up a Tuesday night Trans Otway Super league for the best bowlers in the region. Teams from many clubs were invited to put teams in for both these series with the culmination of the Tuesday night Trans Otway series coming to the end of its first season by the end of October. These series are great for the club and great to watch. Spectators are welcome and the night series should get better with time.



Proud Partners of the City of Geelong Bowls Club

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BRISTOL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION



Midweek Pennant has commenced with more players that we have spots for but there will be times when we will require every player on our books. The midweek competition has been handcuffed to some extent with the regulations making selector's job very difficult. All intending players will have to be patient with selection as they try and get the best results whilst trying to give all players a chance to play. After two rounds, the top team has a win and a loss and are sitting mid table. Division 4 is sitting on top of the ladder and Division 6 is sitting in 5th place.



Saturday has also commenced but unfortunately even with new players to the club, we are struggling most weeks to have enough players to fill all teams and the selectors have been fortunate to have avoided



forfeits to date. Players will have to be understanding with selectors as we strive to have the best sides representing the club each week. Whilst we understand that members have their own priorities, we also hope players who take a week or two off can understand that sometimes they cannot walk back into the position they vacated as we try and stabilize and get the best out of all teams.

Also players who feel they should be playing higher should understand that all players have plenty of self-belief and feel they should be playing higher. It is the nature of the game and the selectors rely heavily on team mates voting to assess each player's form. Therefore score each other honestly if you want to be successful.

After 2 rounds the top 2 teams have gotten off to great starts with both on top of the ladder. Division 4 and 6 are both in the four and the lower divisions are just outside the four. Competitions for spots in all teams are very competitive this season and keeping your position will make for a strong club this season. Take a holiday or a day at the races at your own peril as anyone who comes in may make your position their own.

With the club's great start to the season, we are hoping that this season will be the season our first premiership is won as the City of Geelong Bowls Club.

Official Grand Opening

Friday the 12th of October will go down in our history as the night the club was officially opened by the Honorable John Eren, member for Lara which covers the new club's address and Minister for Sport in Victoria. Also in attendance was Christine Couzens, member for Geelong whose electorate is on the other side of Ballarat Road. The event was a great night and attended by members and sponsors and major stakeholders of the club. It was catered by the club's new food and beverage operator Pekish who provided a sample of what is to come to our club. We can all be excited by Pekish who have plenty of experience in the club environment with current and previous operations at both golf and bowls clubs and also hotels. They will complete the club and should be a great attraction to both Bowlers and Golfers and residents living around the club.

Pekish are expecting to commence in early November and from then on will be the club's partner in providing its members and surrounding residents with a great variety of meal options for all their dining needs. Members are urged to support them as much as possible as we need a successful bistro/café in order to run a successful club.



Social Memberships and Barefoot Bowls

As part of Pekish's overall plan for the club, they are going to offer all golf residents and golfers social membership packages where the more you use the club, the more benefits you obtain. Those residents who took up the earlier offer by the club will benefit from the discounts offered on food and beverages and the chance to drop in and enjoy the club. The bowls club is a part of the estate but a little different to the golf club. The difference being that the bowls club is not owned by the residents as is the golf club so priviledges do not come automatically. However we do offer social memberships and even full bowls memberships at a very low cost for those residents who wish to take up bowls or simply enjoy the benefits of being a social member of the club. It is the intention of the club to one day become the bowls and golf club's clubhouse and hope the residents can make full use of our facility.

It was noted from the resident's newsletter that there was a little feeling that the bowls club had not made enough of a move towards offering much to the residents at this point. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, until the bistro commenced, we had little to offer residents in terms of providing food options although our bar is open most week nights. Secondly and most importantly is that the club is run by a volunteer staff of members, with no full time paid staff. There are plenty of jobs on our list to complete the project and we have been very busy just getting the club ready to operate. Every director of the club has been extremely busy getting the club up and running. We have met with the GGCRC and will again meet with them and the golf club members once we have something to offer.

Residents who believed that this bowls club was built just for them need to know that the club was built entirely from club funds and not from estate funds. The Links Group sold the land to the bowls club. This land, it must be remembered was flood prone and a former tip site so costs to build on it have been substantially higher than if it were prime land. The funding came from the sale of both Geelong West and Drumcondra bowls clubs which owned their own clubs. The state government contributed towards the cost of putting a roof over one of the greens. We have accepted all the costs associated with this land and provided the golf club with a shared carpark and in the future the golf members with a shared clubhouse. Residents who wish to enjoy the club will again be offered social memberships once we are fully functional. That will be very soon.

Barefoot bowls social nights are on our agenda but unfortunately as volunteers and being consumed with so many other projects, we are struggling to find enough resources to run it until some of our other projects have been completed. Once we have the time and resources, all residents will be advised of social nights to come along, enjoy a game of bowls, enjoy a meal and a drink and socialise with other residents. A copy of this newsletter can be found on our website at www.cityofgeelongbowlsclub.com.au