



DRIVE 'N' DRAW

Tel: 9578 2942 www.glenmacbowls.org.au December/January

Special Points of Interest:

McKinnon: a walk down memory lane.

Corporate Events team making it happen.

Levy wins Club Singles Championship.

Significance Produces Strength

Buffalo and Geese

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IN BY-GONE DAYS

Paul Lambert/Keith Paulsen

Years ago, as a Wild Colonial Boy, it was a pleasure for me to be invited to bowl regularly on a Wednesday afternoon at the City of St Kilda Bowls Club. At that time, sitting in surroundings that were so picturesque and steeped in culture and tradition, *who would have thought.....* At the same time the McKinnon Bowls Club was operating with a similar strength and purpose. *Who would have thought.....*

Fast forward to the present, five years beyond the merging of these two great Clubs. Given the status quo of our current membership, there are many comments still being heard concerning the *Good Old Days* at 'City', and rightly so because they are significant reflections. But what do we know of the RVBA's 'Flagship Club' of some twenty-odd years ago?

Following community support and enthusiastic approval for the establishment of a sporting venue that would provide benefits of a competitive and social nature, the McKinnon Bowls Club was founded on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 1950.



On a lease basis, and for a rent of two guineas per annum (over a period of twenty-one years), the Moorabbin Council offered the Club a site within Joyce Park. This area was sufficient for the laying down of one grass green and the building of a small Clubhouse, primarily constructed (because of a post-World War Two timber shortage) of wood recycled from car packing cases.

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations on the excellent job you are doing with the Club Newsletter. However, there was a glaring omission in the last issue which we would like to draw to the attention of the members so it can be rectified.

In your witty reporting of the Cup Eve function, you thanked by name the organisers, and we, the Members of that Sub-Committee (of which you were also a member), would like to add a tremendous thankyou to Paul Lambert who, due to modesty, or the thought that he may be asked again, failed to include his own name as one of those involved.

Let us tell you that Paul voluntarily took over the huge job of decorating and décor, and single-handedly transformed our Club dining room for the evening. The racing theme murals which covered the walls were all Paul's handiwork, and the zeal and enthusiasm with which he approached the function was not only a joy to behold, but also contagious.

Thanks, Paul, we all enjoyed working with you.

Thelma Meerkin (Convenor);
Cecilia Moskow; Janet Raitman,
and Pam Cashmore

BAYSIDE JACK HIGH BOWLS

'THE ONE STOP BOWLS SHOP'

Shop 1/739 Centre Rd. East Bentleigh
(Directly opposite Browns Road)

Ph/Fax 9579 4440

IN BY-GONE DAYS (CONT'D)

With many of McKinnon's early membership being drawn from returned service personnel, a very rapid, self-funded expansionary development followed. By early 1970, the establishment of a three greens lawn bowling facility (plus up-to-date Clubhouse) started a *Purple Patch* in this highly charismatic club's history.



During this time, McKinnon, as a community-based entity, was riding a huge wave of success. Locally and Interstate, the Club had an aura about it. Like a magnet, people knew of, or were drawn to it because of its reputation as a hard-working, disciplined and well-run organisation. (In many cases there was at least a two year waiting list to join.)

However, in 1994, the control of Joyce Park (and McKinnon Bowls Club) was transferred - with the redistribution of Council boundaries - from Moorabbin to Glen Eira. In its infinite wisdom, the Glen Eira City Council made changes to the environs which, in effect, altered dramatically the demand for off-street parking. A domino effect was then noted, with a steady decline in the Bowls Club membership. Yes, McKinnon did have Premier Division representation at the time but, the main contributing factor was age: foundation members and large numbers of early members preferred the amenities and securities provided by Retirement Villages, plus other pursuits (travel and family) entered the equation.

The fact that two great clubs chose to merge is of historical significance because each no longer exists in its own right. What we now have is the emergence of **one** club and the opportunity to build something exceptional as we move forward. The question then becomes "Who's up for the challenge?"

"We're all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars." Oscar Wilde

FROM THE OVAL OFFICE: PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Ladies Section: Judith Same

So far this season, the highlight of our functions has been the 'Ben & Ann Sternfeld Day', an event that was suggested and sponsored by this couple to celebrate the wonderful occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations to you both. I'm sure I speak for all in wishing you good health and happiness, and may you celebrate many more years together. As an aside, I sincerely hope that we will be fortunate to be able to celebrate together - for the benefit of the Club - many more of our members happy occasions. Give it some thought.



Although it was not very well supported by our own members, the Club's 'Gala Day' was also a great success. I would particularly like to mention the great deal of work and effort put into the day by Simon and Beryl Nirens, as well as their team of helpers.

At 9.45am, on Sunday 10 December, it was very heartening to see the number of people who turned out to watch the first of the Ladies Competition Finals. Unfortunately, because of the extreme temperature, the game had to be postponed - after a few ends - until the following Thursday. Again, on behalf of everyone, I congratulate, not only Leila (Levy) on winning the 2006-07 Club Singles Championship, but also Denese (Brick), her very worthy and gallant opponent.

Our last day of Pennant - prior to the Christmas break - will be on Tuesday 19 December. Please return to the clubhouse as, together, we will be having a Festive Afternoon Tea immediately after the completion of the game, as well as holding a discussion on the desirability of having unisex shirts for Pennant. It is therefore very important that you attend.

I hope one and all had a very happy Festive Season and an enjoyable break.



Dennis Prince

The end of another year approaches. It's always easy to grapple with the 'Big Ticket' items, like the very successful Tom Hafey evening, and I'll leave the Pennant up-date to Barry Berkovitch's Selectors' Report.

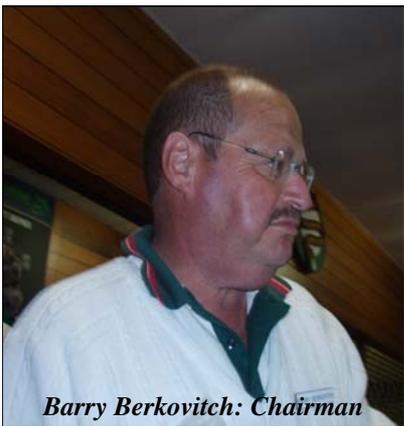
It has been business as usual for the Mens' Committee, with the major issue being the introduction and wearing of coloured trousers. At the time of writing we are awaiting RVBA approval on our chosen colour and design. Once we're given the thumbs up, we will be trialling them with the Top Side.

The *Volunteer System* is working very well, and I expect **ALL** members to participate. The comments following the introduction of bread rolls after the decision to do away with the sandwiches has been positive. Things are working out well; it certainly makes the ladies happy (a special thanks to Marcelle Karro, Beryl Nirens and their team of helpers) and also lowers the cost.

Regarding Sponsorship: this is very important in the successful running of any Club. Would everyone therefore, please take note of our current list of sponsors. They are listed in the Fixtures/Members Handbook so, if /when you can, help those who help us.

I, and my Committee, hope your Festive Season was enjoyable. Look after yourselves, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

A TALE OF THE TAGS: SELECTORS REPORT



Barry Berkovitch: Chairman

SIDE	DIVISION	WON	LOST	POSITION
PREMIER		8	2	2
2	2	3	6	9
3	2	6	3	3
4	3	3	6	8
5	5	6	3	2
6	5	4	5	8
7	6	2	7	10
8	6	2	7	10

With the exception of the Premier Division, after Round 9 our Pennant results are shown above. As we can see, we have some excellent results and some very ordinary ones which, we hope, will show some improvement in the second half of the Pennant Rounds. As Michael (Wilks) keeps telling the bowlers, "It's still early in the Season, with a long way to go."

Congratulations to the Premier Side for their position on the ladder; also to Sides 3 and 5 for their positions. We, the Selectors, are asking our bowlers to look at the results that are gained by the practice that is put in by these sides. Please, show the same fighting spirit that these sides do and come to practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Practice will bring results.

We sincerely thank the ladies who have made themselves available to play on Saturdays. Their availability has been a big help in enabling us to field eight side each week.

We hope you all had a happy and safe Festive Season, a good rest, and that your batteries are recharged for a great second half.



Denese Brick

The VLBA Section's Pennant is progressing extremely well. Our sincere congratulations to the Fourth Side which, at the time of writing, remains unbeaten. This has been a wonderful effort; the entire Section commends you.

Of the other sides, Side 1 is in second position, one point behind Glen Waverley. Sides 2 and 3 are safely in the middle of their sections, and Side 5 is going along very nicely.

Our coaching sessions under the direction of Arnold O'Brien continue to be extremely popular, well attended, and of great benefit to the players.

I, and my fellow selectors, hope everyone had a pleasant Christmas and New Year break. We look forward to seeing you again on the greens shortly.

<p>Contact: Brian Rosengarten (B) 9578 6363 (H) 9557 6683</p>	<p>AUSTRALIA DAY FRIDAY 26 JANUARY MASADA & THE AVENUE</p>	<p>Morning tea: 9.45am/Roll up: 10.15am Lunch & afternoon tea to be served</p>
<p>~ MIXED FOURS CLASSIC ~</p>		

SPICKS AND SPECKS

Eliza Wake



Great to see Issy Picker back and bowling after a recent health scare. The Legionnaires cap has been sorely



The making of a ginger bread house for raffling purposes was a superb effort by Leila



Fantastic to see the 'Premier' boys and some of their family members using the Clubrooms after Thursday's prac-

Men's Roster



Week Ending
Sunday 14 Janu-

ary:

Neville Karro
Bill Cumming
Peter Barnett
Keith Efron
Solly Goldberg



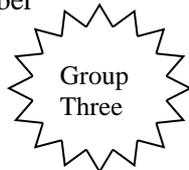
Nathan Frydman
Les Gerber
Phillip



Johns

Hipscher

Simon



Week Ending Sunday 21 January:

Ron Leigh
Morrie Jurberg

Julian Scelwyn

Peter Morley

Joe Magazzu

Arnold



Nadelman

David Weiner

James Williams



Week Ending Sunday 28 January:

Simon Nirens
Bruce Hall

Some members have requested a joke section in the Newsletter so, here goes.

Two platinum blondes were sitting on a St Kilda beach drinking Spritzers. As they watch a full moon transcend the night sky, one blonde turned to the other and asked,

"Which do you think is closer, Perth or the Moon?"

"Well hello," replied her friend, "Can you see Perth from here!"

The same two blondes stood on opposite banks of a meandering stream. The first yelled, "How do you get to the other side?"

"Well hello," came the reply, "You ARE on the other side."

Heard around the greens:

A 'Third' was being ticked off by a Skip for missing a relatively easy shot.

"Alright," said the player, "How SHOULD I have played it?"

"Under an assumed name," snapped the Skip.

The Captain of a Premier Division Side walked into the Clubrooms before a big game, looked over to his star player and said, "I'm not supposed to let you play since you failed Maths but, we really do need you with us. So, what I have to do is ask you an Arithmetic question and, if you get it right, you can play."

The gun player agreed and, as the Captain looked into his eyes, he directed, "Okay, concentrate hard and tell me the answer to this: What is two plus two?"

"Golf is a game in which you yell 'fore', shoot six and write down five." (Jerry Sein-

IN PROFILE: HAL LEVY

Paul Lambert



In 1929, Hal was born in New Zealand and migrated to Australia in 1930 where he spent his earliest years living in Sydney's Rose Bay-Dover Heights area.

As there was a Polio epidemic at the time, and the Second World War was looming, Hal's parents thoughtfully packed him off to Bowral, in the NSW Highlands. There, over a period of seven years, he completed his Primary education - at Sacred Heart boarding school - before returning to Sydney to attend Waverley Christian Brothers College.

Like so many of his generation, Hal used his *get out of jail free* card to leave school prior to Matriculation. Although hard times and adversity had brought about changes in his thinking and circumstances, Hal's one passion, sailing, remained constant.

In 1953, after a whirlwind courtship, Hal married, then introduced his wife, Ros, to both family life and a truck load of nautical terms then, between 1970-78, it was a case of 'Big Boys' Toys' when, under Hal's supervision, they built a yacht at Keysborough. In 1983 however, his joy in *running before the wind* came to an end. The boat was sold in Sydney, due in part to the discovery that, as a sailor, Ros made a better politician.

Not prepared to sit at home and twiddle their thumbs, the sport of lawn bowls entered the equation as a leisure pursuit. Both Hal and Ros first joined Caulfield Park Bowls Club well over twenty years ago; moved on to City of St Kilda, within arms length of Luna Park, then rode the tide of a merger with the McKinnon Bowls Club to the here and now.

Through his foresight, enthusiasm and willing involvement, Hal has, and still is, proving his worth as a well-respected and highly valued servant and member of bowls clubs, past and present.

Today, as Chairman of the Corporate Events Management Group he, and his Committee, are committed to ensuring that Glen Eira-McKinnon fulfills its potential for greatness: The Barefoot/Corporate Bowls; the Brown's School of Bridge; the McKinnon Secondary School Bowls Program, and the possible installation of a synthetic green indicate that this is starting to happen.

**"At this Club
there is so much
that can be done;
must be done,
and will be
done."**

"How we perform as individuals determines how we perform as a Club."



FROM DITCH TO DITCH

Haydan Trim



As we enter the Pennant break the greens remain in good condition. We have just gone through the driest start to a bowling season on record, and are coming up to a whole month without any rain recorded. This makes the job of a Greenkeeper extremely difficult with irrigation systems needing benign conditions to work at their optimum. So, please give us the courtesy of the use of the greens while we hand water as most of this work is done after hours.

“The team that wastes fewer bowls will invariably win.”

Stage Three water restrictions will be in place as from the middle of January, which means we can only use the irrigation system two nights per week, and hand water another two. This again makes our job more difficult but, we will manage.

I believe the Members are interested in installing a synthetic green. I think that can be a good alternative but, there are a few things to remember. They get very hot under foot; they **DO** need to be watered; they do need regular maintenance, and they run too quickly. There are some good tift dwarf couch greens around which use a fraction of the water bent grass greens use, and will run fast: we can dry them out more before they become drought affected.

I hope everyone had a good Festive Season and is enjoying the Pennant break.

RUSHTON REIGNS Harold Saffer/Guy Blay

“This is bloody awesome.....!” What a great way to describe the Barefoot and Corporate Bowls Program. Recently, it was terrific to see Daniel (Rushton) and twelve or so of his friends/acquaintances relaxing and having an enjoyable time as they mingled with the *regulars*. Well done, Daniel.

“This is bloody awesome, having a smoke and a beer while you’re playing the game!”

As to why (given that such a terrific set-up like BFC Bowls exists at the Club) the majority of us choose not to bring friends and family down for a ‘trundle’ and a bite to eat, defies all logic. When daylight saving and warm weather combine to provide glorious conditions, and there’s a chance for youngsters to exercise, what more is needed?

Thought to have potential as a Public Relations exercise, the 2006 finale for the Barefoot/Corporate Bowls was promoted as a *Meet the Members* night. The event proved an enormous success, thanks to the input of Guy Blay; Harold Saffer; Betty Marks; Thelma Meerkin, Fay Landau and Global Scientific (like Schwarzenegger, “They’ll be back!”)



PUSHING THE RIGHT BUTTONS

"Dare to be Different."

Harold Saffer

Recently the Club played host to fifty fun-loving and fully charged revellers from Sensis, the people responsible for compiling both the White and Yellow Page Telephone Directories.

After a short, interesting session of formal coaching and informal drinking, those involved adjourned for a lunch that consisted of a fully catered BBQ meal and further dealings with Al K. Hole.

Under the fierce afternoon sun, teams of four then took to the Number Two Green to bowl competitively. For some, the value of determining the correct bias, green, or weight, became increasingly insignificant as the pre-Christmas frivolity and festivities took affect.

Thanks to the teamwork of Sheila and Ron Leigh; Harold Saffer; Hal Levy; Noel Derrick; Thelma Meerkin, Inge Sommer and Fay Landau, the occasion was a terrific success, and rated highly on the enjoyment and satisfaction scale.



SECONDARY STUDENTS 'ON A ROLL'

Paul Lambert

Over a five week period, between twenty-four and twenty-eight Year 8 students have regularly frequented the Club greens as part of the McKinnon Secondary School's Alternative Sports Program.

During the first two weeks the introductory short coaching sessions were followed by games that relied on a 'hit and giggle' approach to reinforced the basic fundamentals of lawn bowls. Whilst weeks three and five focused on streamlining what the boys and girls had previously been taught, undoubtedly the highlight of the students' visits was the running of the inaugural Glenmac 'Commonwealth' Games, an event that showcased their co-operation, teamwork and emerging skills.

On Sunday 10 December, as a result of the School's involvement with the Club, four of twelve invited students attended an organized coaching session to meet with Michael (Wilks). Given that it was 37 degrees at 11.00am, and most of the children and their families had previous sporting and social commitments, this was a satisfactory result, especially as a couple of Dads also rolled up to 'send down a few'.

The enthusiastic and motivated involvement of Harold Saffer; Fay Landau; Guy Blay; Alan Faigen; Inge Sommer; Pat and Noel Derrick; Leila Levy; Oscar Zent, Beryl and Simon Nirens and David Nankin produced a very happy, positive and productive experience. Hopefully, our association with McKinnon can continue for, if developed properly, it promises to be a breeding ground for future talent and membership. Well done, folks!

A TRIPLES TREAT

PURPOSE MOTIVATES; TASKS ACCOMPLISH



Pat Derrick

Eleven teams entered the State Triples, seven of which were from Glen Eira - McKinnon. In the first round of Sectional play (at Moorabbin), our team, consisting of Pat McNeill (Skip), myself and Ann Sternfeld, played and lost a close game in a tie break to Maureen Cohen (Skip), Inge Sommer and Marcelle Karro. We then went on to defeat the ladies from Port Melbourne and St Kilda.

The following day, at Highett, an extremely good game was played in the Semi-Finals against another Glen Eira-McKinnon combination in Denese Brick (Skip); Gail Nadelman and Leila Levy (Lead).

Undoubtedly, the Star of the Show was Pat McNeill whose outstanding bowling helped produce a straight sets win. We then played and defeated Pam Morley (Skip), Jill Diamond and Faye Rubenstein to win the Group 16 Finals .

FOR YOUR DIARY

Please diarise the following events and give them your full support.

Sunday 7 January	'NO BIAS' BOWLS	10.00am - 12noon
Wednesday 17 January	BAREFOOT /CORPORATE BOWLS	6.00pm
Wednesday 24 January		
Wednesday 31 January		
SUNDAY 21 JANUARY	RVBA SECTION SINGLES FINAL	9.45am
SUNDAY 21 JANUARY	RVBA SECTION PAIRS FINAL	9.45am
Thursday 25 January	VLBA SECTION 'MINOR' FINAL	9.45am

PREMIER DIVISION

Robbyn People

Bill Gates, who apparently has something to do with a company called Microsoft, wrote, " People with a sense of significance do not operate from a position of weakness but from one of strength Their hearts are set on supporting and strengthening their leaders. They are united in their commitment to a singular purpose. They give of their best, not because the leader motivates them but, because they are inwardly motivated."

Of course Gates was writing about his 'Team' but, perhaps the remarks could also be said of our Top Side, after all, the boys do have a *sense of significance* (they play in the Premier Division); their hearts are set on *supporting and strengthening their leaders* (Michael, Brad and David); they are united in their commitment to *a single purpose* (The Premiership), and they're inwardly motivated to *give of their best* (enhancing ego, pride and elitism).

Within Microsoft, Leaders are challenged to inspire their 'Teams' to have: **vision** (see as one); **unity** (stick together as one); **friendships** (compatibility); **purpose** (have one aim); **celebration** (win as one); **openness** (communicate as one); **productivity** (be effective as one) and **encouragement** (act as one). Our Top Side ticks all these boxes, don't you think?

HOT TIPS FOR TEAM SUCCESS

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it’s the only thing.” Albert Schweitzer

John Snell: **Bowls In Focus**

Each of the following can be used as a ‘*Tip for the Day*’ prior to each game of Pennant. They will give you plenty to work on, and maybe you’ve a few of your own. Perhaps you have discovered a ‘gem’ that has arisen during conversation or when reading an article about sport or even business.

You will have identified your team’s strengths and weaknesses and can choose the appropriate tip in an endeavour to lift your team’s performance. It’s certainly worth a try!

*“If you’re not out there practicing, and someone else is, when you meet, **THEY** will win.” (Hafey)*

- **Affirmation**: Today I’m confident I’ll play well. From the time I step onto the green, everything I think and say will be positive. I’m going to **Relax** and **Enjoy** my game.
- **Positive Thinking**: Life’s battles don’t always go to the stronger or faster person but, sooner or later the people who win are those who think they can.
- **Practice**: “If you are not out there practicing, and someone else is, when you meet, **THEY** will win.” (Tom Hafey)
- **Focusing**: When it is your turn to bowl, focus **ONLY** on your preparation to play the shot called for. Erase all negativity from your mind and **FOCUS** on the shot at hand, and how to execute it.
- **Performance**: **To perform at your best, strive not to beat your opponent but rather yourself. For those who outperform themselves will ultimately outperform their opposition.** (Strive to play the best you have ever previously achieved, and don’t concern yourself with your opponent’s play)
- **Teamwork**: When one of our team across all rinks plays a good shot I’ll make sure he/she receives due recognition, and I’ll also ensure that our opponents hear my praise.
- **My Form**: *Remember*, If I relax and enjoy myself, I will play well - not - If I play well, I will relax and enjoy myself.
“Today, I will strive for rhythm of delivery. Once I have found my rhythm it means I have come to terms with the pace of the green and I can adjust to any length of jack.” (Glen Bosisto)
- **Follow Through**: If I am struggling to find line/length, look to my follow through.. Tension often restricts the natural flow of delivery, and rather than trying to think of half a dozen different things, concentrate on follow through. It will produce the goods.

‘EYES DOWN’: BINGO REPORT

Tony Ryan: **Ph. 9578 6716**

The Friday night Bingo has ceased for Year 2006 and will recommence on (Friday) 19 January. At this point-in-time however, a major issue requires **URGENT** attention.

A few of our staff have flagged a desire not to continue in the New Year.

In order to fill these vacancies, it is vitally important that volunteers step forward otherwise, this Club revenue raiser (approx \$5000 per year) cannot continue. If you can help, even on an occasional basis, please contact Tony Ryan during the Christmas/New Year break.

BETWEEN JACK AND MAT

Barb Dwyer

*"Whatever it takes,
only you can make it happen."*



In a very good exhibition of draw bowls, and as a result of thorough preparation, Leila Levy put in a convincing performance to win the Club's Ladies Singles Championship. By defeating Rosemary Michael in her Semi-Final, Leila earned the right to play Denese Brick (v Pam Morley) for a little slice of Club history. Congratulations on your success, Leila. Putting in the 'hard yards' certainly paid dividends.



With age being no barrier, there is an eighty-something year young Skip who is leading from the front with some fantastic Rink scores and individual performances. With recent 40/8 and 36/10 victories, the form whisper is, a spot in the Premier Division will soon be on offer. A top effort, Ivan. Well done!



On Sunday 17 December, the VLBA Section held its annual 'A' Invitation Day. In glorious conditions for bowling, ladies from Armadale; Edithvale; Mulgrave and Sandringham spent a few pleasant, relaxing hours of socialisation and friendly competition.

FROM THE TEAM MANAGERS

"We're not performing up to expectations. Consistency is our main problem, especially on the synthetic. In 2007 we'll lift, start performing as a unit and, hopefully, finish midfield if we get it together." (Ross Maver: Side 2/3)

"At the halfway point we're travelling well. The team's consistency has us second on the ladder at the moment. The first three sides are very even so, the second half of the season will tell." (David Weiner: Side 3/2)

"It's rather disheartening. Our rate of success has been very disappointing because, at various times, we've shown that we can compete with the best of them. Anyway, we can only play to improve in 2007 otherwise, it's relegation for us." (Harold Saffer: Side 4)

"The team is in 4th or 5th spot, about fifteen points from the leader. We're quite settled and, because of the excellent camaraderie and team spirit, we're playing well together. After the break the team will be looking for even further improvement." (Keith Klooger: Side 5)

"To the best of their ability, everyone in the team is putting in each week, and that's all you can ask.. If things go our way next year, we should finish in 5th or 6th Place." (Side 6)

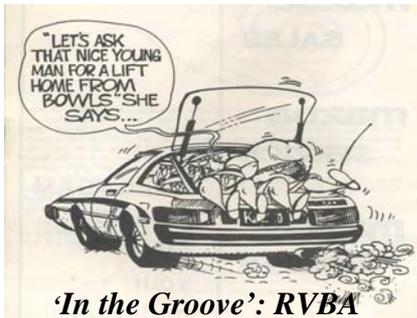
"If the kilometres we've travelled were money, we'd be filthy rich by now. We're not getting any younger, but we're all trying, and having fun." (From the team's bus driver: Side 7)

"It's a good team that plays well together. Usually our players remain the same but, if there are any shortages, the Side disappears." (Alan Faulks: Side 8)

JUST A PIECE OF CAKE

"There is room for improvement in all of us."

From a lady bowling in Men's Pennant



As I placed my two highly polished bowls on the Rink allocated to my Fifth Side Team, I heard behind me a deep voice exclaim, "Hey Fellas, we got a sheila today. This'll be a piece of cake; can't have a sheila beating us!" I pretended not to have heard until another opposition player, in a slightly louder voice, addressed me with, "Geezus Love, hope we don't have to watch the language with you around. Y' know, sometimes it's hard not to let fly."

I replied, "Don't worry, boys, I've heard it all before, and what's more I'm a bit deaf, or at least have selective hearing."

The game commenced and the battle was on, and despite a 20 Shot win by my team, I have to say I have never enjoyed a game of bowls as much as on this day. The fun; the laughter, and the acceptance of defeat with good humour made me realise what sport was all about. The four opposition players, whilst enjoying the mathematics and science of bowling, placed tremendous store in the social side of the competition.. If left me wondering if this was what good sportsmen and women were made of.

Another good day was recently had when we found ourselves struggling to get a 'score'. Halfway through the game an opposition player from the next Rink strode over, grabbed my arms and said, "Goord, Luv, I love your hair, and you're not a bad sort either; wish you were on my Rink. (Ed: Now **THAT'S** quality gamesmanship.) We all laughed as our spirits and the pace of the game lifted.

There are the bad times however, when the opponents are so serious and so 'anti-female inclusion' that they try to make life miserable. In these cases the standard comments are: "I don't pick up bowls even if you are a women," or "Why do you kick the bowls over to one side, leave them wherever they get kicked to." (As required in Ladies Pennant, if I did gather them to one side of the green, my unfriendly opponent would scatter them all over the back of the green.) Very quickly I have learned that if I put a bowl down that displaces my opponents, it's best to walk swiftly to the bank - without high fives, and not listen to negative or derogatory comments such as, "Why don't you go back to where you came from and bowl with the women."

However, most of the men that I have played with and against have been delightful and have treated me no differently than they would if we were having a social game. I have no doubt that it would be more preferable and acceptable to have separate Men's and Ladies Competitions. But that's the past: The future will be Mixed, and while I do not wish to bowl for the men, if it means that someone is left without a game, I'd love to continue to help out.



SHARING OWNERSHIP OF A VISION

Ida & Bob Down



“ When people take ownership of our vision, this Club becomes more effective.” (Rod Butters: StKFC)

With a mentality of single ownership, people are not **decisive** and **action-orientated**. Instead they are waiting for the next set of instructions and rules to come down from the top, like buffalo.

As buffalo are committed to one leader, they stand around motionless until 'The Chief' shows them what to do. When the leader is not present, they stand around waiting for him to show up. (The early American Indians were able to wipe out entire herds of buffalo by killing the leader (you're safe Judith and Dennis), leaving the rest without direction and, therefore, easy prey.)

In contrast, geese provide a living illustration of *Shared Leadership*. Have you ever noticed the flight pattern of geese? They fly in a 'V' formation because, as research has shown, as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately behind it. By flying in this formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone so, it quickly returns to the formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. When the lead goose becomes tired, he rotates back in the formation and another takes his place. The geese continually honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed and, should one of their number leave the formation for any reason whatsoever, two other geese will also fall out of formation to help out.

As a Club with a vision (inc. survival and growth), we can learn a great deal from a flock of silly geese:

- People who have a **common direction** and a **sense of community** (togetherness) get where they're going more **quickly** and **easily** because they're travelling in one another's slip stream.
- If we have as much sense as a goose, we will **stay in formation**, and so will those who are headed the same way we are.
- It pays to **take turns** at the **hard jobs**.
- If we honk from behind, make sure its **encouraging**.
- We will **stand by each other**, if we have the sense of a goose.

It doesn't take much to determine whether you're in 'Buffalo' or 'Geese' mode. If it's the latter, don the gloves, pick up the secateurs and, whether you're part of the Men's or Ladies Section, join the 'V' (gardening) formation started by Lenny Rosenblatt; Keith Efron, Noel Derrick and Issy Picker.

To loosely quote the late John F. Kennedy, *“Ask not what your Bowls Club can do for you, but what you can do for your Bowls Club.”*