



Morrison Avenue Bowling Club Inc Newsletter February 2025

Canterbury Club of the Year 2021-2022

Message from our President

Dear Members

I am actually hoping you have time to read this newsletter amongst such a busy bowling period. With championship games, interclub, centre events, Business House and other tournaments it is pretty hard to find time these days for anything else! Great to see everyone participating and enjoying summer whilst it lasts.

The best news this month is the reopening of Ferguson green and doesn't it look fantastic as well as being a lovely surface to play on. Steve Street and Terry Stewart have worked tirelessly, with Harley assisting, and we are very grateful to have their depth of knowledge to be able to achieve this result in less than two months. The green is playing well so not too many excuses now for a stray bowl!

The Ladies Open Tournament was held last Friday with 14 outside teams participating alongside our own teams – 22 teams in all. Organising this tournament, with a Valentines Day theme, a glass of bubbles and high afternoon tea and over 40 raffles is no mean feat so a huge debt of gratitude goes to our ladies' match committee comprised of Polly Looker, Pauline Low and Marilyn Trent and special thanks to all other essential helpers who also made this day such a success. Thank you also to Summerset on Cavendish for the sponsorship of this tournament. We were also very pleased to have Gabby Waldron, Sales Manager in attendance for afternoon tea and to present the prizes.

I wish any of our members participating in the Nationals in a couple of weeks the very best of luck and I am sure many of us will be watching plenty of games. As you are probably aware we are not hosting the Nationals this year but will certainly be putting our name in the hat for next year.

Kind regards

Trish

Greens & Grounds Report

As all of you would have seen there has been an enormous amount of work done on the Ferguson Green. The overall surface really responded well to the remedial work and it is now ready to use. The plinth board has been raised giving a much better edge to the green. The permanent marking machine was used to put a line at 2 metres right around the green and 8 rinks running north and south have been marked. These only need touching up every 6 - 8 weeks which is going to save a lot of time and the backs of some members. (See photo below)

Now work will commence on the Hughes Green with the intention to bring it up to the same level. We must thank Steve Street and Terry Stewart for their work on this project. We all know that bowling clubs live and die on the quality of their greens. With all this work Morrison Avenue Bowling Club can be proud of their greens and be included with the best in Canterbury.

The grounds continue to receive plenty of attention and this month we must thank Warren Hastings for his work in tidying up the carpark garden. Warren has been using some impressive rocks to improve the look of our gardens and this has added to the appeal of what is a difficult area to keep tidy. He was ably helped by Bernie Fahey who provided the firepower to trim all the trees and shrubs.

Open Triples Tournament Friday 28 February

This month we will have 2 greens available so Maggie Howard would like a big turnout from our club members. Maggie would like those wishing to play to let her know either by email or text. (**Mobile** 01202376354 - **Email** howardmargaret125@gmail.com). It makes it much easier if teams or individuals who are not currently in a team to let her know their availability. Let's make Maggie's job easier with a big turnout and communicating with her our availability.

Club Snippets

Grippe & Troucha Spray - These are now available from the bar.

Kitchen - Many thanks to those members who take home the tea towels and bring them back clean and ready for another round. Just one of the many jobs that get done without a lot of fanfare.

Club Library - Our Librarian Jeanette Brant would like to thank all those that drop off books and puzzles. We have a great selection of both so make sure you look through what is on offer, you will find a book to read and it's free. Jeanette keeps an eye on the books and when the stock exceeds the storage space she makes a selection of books to donate to a charity book shop. So by using this service you are entertaining yourself and at the end of the day helping a charity.

Special Birthday Celebration - Alf Skinner one of our long serving and notable members is turning 90 years young on **Sunday February 23** and the club has organised a celebration in the club rooms from 4.00pm until 6.00pm. All welcome, please write your name on the notice board for catering purposes.

Business House 2025 Edition

This is off to a great start with 26 teams (104 players, 80 of them non-bowlers) playing each week and enjoying our great game of bowls. The vibe is infectious, everyone mixes so well and the standard of bowls is very good. The noise in the club rooms for prize giving is very loud and obviously shows that everyone has had a great night. Supper is always appreciated and of course the bar does a roaring trade.

The new programme recently installed for recording the results is proving to be very successful and is saving the organisers a lot of time. The results are shown on screens in the club and downloaded to the club's website for all competitors to view. We must thank Ian McPherson for installing this software and tabulating the results each night.

The lucky team nightly draws provided by Eat18r with 4 of their delicious meals and Meat at Millers with the latest speciality sausages are keenly sort after and we thank them for their support. Each week CMG Motors display a new car for all to admire and hopefully purchase from their dealership. We were spoilt with the latest one, an electric convertible from MG called the Cyberster. This car can reach 100kph in 3 seconds so you will need to hang on to your hats. Thanks to all our sponsors which include SBS Bank for providing the prize money.

Due to the Summerset Nationals being played in Christchurch there will be **no bowls on Wednesday 26 February** and **finals night** will be on **Wednesday 5 March** when rounds 11 & 12 will be played. The finals format is different this year with no playoffs but the winner decided at the end of round robin play.

Of course none of this would happen without a superb team led by Margaret Shields who has put on this event for many years. Thanks Margaret and the rest of your fantastic helpers.

Club Championships

These are progressing well but we must be vigilant with the Champion of Champions events not too far away. The club wants as many teams as possible in the C of C's to make sure Morrison Ave is represented at a provincial level and perhaps higher. There have been a number of interesting results particularly in the men's competitions where several surprise results have occurred.

I was fortunate to mark one epic singles between Murray Wigley and Barry Doherty. This was late on a Friday afternoon when both men would rather have been sitting in the bar having a drink. The score progressed in ones for many ends and neither could get an advantage on the other. However, Murray edged slightly ahead but Barry fought back and after 31 ends the score was level on 20 all. On the final and 32 end, after 2¾ hours Murray finally nailed that last shot to win the game. This was hard fought game between 2 of our senior members, congratulations to both for a fantastic game. (See photo below.)

The first **C of C's is the Fours on Sunday 9 March** with all the other disciplines following on at regular intervals. Check the club draw sheets for the exact dates.

