



THE UPSHOT



Official organ of Blackburn North Bowling Club Inc.

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DECLARE THE HEAD

Michael McMAHON
President

On July 10th the Club held the inaugural ERN MINETT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT. This was an outstanding success, with nearly every bowling member participating. This will become an annual event, but we will look at holding it a little earlier or later in the year to have warmer weather. Particular thanks to all those who assisted in the organization, a great team effort.



We also took the opportunity to present the Club Championship trophies for the last two years, which had been delayed due to Covid. Congratulations to all winners.



Social bowls on Wednesday and Saturday have been very successful with up to 40 players participating. Apart from our traditional partnership with MITCHAM, we have once again had BOX HILL RSL joining in with us as well.

Our coaches BILL LETCH, RICHARD LOVETT and JOHN BLASETTI have been hosting members of the NUNAWADING U3A on a Thursday afternoon. This has been an outstanding success with 5 new members coming from the initial group.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 lockdowns have been detrimental to Club finances. Apart from deferring social bowls we have had to cancel several bookings for outside hall hire.

The Committee has made the decision to paint the exterior of the Club House, and this will commence when the weather is suitable.

The 2021/2 Weekend Pennant season commences on Saturday 16th October, and the Club will once again field one 16-player side and one 12-player side. Midweek Pennant resumes on the following Tuesday 19th October, with the Club fielding two 12-player sides.

ROLL UP

- ⚡ Elinor MORISON is slowly recovering from a very nasty fall and recently celebrated her 90th birthday.
- ⚡ Bob RYAN has not yet recovered from a shoulder injury and will most likely require an operation in the near future.
- ⚡ Rudi FAULWETTER is slowly recovering from a shoulder injury.

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Ted BARRY
Treasurer

DOLLAR\$ AND \$ENSE

For many businesses, large and small, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a financial disaster. The major portion of a bowls club's income is derived from membership fees and the use of the club's facilities for bowls related activities. Predictably, it follows that the many lockdowns experienced since March 2000 have had an adverse effect on income reaped from the bar, functions, raffles, green fees, barefoot and social bowls and outside hall hire. Thanks to some careful management, generous grants from the Bendigo Bank, some fortuitous credits and assistance from Bowls Victoria, Vic Sport and Whitehorse City Council, our Club has so far emerged in reasonably good shape.

Thanks to our Club's dedicated band of wonderful volunteers, a large number of the tasks required to keep our bowling Club functioning do not affect our overhead expense. But we have had to face some problems due to ageing equipment that could not be ignored. In recent times we have acquired new bowls rakes, a new drinking fountain, a new dishwasher and we have replaced cups and saucers with mugs. All these investments serve to enhance the bowls experience for members. More will be done in the future.

For 2021/2 the club is investing in a major project of painting the exterior of the clubhouse at a cost of almost \$16,000. This will surely lift the appearance of our Club to the general public and members alike. Subject to the vagaries of COVID-19 we urge all our members to fully support all Club activities in the coming year to maximise our income opportunities.

Finally, let us all work together to make Blackburn North Bowling Club a Club with a future.



ON THE MAT

a chat with ...

Derek MINTER



? How long have you been a member of the Club?

• It's been either 10 or 11 years, I just forget which year I started.

? In that time, have there been any notable achievements?

• Yes, one year I was runner-up to Billy LETCH in the Club championship. He led all day, but I managed to stay with him. He ended up winning by a couple of shots despite my last 4 bowls finishing up metres behind the jack.

? Have you participated in any other sports?

• I grew up in East Malvern, which was outer-suburban back then. I've always been a sportsman, playing cricket and baseball. I started playing cricket with the Murrumbeena Church Of England Boys Society as a 13yo batsman, eventually moving up through the grades to play in sub-district and district games. At St Kilda Seconds I won the batting trophy one year and played games in the Firsts as well. In those days cricketers played baseball in the off-season, and a family member encouraged me to take it up. I probably had more success with baseball than cricket. In 1947 I was a member of the Victorian Junior Baseball team, captain thereof in 1948, and selected in the nominal Australian Junior team that year. In subsequent years I played baseball for Prahran as a reasonable 1st baseman/batter and was elevated to the Victorian State Squad. Later while at Melbourne University my appetite for sporting pursuits waned, as the Uni mandated students to turn out for their lowly ranked teams, rather than join external clubs in higher comps.

? What was your line of work?

• Whilst working at the Melbourne Herald as a clerical assistant, an historic rise in the basic wage for trainee teachers drew me into Education. At Melbourne University I completed a Bachelor Of Arts, degree and Bachelor of Education, whilst holding various teaching positions. Eventually I spent 11 years at Ballarat Teachers College in Social Science and Education. For 20 subsequent years I held the position of Principal at a variety of socio-economic schools in suburbs around Melbourne. At Richmond West Primary School in Lennox Street Richmond, the student body consisted of children from multi-cultural migrant families, mainly from Turkish, Vietnamese and Chinese backgrounds, living in the local 20-storey Housing Commission flats. In my first year as Principal, Richmond West was Victoria's largest ethnic school with over 550 students from 23 nationalities, 92% of whom came from non-English speaking backgrounds. Because of this, the school qualified for staffing ratios well above regular schools, so classes were run by multiple teachers speaking in different languages. I've never known a teaching body to work as hard as the group at Richmond West.

? When did you meet your wife Valerie?

• We met at Teachers College and went together for 4 1/2 years before marrying in 1956. We remained together until July 2020 when I lost her to illness.

? I believe you also worked overseas.

• Thanks to an existing International Teacher Exchange program, Valerie and I were fortunate enough to be posted to positions in both the UK and the USA. I believe our children benefited from the diversity of education systems they experienced.

? You also have a yen for carpentry.

• I'm more or less self-taught. In the family we were always encouraged to be hands-on with tools and such,

and I developed an interest in woodwork early on. I tend to make quite a variety of things, and got to the stage where I'd rather build an item than buy it. In fact, during lockdown I've been camped in my workshop using a wood lathe fulltime.

? How long have you been involved in running the Wednesday bowls?

• Ron FAULKNER roped me in during my first year at the Club. He reckoned it was a good way to learn the requirements of each position in the team, and for allocating the best qualified player to each role. Initially I assisted Geoff HENSHAW who later died, leaving me on my 'Pat Malone'. Ray RANDALL had been organising the Wednesday summer bowls, so we put our heads together and agreed to run the Wednesday bowls together year-round.

? Do you consider being left-handed to be an advantage?

• I don't know whether it's an advantage or a disadvantage. I've not studied bowling techniques, although perhaps I should have (laughter). In cricket and baseball I did apply scientific analysis, but bowls is about the only game I've never been a bloody nervous starter in (more laughter).

? Many of us are saddled with nicknames. Do you object to "DECCA"?

• Not at all, I've had a few nicknames. As a junior, I took some slick catches fielding at 'point' and in the 'gully'. So my teammates started calling me "Cyril", after Cyril WASHBROOK, an opening batsman for Lancashire and England who regularly snapped up 'blindners' while fielding in those same positions. Later on, when playing for Wendouree, my nickname was "Claw".

? Do you have a sporting hero?

• I greatly admire Keith MILLER, renowned Australian all-rounder and RAAF pilot. A famous quote of his resonates strongly with me ...

"I'll tell you what pressure is. Pressure is a Messerschmitt up your arse. Playing cricket is not."

? The 'Minter' name is famous within tennis circles. Does sporting talent run in the family?

• Within my family we have 2 internal 'boasts'. Firstly, all 6 members hold 1 or more University degrees, with a Doctorate amongst the group. Secondly, each member has participated in junior/senior sport at either a national or an international level. Val represented Victoria in tennis. Andrew, our eldest, followed in my cricketing footsteps. All our daughters played tennis. Jenny represented Victoria as a junior. Elizabeth won the US Junior Championship in 1983 and represented Australia at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Anne twice reached the quarter finals at Wimbledon and represented Australia at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

? Do you recall any funny incidents whilst playing sport?

• One day whilst playing cricket for Wendouree against Brown Hill I was batting well and reached a century. I was facing a bowler with a reputation for mischievous tactics. Frustrated no end, his next delivery was an underarm 'skidder' along the old malthoid wicket. I promptly drove the ball for a comfortable 2 runs. As I jogged to the non-strikers end, the bowler wilfully blocked my path. I promptly slammed the toe of my bat onto his foot, and vociferously warned him to never bowl me a 'dribbler' again. As I ran back to the strikers end to complete the second run, I felt a thump on my back. The bowler had chased me back up the pitch and given me a whack. Subsequently we were both reported and called up before the tribunal. Luckily, we both managed to get off on a technicality because the umpire had failed to declare a 'no ball' when the scuffle began. Despite the altercation, I did remain mates with the bowler.

WRONG BIAS !

Would you care to repeat that?

- a. The bandage was wound around the wound.
- b. The farmlands were used to produce produce.
- c. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- d. We must polish the Polish furniture.
- e. He could lead if he would get the Lead out.
- f. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- g. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- h. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- i. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- j. I did not object to that object.
- k. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- l. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- m. They were too close to the door to close it.
- n. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- o. A seamstress and a sewer tripped and fell into a sewer line.
- p. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- q. The wind was too weak to wind the sails of the mill.
- r. Upon seeing the tear in the painting, I shed a tear.
- s. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- t. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

PUT IT IN YOUR POCKET

Indoor bowls is being conducted every Monday at 1:30pm, with a nucleus of approximately 10 players who thoroughly enjoy themselves under the care of Shirley RISSTROM. Many thanks to Graeme MOORE for laying out the mats each week.

The Club extends a warm 'welcome' to our newest members ...

- ☺ Patricia LUYTERS
- ☺ Stephen MA
- ☺ Rosy LAW
- ☺ Ernie STANNER
- ☺ Liz WILHELM

and a hearty 'welcome back' to Andrew LINFORD's mentor, pappa John.

TICKLE THE KITTY

Members are encouraged to support the below sponsors whose contributions have facilitated our Club's activities this year.

- ℞ BENDIGO BANK
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