

Winter Bowls

Our Winter Bowls programme has been under way for a month now and there is still a limit to the number of players we can accommodate for our weekly triples galas. In a few more weeks though we will have two greens available for play and the restrictions in numbers will be a thing of the past. Progress on the new Tiger Turf green has been quite rapid thanks to the largely uninterrupted spell of dry weather throughout June and we can expect to be able to play on it sometime in July. Hopefully the pundits are correct and we will continue to enjoy a mild winter.

In the meantime our 116th AGM has been held and it is great to see a few new names coming forward to serve on the Executive, Match Committee and as club Selectors.

Our playing numbers continue to grow with a number of experienced players joining our ranks - especially newcomers to Speldhurst.

Your Elected Leaders for 2023-24

Patron	Margaret Griffin
President	Les Galloway
Vice President	Brian Cooper
Secretary	Grahame Law
Treasurer	Dave Grigg
	Chris Hogan
Executive Members	Liz Galloway
	Kay Lahman
	Jim Winter
Match Committee (Convenor)	Julie Stichbury
	Norman Annand
	Pat Brown
	Bill Clelland
	Wayne Judd
	Duncan Mann
	Wendy Whitelaw
Club Captains	
Women	Bronwyn McMahon
Men	Brian Cooper
Selectors	
Women	Chloe Eastham
	Kay Hogan
Men	Bill Clelland
	Neville Turnbull



Coming Events

July

- Wed 05 **Triples Gala**
- Sat 08 **Mixed Balloted 2 x 4 x 2 Pairs qual.**
- Sun 09 **Mixed Balloted 2 x 4 x 2 Pairs p / s**
- Wed 12 **Triples Gala**
- Wed 19 **Triples Gala**
- Wed 26 **Triples Gala**
- Sun 30 **2 x 4 x Pairs Gala**

Club days on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 1.15 pm.

Club Champions

Year 1 & 2 Singles

Brett Connell

Mixed Triples

Grahame Law (s), Bill Clelland & Bella Law



Brett

New Members

*Please welcome **Bob Liddall** (from Waikanae) **Graham Stevens** (Raumati), **Glynn Davies** (Central) and first year bowler **Wells Scadden**.*

Progress on our New Green

Work on our new *Tigerweave* carpet green is progressing as fast as the weather allows. This is the same product that is in use on the new greens at Otaki and Raumati. Work has been under way for some time and despite lots of rain significant progress has been made. The sub-committee of President Les, Green Superintendent Arne, Vice President Stuart and Secretary Grahame have been responsible for the planning, fund-raising and overseeing of the project.



A couple of rinks gone already.



A day of rest for the digger but about half the green gone now.



Not much green left now. Gone tomorrow?



The soil has gone, the base course is complete and levelling and rolling continues.

Funding such a large project for our club would not have been possible without the very generous funder - the One Foundation, with a smaller amount of funding from Pelorus Trust and the Aotearoa Gaming Trust. Our club owes a great deal of thanks to these charitable trusts. And, well done Grants Manager Grahame Law.



A cut has been made through the concrete between the two greens and a large deep hole dug for a submersible pump. The pump is to drain the water from the new green through the Dales green drainage system into the large holding pits under the old petanque pistes by the roadside has been installed (under the orange cone). Parts of the new plinth boards are visible here.



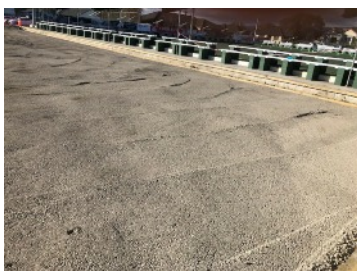
Much of the network of drains has been laid and large piles of gravel are in place ready to be spread to create the next layer of the base.



More material is added and levelled



The laser level



Finer gravel and finished plinth boards



Illegal activity inside? No, just a problem with window reflections affecting the laser leveller.



The final layer of sand is laid and levelled.



Hand levelling work to be done



Mixing the adhesive brew for spraying on the levelled surface



Spraying on the adhesive mix



Total coverage now



Rolls of waiting underlay



Most of the underlay is down ready for the carpet to be laid

Opinion: Two Seasons - or One?

Very soon we will have two carpet greens. This means, barring the totally unexpected, we will always have two greens available for play. Up until the era of artificial greens began in the 1990's virtually all bowlers packed their gear away for the winter months and re-emerged in September. So we had an 'Opening Day' and a 'Closing Day'. That's the way bowling clubs worked. There are still a couple within a few kilometres of here which operate in that way. But is this concept part of our history now? I wonder why we shouldn't just operate seamlessly throughout the year? We bowl all year round? Should our administrative structure recognize that?

I've had a bit of time to do some numbers. Our 'summer' season has 235 calendar days and we have organized play at our club on 140 of them, plus there are around 35 more where our members could be playing elsewhere as individuals in events at other clubs or in club teams - Interclub, Pennants and all those other events. We also have organized play on 59 (64%) of the 92 possible days this 'winter' season, so a total of 199 playing days at our club, or 55 % of the possible days when bowls could be played. Winter is busier than summer!

This makes us easily the busiest club in the centre, and the club where the Match Committee shoulders the biggest load. Fortunately members still put their names forward for office. Perhaps now it is time to think about some re-structuring of our programme and of the administrative model and roles we operate on which was designed for a club with a 7 - 8 month season. Is it not time to revise our Constitution and management processes?

Down Memory Lane

I joined this club in time for the 2000 - 01 season after about six seasons at Central where I was coaxed into playing by my good mate **Barry Cross**, after I retired playing club cricket aged about 52. At that time Barry and his good friend **Neville Turnbull** were two of the top players in the centre with a number of centre singles and pairs titles between them. In my first season I was invited to join Neville's triples and four teams, along with Barry and **Jim Hamer** and we won both club titles that season.

Anyway in the process of downsizing from our large house and I have been throwing away a lot of stuff I have collected over the years. Among the things I came across in my office was the club handbook for the 1999 - 2000 season. It was interesting to have a look at the membership at that time. There were 90 Playing members, 4 Associate members and 17 Social members making a total of 111. Today I think the total is around 130. Looking through the list I found that there were only 10 names of people who are still part of the club. Only two of the members are still full playing members of the club - **Brian Cooper** and **Neville Turnbull**, while **Margaret Griffin** and **Wynne Bullen** are non-playing Life members, **Celia Stewart** is an Honorary member, **Marie Anstis** is a very occasional player, **Paul Skilton** is an Associate member and now president of the Hokowhitu club, and **Robin Barrie** and **Sharon Turnbull** are Social members.

There are a few people who play in other places like **Wendy Mitchell** in the Wairarapa, **Bernie** and **Carole Rose** in Queensland, and a few retired players like **Carrell Knight** and **Doris Thorn** who still live in the area, but there are well over 50 who have passed away over the past 22 years.

Ken



So where do old cotula greens go to rest? A few truckloads of ours have found a new home at Bronwyn's. Hope Wayne didn't leave too many straighteners there when he spread the soil.

Champion of Champions Congratulations!

Junior Women's Singles: **Winner Elisabeth Glinkowska** - a great result for Elisabeth.

Junior Men's Singles: **Semi-finalist Richard Cowles** - semi-finalist

Men's Pairs: **Arne Jansson & Graeme Mathie** - runners-up

Puzzles

The May photo of Trevor and a much taller person did not get one correct response.



The answer is that Trevor was down in Wellington for the cricket - the second test match against England at the Basin Reserve. His mate in the photo was past England captain and BBC commentator David Gower.



Smoko time for the green team. These northerners like our warm, fine winter weather.

Ken Hayward Editor