



Playford Bowling Club Inc.

PO Box 34 Elizabeth SA 5112

January Newsletter

President's Report

Happy New Year to all members – hope you had a safe and enjoyable festive season. Let's now turn our attention to the second half of the pennant season with renewed enthusiasm and get as many sides in the finals as possible.

Those who came to the Christmas party had an enjoyable lunch and afternoon. We were grateful to our patron Marilyn Baker and her hubby Gary for their attendance. Marilyn supports so many clubs and community groups one way or another that her diary must be crazy in the lead up to Christmas, but she always joins us for our final function each year. About 70 gifts had been placed under our tree, which Marilyn and Gary took away to deliver to those in less fortunate circumstances.

One of the things that I'm proudest about is the fantastic volunteer culture within our club. That more than 20 members would turn out in the middle of the festive season to help at a working bee to spruce up the club before the MBA's Friendship tournament was a magnificent effort. The club looked fantastic for the big event, thanks to the efforts of the following:

Andrew Walker, Andy Crawford, Tony Partridge, Steve Attridge, Sue Attridge, Mardi Johnston, Tony Johnston, Sheryll Kendall, Doug Kendall, Ann-Marie Eckert, Craig Eckert, Terry Bettens, Dave Higgins, Andy Thompson, Trevor Matthews, Colin McGregor, Ingrid Scholefield, Ron Slager, Gavin Wood, Peter Coombs, Don Harris, Bernie Heine, Lyn Ruddock, Gary Wilson.

The tournament itself was a big success with 25 clubs represented and Port Noarlunga winning the day. We are appreciative of the opportunity to host this annual event on behalf of MBA, but could not have done so without the involvement of many members. The greens team under Ron Slager's leadership had scarified all the "blues" in readiness, Dave Turner was umpire for the day, Andy C and Tony ran the bar and Marian had a busy day selling the raffle tickets. The stars of the volunteer show were the members of our kitchen team - Mardi, Sheryll, Mari, Ann-Mari, Lyn and Tanya managed to feed about 120 people with minimum fuss. Thanks to everyone involved.

Very recently we have been advised that our club has been nominated for the City of Playford Local Citizen Awards. These awards recognize individuals and clubs who have made a contribution to the Playford Community. It is a pleasing acknowledgement of the board's policy of strengthening links with our local community. We are fortunate to be able to enjoy our sport at a financially secure club located within a world-class facility. It is our responsibility (and privilege) to help various community groups however we can. We are growing into a club of which we – and our sponsors – can be proud.

Steve Attridge

Ladies' Prestige Medley Finals

We are delighted to have been approached by Bowls SA with an invitation to host the 2025 Ladies' Prestige Medley Finals at the end of March. Twelve regional teams from around the state will feature the state's top women bowlers, while the corresponding event for men will be held elsewhere on the same weekend. After competition on Saturday and then Sunday morning, the finalists play off for the trophy on Sunday afternoon.

These finals used to be put out to tender, with clubs bidding for the right to host such prestigious events on the state bowls calendar. However last year and now this, we have been contacted directly by Bowls SA with an invitation to stage the event. Previous feedback indicates that the ladies enjoy bowling here and appreciate the welcome they receive.

Hosting these finals for 4 consecutive years is a fantastic endorsement of our club's capacity to host a major tournament and helps to establish our reputation with the state bowling community. It is a testament to the efforts of so many volunteers over the years.

Personnel changes

After 20 years of helping with / running the Thursday evening bingo sessions at CDFC, Ingrid Scholefield is retiring at the end of January. Many thanks Ingrid - what a fantastic contribution to our club - and one of the reasons that she is a Life Member! Thanks also to Rita Hams, who is retiring after 5 years as part of the bingo team.

Given how critical the bingo income is to our club's finances, it is a great relief that Tony Partridge, another integral member of the team, has agreed to take over Ingrid's responsibilities. Tony has just resigned from his role as joint barman so that he can play pennants on Saturdays. We owe Tony a huge debt of thanks in both contexts.

Andy Crawford will now have sole responsibility for running the bar.

Sponsors

In December we sent our sponsors a courtesy letter advising that invoices for the 2025 calendar year would be sent out in January and asking whether they were happy to continue with their support of our club. We are most grateful that all sponsors decided to stay with us for another year, with a couple enquiring about expanding their level of support.

Sponsorship should be mutually beneficial to both sides and so we again ask that members use and recommend our sponsors whenever possible. They are –

Mitsubishi (Salisbury Highway) – for new Mitsubishi / Haval vehicles or quality used cars

Lee Odenwalder and Matt Burnell – State and Federal MPs for any community issues

Amazing Green Technology – for enquiries re solar panels and batteries

Smithfield and Elizabeth Funeral Services – compassionate attention in the most difficult of circumstances

Kevin Hodges Real Estate – for house sales / purchases or property management

ESJ Installations – for queries re sale or repair of roller shutters and blinds

Specsavers Elizabeth – for great deals on spectacles or hearing aids

Rotary – charity which performs valuable work within the Playford community

Timber Art – for all enquiries about trophies and signs

8 badges

Members of the best-performing rink each week (over the Sat – Wed – Thurs cycle) each receive a Playford commemorative glass. At the other extreme, one of our rinks recently suffered a 72-1 loss. Dave Turner suggested that we should find out which bowler scored the one shot and give them a beer, but the board has decided to go one better.

Despite playing with only 3 against 4 on a very slow surface and despite the ever-worsening scoreboard, our members continued to play in a sporting fashion throughout, for which they deserve great credit. It's easy to be cheerful and gracious when winning – not so easy when getting thumped! For their display of sportsmanship the board decided that the 3 guys concerned should be given a Playford glass – see Sue Armstrong fellas, and well done!

(Note – this is a once-off and is not to be taken as a strategy for acquiring a glass!).

Miscellaneous

Another farewell - Gloria Yesberg is hanging up her bowls after 47 seasons on the greens with Elizabeth and Playford bowling clubs. Gloria was awarded Life Membership for her many and varied contributions to both clubs and we'll miss her cheerful disposition. We wish her well as she enters the Eldercare nursing home at Evanston Park and hope she'll return for visits in the months ahead. Anyone who would like to attend a farewell lunch for Gloria can add his/her name to the sheet by the office noticeboard.

Measurer's course - Thanks to those members who volunteered to do a Measurer's Course, which will be run at the club. We are just waiting to be given a date by Bowls SA.

Help needed #1 - We are sometimes short of people to help with coaching of students during school visits and a few more volunteers would be most welcome. It might only involve a couple of hours once a month but it would be necessary to complete an on-line application for a Working with Children clearance (with which we can help). Please see Sue Armstrong if you are willing to help.

Help needed #2 – We also need some new volunteers to join the team running the Thursday evening bingo sessions at CDFC. If you would be willing to join a roster to work every second or third week from 5:30 – 8pm, selling bingo tickets and cards, please see Tony Partridge.

March 8th – is the final Saturday of the regular pennant season and Tony Johnston is arranging another pizza (and chicken wings) session starting at 5:30pm. This is to be funded by the sale of lucky squares cards so if you plan to attend make sure you contribute a few dollars when he comes around with the cards. The club will put on a Happy Hour from 5:30 – 7pm.

The board is always happy to receive constructive suggestions for improvements at our club. On Craig Keeley's suggestion a **Suggestion Box** will be available in the office and opened just before each month's board meeting. In particular, members who have joined us from other clubs might be able to suggest things that worked well at their previous clubs and could be of benefit to us. Suggestions must be signed, so that further details can be sought if the idea is deemed to have merit. Unsigned notes will not be considered.