



221st Edition

The Bee Express

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www.bowlsbirkenhead.co.nz

The Birkenhead Bowling Club

Wednesday, 6 May 2020



AGM 2020 Is Coming.....

50 Days Without a Cent

Today marks 44 days of no trade, not a single dollar into the Club, yet the bills still have to be paid.

It took two days under Level 3 to mothball the Club for Level 4 and it is going to take over a week to get us back to an operational standard and to comply with Level 2 restrictions, which at the time of going to print are only assumed.

Tuesday 12 May will possibly be the first day of Level 2, if the Government doesn't extend Level 3. If this is so, the Club will be back in operation from 3.30pm Wednesday 13 May, that will mean the Club has done 50 days of no trade!

Level 2 will come with restrictions, a few are:

- Entry to the Club is Birkenhead Bowling Club Members only and all must fill in the "Contact Tracing Log" on entering and then your exit time on the way out. Total numbers at any one time in the Club will be limited.
- No guests, visitors, children (all reciprocal visiting rights with other clubs suspended)
- Social distancing is to be observed.
- Members Draws, Joker 500, Happy Hours and Friday Raffles are all on hold.
- Tables and seating has been reconfigured to meet government social distancing. Tables are not to be moved and limited to four seats/stools per table.
- The kitchen is closed
- The downstairs area of the Club (Wrong Bias Bar and toilets) is closed.
- The Gaming Lounge is only two players at a time and no spectators

But let us work with the restrictions and get back to enjoying the Club, a cold drink and a chat with club mates.

CoC Moved

Bowling programmes throughout the country took a hit from late March with the remainder of the summer season basically wiped out

So events have been reprogrammed and the BNH Centre Champ of Champs is one such event. The new dates, and the bonus is the Singles Junior and Open have been scheduled on separate weekends. Much to the delight of Birkenhead's Milika Nathan, who previously had to choose between the Women's Junior Singles or the Women's Open Singles, now gets the honour of representing the Club in both.

Revised BNH Champ of Champ Scheduled:

- CoC Singles 4-5 July 2020
- CoC Pairs 11- 12 July 2020
- CoC Triples 18-19 July 2020
- CoC Junior Singles 25-26 July 2020
- CoC Fours 8-9 August 2020

AGM 2020 – Sunday 7 June 2020

Notice of AGM 2020 will be emailed and in some cases posted out tomorrow, Thursday 7 May. If you haven't received Notice of the AGM by Wednesday 13 May, please contact the Club Secretary and we will remedy the situation. At this stage we are comfortable that under Level 2 we can accommodate the numbers expected and maintain social distancing as per the Government's directives to be able to hold the AGM in the Clubrooms.

LEVEL 3

New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 3.
The Clubrooms & Greens are closed.

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Closing Day Drifts On By

Closing Day 2020 is going to drift on by this year, it will be a day so different from closing days of past or closing days in the future. Due to Level 2 restrictions there are no formal celebrations planned. Traditionally we see prize-giving held the same day but this year it is different. Birkenhead's Prize-giving is moving to a later date, the exact date to be confirmed, but rest assured it will be a worthy celebration of the 2019-20 winners.

"The Dog House"

The sixth & final instalment of our weekly "lock-down" column by Mike Cartwright. Have you ever wondered what it is about lawn bowls that can turn a placid man into raving lunatic? You can understand why it happens when someone takes alcohol or drugs but god-knows why sticking a Hensilite bowl into someone's palm turns them into some sort of psychotic maniac. We've all seen it, the nice guy who wanders into the club and you think butter wouldn't melt in his mouth....give him a size four lawn bowl and he turns into some devil possessed man who thinks his own shit doesn't stink. Over the years I've played with a few of them and like most of us we tend to steer clear, unless, there is some sort of title on offer.....that's probably why I've probably won bugger all.

Generally I'm a pretty placid person and the only time I get pissed off is with myself when I'm playing singles....but my first year at Birkenhead had me nearly telling someone where to go. No it wasn't at Birkenhead but my first attempt at the New Zealand Open 2009. I ended up with a nightmare of a draw in the singles with Steve Cox, Shaun Scott and Wally Marsic in my group. I played Cox and Scott in the first two games and took a set of both, but lost in the tie-break....cracked under the pressure. I then played good old Wally in the last game.....I couldn't qualify but it was tight between the three of them and Wally needed to beat me two sets to nil. Well Wally was a true "Deli" and whispered in my ear about what he needed from me. I told him I wasn't a member of the New Zealand Fours Team and I didn't throw games....it didn't make much difference. He was in my space all the time and kept nipping away at me. He took the first set and he was one up in the last set with two bowls to go. Wally chuck his down and drove my shot bowl off the green leaving him two and the win. I was pissed by this time and thought bugger you mate....taking my time I drew the shot and came away with the draw. He won the game but the drawn set cost him a place in the next round...my reputation was in tacked. Wally got his own back a year later at the Nationals when I played in his group. I drew old Wally in the last game and I needed the win...he had qualified..... he gave me a bath and reminded me of that game....he reckons he would of let me win but I never believe a "Deli"

In 2010 Katrina and I moved to Wellington and joined Victoria. Katrina had been related to Lou Newman by a previous marriage and Lou convinced her that Victoria was the place to go. Victoria and their members play hard and play hard and my six years there were some of the best times I have had playing bowls. Pound for pound they bat well above their weight for centre and national titles and winning a club title there was about as hard as climbing into bed with Raquel Welsh. I never achieved it, winning a title, not climbing into bed with Raquel, but that was nothing to be ashamed about at a club like Victoria. One aspect of the club that I enjoyed was the social environment and it made me realise that as players you can win titles and still get pissed and support the club. As I said at the beginning, the players play hard and play hard and that's why the club is successful.

Victoria players were the first to drink bars dry before pouring back to throw some money over their own clubs. I was fortunate to be given the privilege of being the Vice-President and Green Superintendent for a couple of years....thankless bloody jobs they are, but someone had to do it.

In 2016 Katrina and I returned to Auckland for family reasons. I had a couple of years break before returning to Birkenhead. Work and family commitments have had my bowls career stuttering along but I must admit I'm looking forward to the 2020/2021 season. Finally I just want to thank Terry for the opportunity to try and keep you all interested in my bowls career.

Favourite Bowls Response:

Mike Solomon from Naenae when ask by a team-mate on the mat....."which bowl has the shot. Mike's response....."The one in your bloody hand"

Editor: Wish to thank Mike for his entraining contribution during lockdown. Hopefully we can twist his arm and see "The Dog house" return.



15 - 19 February 2021
Headquarters - Birkenhead