

# Omanu Bowling Club Newsletter

Compiled by Jim McQuillan 2005-2006 Vol. 6 Feb 2005

From the President

The hot weather is now well and truly with us and we find we are hoping for some wind or cloud cover to keep us cool. However I think we are all pleased the strong winds are behind us. Unfortunately our attempt to have an Open Tournament start early afternoon and run into the evening to avoid the heat of the day was thwarted by the weather and had to be cancelled. There were only 16 entries which would suggest the concept did not have the support of players. I would welcome your comments as to whether or not we should run such a tournament next season.

As members who have played at other Clubs around Tauranga are aware, a number of them are having difficulties with their greens. We too have had some difficulties. Bill is in regular contact with David Ormsby from Turf Culture and is following procedures to gain full coverage. It is particularly difficult to establish star weed, which is a single plant, in the bare areas. However the greens are continuing to improve and there have been a number of favourable comments from visiting players. Bill has been working hard on the edges and is hopeful that he will obtain full coverage by the end of the season. He anticipates that therefore the greens will only be closed for 3 to 4 weeks in May and then be open for winter bowls.

Again I remind members that we can assist Bill in his efforts during these hot months by varying the placement of the mat and standing on the bank when not directly involved in play.

We are also getting damage to the greens from the odd player "dumping" their bowl during delivery. You will note from the handbook, page 20, that it is the responsibility of the Club captains, (Wally McClennan and Bev White), and the Green Superintendent, (John Jennings), to monitor this. Offending players will be asked to attend coaching sessions and myself or any of the other coaches will be happy to assist you to modify your delivery to avoid "dumping" the bowl. Basically if you can bend down and pick up your bowl you should be able to deliver your bowl directly on to the green.

Damage can also come from inappropriate footwear. The regulation has been relaxed on the color of footwear but they must have "flat soles and be heel-less". We can all monitor this aspect.

Merle Hoare has been investigating the possibility of a Club rain jacket. Through discussion of various options the executive have now agreed on a design and material. The cost will depend on the number ordered. Merle will be displaying the details on the notice board so if you may be interested look out for this.

For those who have not noted from the executive minutes a decision was made at our December meeting "That on appropriate occasions, as a tribute to a deceased member, the Omanu Club flag shall be flown in the half-mast position on the central flag pole, and shall be flown alone on such occasions".

The match committee do a great job in organising and running events. They are often very busy arranging the start and end of play. Playing members are reminded that assistance is needed putting out and retrieving equipment. John Jennings is in the process setting pipe into the ground which will simplify setting up the scoreboards. Don't just sit back and wait for others to do all the work so that you can enjoy your game – make sure you do your share.

Thanks mainly through the efforts of Ray Connolly we have been able to obtain extra sponsorship for a number of our championships. Some members mistakenly think that the sponsorship will be used for prizes for those events. Broadly speaking all sponsorship is a means of fund raising for Club funds.

Whether Club funds should be used for prizes is a matter that has been discussed at recent AGMs and the present position is that only pins will be awarded.

From the Treasurer

Dorchester Financial Services are great supporters of bowls and our club benefits substantially from their support. They are advertisers, hold naming rights to one of our greens and support our domestic competition to the tune of around \$3,000 a year. More than this, they pay brokerage to us for any investment funds of our members who nominate us, or use the investment forms available in the clubhouse. Any member wishing to invest in Dorchester is recommended to use these special forms as a service to the club. Brokerage is a fee, related to the value and term of an investment, paid to a third party who facilitates that investment. Last season the club benefited to the extent of \$5,600 and already this season that amount has been exceeded. Income such as this has helped the club maintain its present subscription level for a number of years now and to continue to improve the facilities.

A recent tournament resulted in four four-winners being found at the end of the day. At a late stage it was suggested to the Match Committee that a fourth prize be provided for the unfortunate team that missed out. The suggestion was declined on the grounds that the field of only 17 teams was far below the standard threshold for a fourth prize. Criteria for prizes was decided upon and publicised in the newsletter early in the season

Executive decisions are made frequently, sometimes rightly, sometimes wrongly (if anyone really knows the right from the wrong!). In this case there were some strong opinions against, and some comments made to a member of the executive were bordering on abusive. Frankly, as one of a number putting time into the club, I am unhappy at seeing a colleague treated that way.

From the Selection and Grading Committees

#### ***Western Division Monday Inter-Club Triples***

This season we have entered two teams of nine players in this Monday afternoon competition. The first games were played on 23 January with the next being 13 February. Due to heavy usage of greens at many clubs on Mondays, only five playing days are available. A copy of the draw is on the notice board. Gary Andrews is in charge of the No 1 side & Wally McClennan has the No 2 side. A list of those chosen to play each time will be placed on the notice board.

#### ***Gradings & Handicaps for the 2006 -7 Bowling Season***

During March 2006, the Men's Grading Committee will meet to decide on member's gradings & handicaps for the following season. If there are members who would like these altered; i.e. to be downgraded or to be considered for a higher grading; please contact any of the committee, as soon as possible. It is our intention to look very carefully at present gradings to try to improve the balance between the four categories. During the past two seasons, there have been many experienced & very good bowlers become members & this has resulted in an imbalance in player positions. When decisions have been finalised, players concerned will be contacted & the new gradings & handicaps notified. Later, in April, changes will be posted on the notice board for all members to see. These new gradings & handicaps will be for the 2006-7 bowling season.

#### ***Monday Dorchester Twilight Bowls***

Fine Monday evenings in January have seen some very good attendances. After some very hot afternoons, it has been a pleasure playing in the cooler evenings. For those who have not yet taken the opportunity to come to twilight bowls, there are four occasions in February, with the last night being 6 March, to do so. We play two games from 6 to 8 pm (names in by 5.45pm) with a happy half-hour following for prize-giving & raffle results. Twilight bowls is an avenue for introducing this great game we play to those who have never tried it or reintroducing it to those who have played bowls at some time. So, if you know someone who would like to "give it a go", invite them to your club. Do feel free to join us for a good night's fun.

Monday twilight bowls has been running for 21 years, having started during the 1985-86 season. We have planned a celebration for our final evening, 6 March, when a shared meal & barbecue will be held before play. Our programme will commence at 4pm with a social occasion followed by the meal at 5pm. Bowls will follow from 6-8pm with prize-giving and raffle results at the conclusion of play, if the weather permits. We will not cancel our celebration. Let me have any good suggestions.

### ***Women's Grading Committee***

Any ladies wishing to be down-graded for the next season should apply to the Executive in writing as soon as possible. They will then notify the grading committee for their approval and publication some time in March.

### ***Omanu B C Web Site***

A reminder to check out the site:

[www.geocities.com/bowlsomanu/](http://www.geocities.com/bowlsomanu/)

Ken White is constantly up-dating the information and you often find results soon after events are concluded. There are also some interesting articles to keep you informed and entertained.

### ***How about this - It is readable***

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