

ALBERT PARK BOWLS CLUB
BOWLING REPORT – SEASON 2019-20

The club traditionally holds a Presentation Night in March/April to celebrate bowling achievements for the past season – particularly results from the Club Championships, but also from the other organised bowling activities around the club during the membership year. With the introduction of coronavirus restrictions, a physical meeting this year is not possible. So this report is intended to take the place of that meeting so as to still deliver the well deserved thanks, recognition and accolades to all those involved.

The events covered are the following:

1. Winter Pennant: April-June 2019
2. Summer Pennant: September 2019 – March 2020
 - 2.1. Weekend
 - 2.2. Midweek
3. Twilight League: October 2019 – March 2020
4. Best Club Person – Volunteer of the Year 2019-20
5. Club Championships: October 2019 – February 2020

1. Winter Pennant

Winter Pennant is traditionally the first competitive event in our membership year (which starts on 1 April). Although not a BV-organised competition, the “Inner City Winter Pennant”, organised by John Adams at Flemington Kensington BC, has grown over the last 11 years to be a regular event on the off-season calendar. This year an enthusiastic group of 38 members signed up for the seven week competition, although not everyone was available for every week. Still, we were able to put in four sides of the usual six player teams (two rinks of triples in each side). We competed in Divisions 1, 3, 4 and 6.

Everyone enjoyed the game for each of the seven weeks of regular competition, battling both the opposition and at times the weather. A new rule was introduced this year, allowing each skip to nominate one “power play” end in each of the two games where, if their rink was successful, the winning score would be doubled. The finer points of this rule led to lots of debate, dissent and some confusion, but overall everyone seemed to enjoy the novelty.

With the guidance of Kel Edgar, Don McGregor and particularly Sally Dobson, the teams were ably selected each week and managed to achieve the following ladder positions. Notably, the Div 6 side of Lindsay Chaloner, Peter Callaghan, Rex Magnusson, Sally Dobson, Bob Adler and Ray James, made it to the Semi-Final stage, but unfortunately went down in that match 41-51 against City of Melbourne 4.

Division 1		Division 3		Division 4		Division 6	
Port Melbourne	114	Fairfield	114	Richmond Union	108	Hawthorn	95
CPA	77	Hawthorn	88	Flem Kens	75	City of Melb 4	81
St Kilda	68	CPA	79	Middle Park	74	Albert Park	70
Middle Park	58	Princes Park	68	Port Melbourne	70	City of Melb 3	66
Flem Kens	58	MCC	65	St Kilda	59	MCC	66
MCC	52	Albert Park	63	Hawthorn	56	Richmond Union	63
Albert Park	46	Fitzroy Victoria	33	City of Melbourne	51	Fitzroy Victoria	30
Hawthorn	29	Bye		Albert Park	11	Princes Park	30
Final Port Melbourne d CPA 57-36		Final Hawthorn d Princes Park 48-45		Final Richmond Union d MP 46-45		Final Hawthorn d CoM 4 70-30	

2. Summer Pennant

2.1 Weekend Pennant

The original goals of maintaining our position in Division 2 and reaching finals and promotion in both Division 5 and 7 were only partly met. The mid-year review of our positions in Div 5 and 7 changed the focus from promotion to one of avoiding relegation and this revised goal was achieved. Again the value of our home green was evident with the win/loss ratio favouring our home games. Attendance at Thursday practice was patchy and probably contributed to some inconsistency in performance. All sides showed glimpses of what could be achieved by beating higher rated teams including ladder leaders. This should give us confidence to approach the next season with challenging goals to reach finals and play off for promotion.

Division 2 Section 7

Albert Park finished in a creditable 4th place with 11 wins, 6 losses and a draw (washout), 2 wins behind 1st placed Bentleigh, 1 win behind 2nd placed Melbourne and 1 win ahead of 3rd placed Caulfield Park, which had a superior point score. Albert Park beat both Bentleigh and Melbourne in the home games and despite 2 rinks achieving excellent wins against Bentleigh in the semi-final, we did not make the final. Melbourne went on to beat Bentleigh and will move to Div 1 next year.

In the BV individual player win/loss rankings, Stephen Mooney, Ross Oakley, Graham Atkins and Ben Mäntynen were the best performing Albert Park players, ranked in the top 30 (out of a total of approx. 350 players), with Roger Dedman, Sue Gill, Wayne Gill and Malcolm Stevenson next best ranking in the top 60.

Division 5 Section 8

After a slow start, and looking like it was likely to be relegated, the 2nd side rallied in the latter part of the season to finish in 6th place, with 7 wins, 8 losses and 3 draws and well ahead of 7th placed Alphington. In a clash of home green contestants late in the season Albert Park beat ladder leader St Kilda in a spirited game. Absences through the season contributed to some instability in teams but nevertheless the strong finish in the latter part of the season augers well for next year.

The leading 8 players on the BV win/loss ladder were Martin Pelzer, Carole Rafferty, Simon Strickland, Barendina Beedle, Lambis Englezos, Rob Fletcher, Tony Edmonds and Karen Stevenson, all inside the top 60 out of approx. 300 players.

Division 7 Section 5

The 3rd side was also affected by absences and walkovers which inevitably occur in this section. This in itself is a good reason to set our sights on promotion back to Division 6 next season. Albert Park finished in 5th place with 8 wins, 7 losses, 1 draw and 2 byes, just 1 win behind Glen Eira in 4th place.

We had a core of good and consistent performers, as evidenced by the fact that our top 8 players all featured in the BV player ladder top 50. These were in rank order: Sally Dobson, Nancy Jones, Roger Bacon, Arthur Castles, Sue McDonald, Sally Rushbrook, Max Tritton and Joan Bacon. It is anticipated that we will have sufficient new players to make up a 6-a-side team next year and thereby provide more stability to the 3rds in their quest for promotion.

Player Performance Peer Rating System

This year we introduced a new weekly performance rating system, with the aim of providing the selectors with a little more quantitative guidance on player performance. Of course any

system is open to mis-use and mis/over-interpretation and ours was no different. But we tried the experiment, learned a lot from it and hopefully this experience will prove useful to next season's Match Committee. This year's committee would like to thank all players for their commitment and participation in the scheme.

To summarise how it worked: after each game, each player was asked to rate their rink-mates (and themselves) on a basic four step scale: whether they had a poor, fair, good or excellent game that day. The results were reviewed by the selectors each week in putting together the teams for the following matches and were often found to be quite valuable.

Separately, the ratings were converted to a quantitative points score, assigning points as follows: poor = 1, fair = 2, good = 3 and excellent = 4. An additional 4 points were allocated to players on a winning rink, or 2 points for a draw/bye/washout/heatout. As the cumulative scores were affected by the number of matches played, an average per game score was also calculated. The top 30 results were as follows:

PLAYER PERFORMANCE LADDER – TOTAL POINTS			
Player	Points	Games	Average
Simon Strickland	225	18	12.50
Lindsay Chaloner	224	18	12.44
Roger Dedman	223	18	12.39
Ross Oakley	223	18	12.39
Sue Gill	219	17	12.88
Sally Dobson	217	18	12.06
Carole Rafferty	212	18	11.78
Graham Atkins	209	18	11.61
Martin Pelzer	209	18	11.61
Stephen Mooney	205	18	11.39
Malcolm Stevenson	200	18	11.11
Wayne Gill	198	18	11.00
Kel Edgar	195	16	12.19
Martin Scriven	195	17	11.47
Ben Mäntynen	193	16	12.06
Lambis Englezos	193	18	10.72
Rob Fletcher	192	18	10.67
Margot Keenan	189	16	11.81
Rex Magnusson	189	18	10.50
Mike Olive	188	15	12.53
Athi Singh	188	16	11.75
Arthur Castles	183	18	10.17
Barendina Beedle	182	16	11.38
David Sullivan	182	17	10.71
Tony Edmonds	177	17	10.41
Gerry Smith	175	18	9.72
Sally Rushbrook	173	18	9.61
Karen Stevenson	172	16	10.75
Barry Toll	170	15	11.33
Terri Fitzsimons	166	15	11.07

PLAYER PERFORMANCE LADDER – AVERAGE POINTS/GAME			
	Points	Games	Average
Janet Tesoriero	68	5	13.60
Steve Tesoriero	68	5	13.60
Sue Gill	219	17	12.88
Mike Olive	188	15	12.53
Simon Strickland	225	18	12.50
Lindsay Chaloner	224	18	12.44
Roger Dedman	223	18	12.39
Ross Oakley	223	18	12.39
Neil Lane	49	4	12.25
Kel Edgar	195	16	12.19
Ben Mäntynen	193	16	12.06
Sally Dobson	217	18	12.06
John Matthews	48	4	12.00
Margot Keenan	189	16	11.81
Carole Rafferty	212	18	11.78
Andy Owens	153	13	11.77
Athi Singh	188	16	11.75
Graham Atkins	209	18	11.61
Martin Pelzer	209	18	11.61
Chris Greenhatch	92	8	11.50
Martin Scriven	195	17	11.47
Stephen Mooney	205	18	11.39
Barendina Beedle	182	16	11.38
Barry Toll	170	15	11.33
Mic Inguanti	136	12	11.33
Stuart Kollmorgen	113	10	11.30
Anne Leadston	90	8	11.25
Janine Kibblewhite	89	8	11.13
Malcolm Stevenson	200	18	11.11
Megan Rolls	111	10	11.10

Many thanks must go to our Weekend selectors: Ross Oakley, Sue Gill & Malcolm Stevenson, and to Coach Ben Mäntynen, for all their hard work and contributions to the bowling life of the club throughout the season.

2.2 Midweek Pennant

Sides 1 & 2

The Club again entered two sides in the Bowls Victoria Midweek Pennant competition. The loss of half a dozen players from our top side, which had made a decent late run last season, made things challenging this season. Both sides fought hard all season including the final round when relegation remained a threat for each. Side 1 failed to secure a last round win, but thanks to a favourable result elsewhere finished safe in 8th place with 108 points. Side 2 finished with more style, winning all three rinks away to also finish safe in 8th place with 109 points. Well done to all who helped achieve this modest, but important objective.

Clearly with the loss of key players our ability to survive at a high level rested on continued improvement in the performance of newer players, including those who have been playing just a couple of years. In all some 38 members played at least one midweek match this season, but particular mention should be made of those who played in all 18 rounds: Tony Edmonds, Wayne Gill, Janine Kibblewhite, Ross Oakley, Martin Pelzer, Carole Rafferty, Malcolm Stevenson and Simon Strickland.

In pennant competition, team effort is of primary importance. Nevertheless for this report we will allow a few noteworthy individual metrics to be highlighted:

Two skips with the highest win percentages: Sue Gill (64%) and Tony Edmonds (59%).

Eleven players enjoying eight or more rink wins:

10 wins: Sue Gill & Carole Rafferty

9 wins: Sally Dobson, Tony Edmonds, Tim Smith, David Sullivan & Barry Toll

8 wins: Lambis Englezos, Rob Fletcher, Martin Pelzer & Martin Scriven

Three players achieving a 1.0 or greater relative shot difference: Peter Callaghan (1.8), David Sullivan (1.3) and Tim Smith (1.0).

Midweek Bankers

During the season, Bankers matches are run alongside home pennant matches for unselected squad members and others who may be considering pennant participation or are just looking for some friendly competition. We often had 6-8 participants and thanks go to Jenny Condon for organising play. Several of those newer members have signed up for full pennant participation next season and, in addition to Jenny, we look forward to welcoming Di Eddy, Dot Olive, Gaby Ransom and Kerry Cavanagh to the squad.

Summary

This report concludes with a reminder about signing up for Midweek Pennant next season. We were hoping for enough participants to consider a third side, albeit of six players, but as ever a few players have decided not to continue and we have just 24 signed up so far – insufficient even for two 12 player sides. Anyone who feels they might enjoy competitive midweek bowling is encouraged to email us at mwkpenn@albertparkbowlsclub.com.au. You will be joining a friendly and enthusiastic group of players truly eager to begin the 2020/21 season.

Many thanks to our Midweek selectors: Martin Scriven, Kel Edgar & Bryan Kenneally.

3. Twilight League

Congratulations to every participant who helped make this season's Twilight League both competitive and enjoyable. That's 34 participants who played at least one match, of which about half were keen enough to play at least 5 matches. Twilight League is configured to provide graded competition for all but the most novice bowlers, while maximizing the opportunity for any participant to win something. The season comprises 20 rounds, typically of pairs matches, each of 10 ends. In each round pairs are semi-randomly selected from attendees and points are awarded to individuals based on match results.

This season four quarterly prizes were awarded for the most points gained over 5 consecutive rounds, with players ineligible to win more than one quarterly prize. Hence there were four quarterly winners and we congratulate Lindsay Chaloner, Tim Smith, Peter Callaghan and Gerry Smith on their wins.

While quarterly prizes were being decided, many players had their eyes on the far more lucrative season end prizes for the three highest points tallies from their best 10 matches. As the season progresses this race tends to boil down to a few enthusiastic participants and it is up to the rest of us to help or hinder their progress. This season there were just three in contention prior to the final match but the 1-2-3 order was not yet fully determined. In the end our congratulations go to third placed Rob Fletcher (50pts), second placed Lindsay Chaloner (51pts) and ... drum roll ... overall winner Tim Smith (54pts).

And thanks must go to the tournament designer, organiser and indefatigable promoter: Martin Scriven, without whose continuing efforts, many folks wouldn't know what to do with their summer Wednesday evenings.

4. Best Club Person – Volunteer of the Year 2019-20

This award is made to the person displaying a high level of contribution and support to the club through their voluntary activities, teamwork and leadership. The winner goes on to represent the Club in the Bowls Victoria Volunteer of the Year.

The Life Members called for nominations from members and have now reviewed these and unanimously recommend Simon Strickland, who was the stand-out candidate. Simon is a previous winner of this award and has not only maintained his high level of activity but has increased his contribution.

Simon has again made a significant financial impact through his management and personal involvement in corporate functions, which take an enormous amount of time right up until Christmas shut-down and then again in the new year. He is a Board member and represents the Club at Regional Sandbelt meetings and in Port Phillip Council liaison. This year he has also been a significant contributor to the facilities, taking a lead role in the selection and installation of the new green as well as taking on the vacant Green Director role. He is also a regular coach in the school program and is known for his run through the park with 20+ students as well as the warm up exercises! Congratulations Simon!

Simon's name will be engraved on the perpetual Best Club Member cup and he will be entitled to keep the cup until next season's winner is announced.

Thanks go out to our active Life Members for their efforts in determining this award: Norm Armstrong, Ken Gray, Margot Keenan and Malcolm Stevenson.

5. Club Championships

A review of the Club Championships must begin with a pause to remember our friend and club member, Sal Rayner, who passed away at the beginning of the year. Sal won five championships last year, including Ladies' Singles and has been sorely missed by all.

This year our eleven Club Championship competitions attracted a total of 49 players, many entering multiple events. Thirteen members entered five or more competitions. Special commendations for effort and commitment go to Lindsay Chaloner (entering 10 events), Rex Magnusson (8), and Carole Rafferty and Rob Fletcher (7).

In all, 119 matches were played, with 78 of those being some version of singles (i.e. singles, proportional, President's handicap, minor or novice). The remaining 31 were team matches (i.e. pairs and triples). The vast majority were tightly contested and produced some excellent bowls for players and spectators alike. Champions and runners up are listed below.

We had four first time champions this year – congratulations to Barry, Janet, Kylie & Rex for making their inaugural appearance on the podium. And there were five repeat winners from last year – two in the same competition:

Carole Rafferty & Margot Keenan – being repeat winners in the Ladies' Pairs;

and three in differing competitions:

Ben Mäntynen – in Club Singles this year, Mixed Pairs last year;

Ross Oakley – in Mixed Pairs this year, Club Triples last year; and

Wayne Gill – in Club Pairs and Triples this year, Club Singles last year.

Well done to all involved. Let's all hope we'll be back to bowling in good time for next year's Club Championships.

And many thanks to our tireless Tournament Director this year: Carole Rafferty.

APBC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP HONOURS 2019-20

COMPETITION	CHAMPIONS	RUNNERS UP
Club Singles	Ben Mäntynen	Athi Singh
Jean Lynch Champion of the Green (Ladies' Singles)	Kylie Murphy	Megan Rolls
Club Pairs	Malcolm Stevenson Wayne Gill	Ben Mäntynen Ross Oakley
Ladies' Pairs	Carole Rafferty Margot Keenan	Barendina Beedle Chris Greenhatch
Mixed Pairs	Ross Oakley Janet Tesoriero	Carole Rafferty Martin Pelzer
Club Triples	Malcolm Stevenson Martin Scriven Wayne Gill	Sue Gill Ross Oakley Graham Atkins
President's Handicap	Barry Toll	Tony Edmonds
Club Proportional	Janine Kibblewhite	Kel Edgar
Ladies' Proportional	Janine Kibblewhite	Margot Keenan
Club Minor	Barry Toll	Rex Magnusson
Club Novice	Rex Magnusson	Lindsay Chaloner

Finalists were able to choose between receiving a trophy, a certificate or no physical award. Those opting for trophies or certificates may pick these up from the club at their convenience. Best to contact Wayne to make suitable arrangements.