

**West Pennant Hills Sports Club
Men's Bowls Section**

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Business Papers

7th November 2011

Meeting Commences 6:00pm

1. Reports

1.1 President

October has been an interesting month. We performed well in the Club Challenge winning more games than we did in 2010 and of the games we lost some of those were by only a few points. It is disappointing more bowlers did not take the opportunity to be involved as the experience gained is invaluable.

The training program run by the selectors has had mixed results. There are bowlers who have welcomed the opportunity to be involved, whilst there are others who have shown a lack of interest. When the program was launched, some fifty bowlers attended but not all of those have become involved. Whether it is due to lack of interest or bowlers did not want to acknowledge they have weaknesses is difficult to assess. The selectors have put a lot of time and energy into the program so that West Pennant Hills may improve its performance. The question is whether West Pennant Hills wants to be competitive or just social? I would also like to thank the volunteers who have helped to run the program. Without their support more time would have had to have been spent on the green by the selectors.

It is easy to be critical of people it is human nature and we all make mistakes. We need to acknowledge that others may have a different opinion on an issue. Overall, we have to work with one another if the club is to go forward, therefore if a decision is made by a committee or an individual who has the right to make a decision, for the sake of harmony, we need to accept the decision and move forward.

We have now commenced Thursday twilight bowls. Interest is being shown by the bowlers and from others who are not members of the club. Max Walters puts a lot of time and effort into twilight bowls, therefore we all need to support him in his efforts and attend on Thursdays even if it is only for a few minutes to show support. It is from this type of activity that we may pick up new members.

Peter Eagle

1.2 Senior Vice President

No report.

Warren Phillips

1.3 Vice President

No report.

1.4 Secretary

Current financial membership stands at 151 with Ross Timmouth rejoining us from The Hills, Ray Jennings and Ross O'Brien from West Epping.

Presentation Day – Saturday 3rd December, 10:30am:

Function room booking is confirmed.

David Wilson has been working with the trophy supplier to ensure we have all championship trophies and shields.

The Orange Blossom Shield will be engraved and trophies have been ordered for team members.

Following the presentations there will be finger food before social bowls – handicap to be organised by the selectors.

Christmas Party – Sunday 11th December, 11:00am:

Planning is underway. Function room booking is confirmed. I will be meeting shortly with the Women's Section to finalise arrangements with them.

Dallas Palm

1.5 Treasurer

Raffle takings had been over budget in August but well behind in September

Green fees seem to track \$1,000 under budget each month

Green Maintenance has been under budget each month this financial year!!

Steve Watson

1.6 Bowls Coordinator & Match Committee

Events Calendar for 2011-2012.

Attached is a copy of the Events Calendar for the 2011-2012. This calendar doesn't include Mixed Triples or Pairs. Also missing at this time are the Turn Around Triples and Koala Carnival dates. These carnival dates will be confirmed at the next meeting of the Turn Around Triples clubs. (See explanation below).

The Club Championships have been scheduled as best I can, around dates reserved by the Zone and State for events such as Pennants, State Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours. Allowance has also been made for the Mixed Triple Pennants during October and November, however, the Major Triples Final and the Major Fours are also scheduled on the same dates and where there is a conflict between these Club Championships and the Mixed Triple Pennants, then I would suggest that Club Championships take precedent, that is of course if we enter a team in the Mixed Triple Pennants.

Where players are required to play in Club Events, and they are also part of a Mixed Triples Pennant team, then we will need to find replacements to take their places in the MTP team.

External Pennant Trials

To date we have organised external trials with two Zone 9 clubs The first will be against Warrawee on the 21st January 2011. Two teams will play away and one team at home. The

second trial will be against Asquith on the 28th January, again two teams, the Five and Sixes away and the Threes at home. Both trial dates have been confirmed.

The selectors were hopeful to get two other trials against non Zone 10 Clubs in December 2011, but this is proving more difficult than expected. It appears no one really wants December trials and the only thing I can suggest is that we forget further external trials and concentrate on our own internal trials.

Novice Singles

At the time of writing this report, the 2011 Novice Singles has reached the Final stage which will be played on Saturday 5th November. Michael Dalgairns and David Roles thoroughly deserve their place in the final after both played sensational bowls in their respective Semi-Finals. The Final should be a closely fought affair.

Mixed Pairs

Mixed pairs have now been scheduled to be played on Thursdays rather than Sundays. Round 1 will be played on Thursday 17 November. The Nomination Form is already on the Notice Board and presently we have received four entries.

Carnivals

The Turn Around Triples and Koala dates will be confirmed with other TAT clubs at a meeting that will be held on the 7th November at Pennant Hills. It is our turn to run the first TAT in March although I may have to negotiate a swap with one of the other clubs who have been allocated May for their TAT, in order to secure May 4th for the Men's Koala Carnival. We are locked into the 4th because the Ladies Club have already got a clearance from the Ladies District Body for Monday 30th April and it is desirable that we hold both sections within the same week.

Mal Horner

1.7 Selectors

Benchmark Testing and Training:

The Management Committee approved the benchmark testing program and proposed presentation to members on 1st August 2011.

The selector's presentation was prepared in consultation with RNSWBA.

The presentation to bowlers was held on 3rd September 2011 and was attended by 60+bowlers.

This allowed 5 weeks for all the selectors and coaches to complete the test.

A further 8 weeks has now elapsed since the presentation.

During this period we have held 16 afternoon sessions from 1.30pm to sometimes up to 5.00 pm.

It is now 13 weeks since the plan was agreed and still all the selectors and coaches have not completed the test.

Only 23 bowlers have completed the test and another 20 have started. This made up of Grade 3 - 7 bowlers, Grade 5 - 5 bowlers and Grade 6 - 11 bowlers.

Results of those 24 benchmark tests are very interesting and give us an insight into the ability of the various players. Obviously more training and tests are to be done for those that have participated to realise their full potential.

With the amount effort put in by Warren, Matt, Kevin and various others at times it is very disappointing there is such a lack of interest. These players are very keen to try to help the members improve and as a consequence they have forgone their own training and development program.

Summary:

The intention of the training group is to continue with those that showed a commitment to the benchmark test and develop a training program for them.

At this stage it looks that we will be concentrating on the development of Grade 5 but this is still to be decided by the selectors.

Phase 2:

We will now enter Phase 2 of the training.

This will consist of meetings with players who have completed the benchmark test to discuss the results of the benchmark and what is required by the position they may play and a training program for that position.

New Selection Policy:

We have developed and communicated a professional selection policy in line with best practice and RNSWBA guidelines. It has been published on the notice board and the web site. We have also developed and circulated a new pennant application form in line with the new selection policy.

Trials:

Trials have been arranged in January thanks to the efforts of Mal Horner and Bob Cole. The pennant forms need to be in by November 19 so we can start the selection process. If the interest is like we had for the training we will only need trials for one team or maybe two at a stretch. At the moment we have 23 forms returned.

Terry Barnett and Barry Fisher have transferred to other clubs. We have spoken to some other players who are interested in coming to our club we will know by November 19 if they are coming or not.

Club Challenge:

It has been a good experience for those that were prepared to participate. Once again we had only enough to form one team and I am sure those players enjoyed the experience. It seems that once again playing bowls on a Sunday has an effect on the numbers that will participate in an event.

Warren Phillips

1.8 Schools Committee

No report.

Aaron Barnett

1.9 Zone 10

The Zone meeting was held on Wednesday 2 November 2011. There is not a great deal to report this month except for the following:

- There has been positive feedback concerning Mixed Pennants and the President of Zone Gary MacAndrew hopes there will be more support next year. West Pennant Hills will be considering its position for 2012.
- For those at West Pennant Hills who have requested new umpiring shirts, they should be available by the end of the year.
- The 2012/2013 Zone 10 Affiliation Fees will be increasing by \$2.00 per player from \$10 to \$12 per player.
- Guildford Bowling Club will not be joining Zone 10 at this stage. The matter is to be considered again by the RNSWBA at a later time.
- The new constitution will be voted on at a special meeting on 1 December 2011. A draft of the new constitution has already been passed to Jason Read for his reference. Having spoken to Jason, he is of the opinion there is nothing in the draft and attachments that will cause any problems as far as the WPHSC and its constitution is concerned.
- Trials for Senior Bowlers (over 60) who have not played for Zone 10 will be held on Thursday 16 February 2012. Clubs have been requested to send names to the chairman of selectors, John Farr at email address: lenore@northmeadbowlingclub.com.au. The selectors need to consider the requirement. The venue is to be advised.
- Zone 10 COP are with the State Match Committee for acceptance.
- It was mentioned by Les Watkins that umpires need to re-accredit prior to the date specified on their umpire's card. If you do not complete the task prior to the expiry date an umpire will be unregistered from that date.

Peter Eagle

1.10 Greens

Recently a suggestion was made that information concerning green maintenance be placed on the website so bowlers are aware of what is taking place. This is an excellent idea and the matter was discussed with Proturf. The following information has been received and will be posted on the website.

Bottom Green: The green received its first top dressing on Monday 31 October 2011. Plugging has been taking place on the edges and on other parts of the green. Further top dressings will be taking place over the coming weeks with resulting rub ins. It is anticipated subject to the weather conditions that the green will be ready for play during early December.

Top Green: The green has been fertilised to have it active prior to renovation. Whilst the green is still in play, plugging will commence so the time that it will be out of play will be limited. It is anticipated at this stage and again subject to weather conditions, the green will be back in play well before pennants which commences in February 2012.

Sprinkler heads 5 (bottom green) and 11 (top green) have been repaired. Number 5 still requires a further part; however it can be used manually. As soon as the part arrives it will be fitted.

Recently, I was given the opportunity to correspond with the Sports Club Board on a number of matters concerning the greens. An email was sent to Steve Brady on 19 October 2011. The matters raised have been discussed by the Board and a favourable response has been received. Attached is a copy of the email (Attachment 2). I have been given permission to supply a copy for your reference. It would be appreciated that the contents of the email not be discussed elsewhere for the time being.

Peter Eagle

1.11 Coaches

No new students since last meeting.

Dallas Palm

1.12 Umpires

All championships and Club Challenge matches have been covered by umpires as requested.

Don Couch

1.13 Welfare

No report.

Peter Booth

1.14 Mixed Bowls

No report.

Tony Boughton

1.15 Communications

A report of recent club activity has been submitted for the bowls magazine.

Dallas Palm

1.16 Corporate

No report.

2. General Business

2.1 New Shirts, Jackets and caps – and update on timing, pricing, sponsorship.

2.2 Pennant sides for 2012.

2.3

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 5th December, commencing at 6:00pm.

Attachment 2.

Hi Steve,

During our conversation on Monday 17 October you requested, that I set out matters we discussed so that you may be in a position to discuss with the directors of the WPH Sports Club Board. Those matters are as follows:

- The greens contract is due for renewal in late March 2012. I understand the current contract is for the amount of \$70,000. From my observations, the current contractor is providing WPH with a \$70,000 service, which is not adequate to service two greens sufficiently. This year, the bottom green which is the showpiece has been in a poor state all year. There has been problems with nematodes, drainage, grass growth in the North West and South West corners which has limited rink space. Maintenance to the garden beds on the Northern boundary especially the second and top tiers which are full of weeds and the hedges between the neighbouring properties which are over grown needs to be addressed.. In the two months prior to the green being taken out for maintenance, the surface of the green was that hard, bowls were being scratched. Not a good sign.

Due to the problems with the bottom green, the top green has had to be used more frequently. The wear is now showing. There is a constant problem with leaves, twigs and branches falling on the green when the wind is blowing from the South West and North West from the gum trees on the Western side. When the green is being rolled and cut, the twigs and gum nuts are pushed into the surface of the green. This is evident when a bowl jumps or deviates from its course. The Western side of the green has had limited grass growth all years. The grounds surrounding the top green always have branches, leaves, and other material on them which are rarely removed. Not a good sight.

On Saturday 8 October, both greens were flooded due to heavy rain. To allow the water to drain away, the grates in the ditches had to be lifted by the bowlers as they were covered in leaves and other debris. It is the responsibility of the green keeper to make sure the ditches are clear and the grates are clear. This should also apply when a green is out for maintenance. I understand you will be tendering shortly. If it is possible, the bowlers greens committee would like to have some input into the process. We are not looking for the most expensive, however we should be able to obtain a better service than we are currently receiving.

- Recently West Epping closed. WPH tried to entice some of the bowlers to the club. To date we have not been successful. It is felt a major reason why we were not successful is due to the rumour, that WPH will be installing two synthetic greens when the building program commences. Of the bowlers from West Epping that made approaches this was the first questioned asked. They were told this was not the case, however the rumour is in the market place. Synthetic greens are not popular. In essence if two synthetic greens were installed, bowlers at WPH would leave. I appreciate this is a bold statement, however it can be backed up by a ruling from the RNSWBA that Carlingford were not to use their synthetic green during the hosting of the Grade Fours Pennant finals this year.

It is understood the tennis courts will be moved shortly so renovations may

commence. If the plans located in the foyer of the club are being read correctly, some of the area will be open, whilst the balance will have a two storey building. This will cast a shadow across a good section of the bottom green. This will create problems for grass growth during summer with resulting difficulties during winter. It could be said, the green may not be able to be used. Sowing the green with bent grass may be a solution but would require professional advise. From the plans, the greens are to be moved to the West and be located on top of the underground car parking area. This is getting closer to the gum trees and the associated problems mentioned concerning the top green. If grass greens are to be used, then this would be a good opportunity to install Tifdwarf greens which provide a better surface and from my understanding have a lower maintenance cost.

I hope the comments are beneficial in your discussions. If you require further information please advise. Also thank you for arranging to remove the birds nest near the water cooler. It was a health hazard.

Regards

Peter