



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

Dear Member,

It is 22 months since the article in the local newspaper where Andrea Bowles said the Mount Martha Mornington Petanque Club was looking for a home. They now have joined Mt Martha Bowls Club and we are Mt Martha Bowls, Petanque & Social Club. The grand opening of the Petanque Terrain (or Boulodrome) happened last Friday under a brilliant sunny sky. I am pleased we did not have the rain we had on Saturday!



I would like to thank Mr. David Morris, MLA for Mornington for opening the facility along with the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire, Councillor Despi O'Connor who was able to stay and talk to us over the rest of the afternoon. We were also very privileged to have Briars Ward Councillor, Councillor Steve Holland attend the opening along with senior Officers from the Shire, Brett Osborne and Tricia Folvig

We had about 110 people in attendance with a good spread of petanque and bowls members and visitors. Following speeches by Chairman Tony Spring, Petanque Section President Michael Harrison, Mayor Councillor Despi O'Connor and MLA for Mornington, David Morris, eight people lined up and tossed the first Boules to officially open the Boulodrome.



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I would like to congratulate Petanque President Michael Harrisson and his team of willing helpers (too many to list here) for the extraordinary amount of work that has gone on to get the terrain finished in time for the opening. The sleepers were secured around the perimeter, provision for water, power and drainage was installed, between 500 Tonnes and 600 Tonnes of crushed concrete and rock were spread across the terrain to the exact depth required and then the final internal sleepers and string lines were installed. While this was going on, another team lead by Geoff Shaw renovated the old greenkeeper's shed. It now has an internal wall to make two areas, one for storage and one as an office to run the Petanque competitions. The office is lined with plaster and has insulation in the walls and ceiling. It is very close to being operational.

Without all the volunteer work, both inside and outside, the Petanque Terrain and office would not have been completed and it would have cost the Club thousands of dollars. Thank you all. It looks brilliant.

It is great to be back to almost normal with all bowling (Social, Night Owls, Thursday Triples and Pennant) in full swing. Good luck to those Pennant teams who are in the finals in two weeks time.

There are a lot of things coming up as our summer season comes to an end. The Jennifer Shaw Memorial Trophy Petanque competition is on next Friday. There are 26 teams (triples) competing from all over the State in the first large Petanque competition at our Club. We look forward to seeing this in full swing. On Wednesday 24 March our Club Bowls members will have an opportunity to learn about playing petanque and, after some training, will have a game. The next thing that needs to be organised is for the Petanque members try bowls! Refer to Kevin Dungey's report below for other bowling activities.

There were a couple of funny comments heard during the men's pairs final when Danny Tamburrini and Wayne Taylor were having a tactical discussion, Frank Silas said to the audience "They are having a Conference" and 30 seconds later he said to Danny and Wayne "Do you want me to take the minutes?" His comments throughout the match kept the audience amused. Congratulations to Frank and Larry Bagley for their win in the Men's Pairs.

The Trading Table is operating again after a period when it was closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Goods donated to the trading table can be left in the blue cabinet in the ladies' locker room. For further information, please contact Sue Allen.

One critical issue is our AGM which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 4 May. There are quite a number of positions needing to be filled and we need members to step up into positions. Many of the Board and other committee members have stayed on in their positions for additional years due to Covid-19 due to the need for stability. They are now going to step down. Notices will be going out shortly looking for volunteers. Without people filling Board and committee positions the Club cannot function. Please consider these positions when asked.

Stay Covid safe and I look forward to seeing you at the Club, bowling or playing petanque or socialising.

Tony Spring
Chairman



BONACCORDE



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE GREENS!!

Not a lot happens at this time of year on synthetic surfaces. We have regular removal of leaves and bird droppings from the playing surface and ditches. The use of chalk lines on the Central Green is challenging but hopefully this can be resolved soon.

The surfaces will be sprayed for algae about the middle of April depending on weather conditions.

John Osborne
Greens Director



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH SPONSORSHIP!!

Although our original negotiations with an existing sponsor for some major sponsorship of our Petanque Boulodrome have received a setback, I am still hopeful some new business from this source will be forthcoming.

Successful outcomes have been forthcoming from Warlimont & Nutt for new signage in the petanque area and talks are underway with a further two existing sponsors. We have a lot of opportunities for sponsorship signage in the petanque area. If you know of any business that you think would benefit please come and talk to me during my enforced "resting" at the Club.

A disappointing moment occurred with the news that after ten years Jacobs & Lowe would be withdrawing their sponsorship at the end of the summer season.

However, I am happy to report that within a very short space of time Sam Danckert of Danckert Real Estate has agreed to take over the sponsorship almost in its entirety. So, the meat trays from Bells Gourmet Meats which have become a real feature at our Club will continue next season.

Since my last report we have been successful in attracting three new sponsors for the next season. (My thanks to Shirley Harbour for the first one.) The tricky task of bringing back some of our lost Covid19 sponsors now lays ahead.

Ron Turner
Sponsorship Director

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WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MEMBERSHIP!!



It was most encouraging to see over 100 people at the opening of the new Petanque Boulodrome when it was officially opened by David Morris MLA last Friday. Although there are some finishing touches to be done the terrain has certainly enhanced the west end of the complex. Congratulations to everyone involved in the construction and it has really added to what the club can offer prospective members.

However, now is not the time for complacency on two fronts.

Firstly, the Covid pandemic is far from over around the world and some countries are now on their third wave, with death rates increasing again. So please do not drop your guard whilst you are at the club. We still need to sanitise regularly and sign in if we are going to be at the club for more than 15 minutes. Many of you are doing the right thing and sanitising the tables when you leave but unfortunately there are others who possibly believe it does not apply to them. You should also be spraying the mats and jacks at the end of play. Covid restrictions also limit us to only having 80 people in the club rooms at any one time. We are aware that this can cause some problems when we have our catered meals on Friday Nights, but please understand we do not make the rules and it is unfortunate if we cannot accommodate everybody.

Apologies to those who came for a drink and were left sitting at the back of the room. Normally of course we can have another 20 people out on the deck. Looks like we may need to add some form of heating out there for the cooler nights.

On the subject of Friday Nights our next one is on Friday the 19th March. it will be celebrating St Patrick's day, and we can look forward to Barry and Judy performing on that night. So, get ready to don your green and enjoy a great night. There might even be a bit of craic.

Now secondly and just as importantly we are fast approaching the end of the current season and it is time for everyone to think about what they can do for the club. This is the time for those who "ask why doesn't the club do this or do that" to step up to the plate and take on various roles around the club and become part of the decision-making progress.

There are exciting times ahead for the club. Now that our membership is close to 300, we learnt the other day that the Shire will have to review our clubhouse facilities and discussion included extending the building and updating the toilet facilities. But to make it all happen we need to refresh our board and committees with people with new ideas who are aware of the needs of the younger market we need to target. So please get together and nominate for a role in our rapidly growing club.

You may have seen the contractors installing the cabling for the new telephone system and hopefully it will not be too long before it is all up and running.

If you are an affiliated bowls member you are now entitled to play petanque once you have completed some introductory coaching. Should you decide you want to be able to compete in club championships and at other petanque venues you will need to take out a petanque license at a cost of \$35.

One of, it seems, the lesser-known benefits for being a club member (any category) is that you can hire the club house once a year at a discount of 50% on the normal rate.

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Remember we are always looking to welcome new members so if you know anyone with any interest in playing bowls, petanque or just becoming a social member please let us have their details so we can forward it on to the appropriate person.
Keep safe & Healthy,

Bill Gomme
Membership Director



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE FACILITIES!!

There has been considerable activity in this area over the last month. New blinds have been purchased to replace the existing ones on the kiosk which unfortunately have rotted out. These will be installed shortly. The security lights in the upper car park have been replaced and adjusted, which will make this area much brighter at night.

The Council plumbers have attended several times in the last month to replace or repair toilets, the greenside ladies which is leaking badly is due to be repaired this week. However I am appealing to members if you are aware that there is a problem please let me know. These things cannot be fixed if we are unaware. It is the duty of players at the end of the days play to fold up shade cloth, turn off water coolers, take down flags, put away mats, jacks and ditch markers. The last people leaving the building should ensure that fans, air conditioners and lights are turned off, bifold doors and back door are locked and front door is snibbed. Unfortunately the members rostered on duty for lockup are having to do all these tasks when in fact their duties are to oversee that everything is secure then lock the front door and all gates for the night.

We have requested that NO MORE BOOKS be left at present. In the interest of good order the bookshelves are limited in space and there is nowhere for the overflow.

Wendy King has provided beautiful floral arrangements for a number of years, now because of ill health is unable to perform this task anymore. We are appealing for a member or members to volunteer to take on this rewarding responsibility of looking after any floral decorations and also watering pots in the building. Our sincere thanks go to Wendy for her excellent contribution of beautifying our Club.

I again appeal to the members who indicated that they are prepared to help with the gardening to join Gordon on a Monday morning even for an hour or so. Gordon has indicated that he will attend every Monday, but he can't manage the entire garden on his own. There are some members who look after specific gardening duties or areas and can be thanked for their good work but there is still a great need for more helpers.

With the opening of the Boulodrome on Friday it provided the perfect opportunity to speak to the two Ward Councillors present, plus a couple of other Council employees. Whether our discussions will provide us with the upgrades we envisage or not remains to be seen. However I believe they certainly were very receptive to our ideas and dreams for the future of our Club.

Elizabeth Gomme
Facilities Director

gordonglass



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WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH BOWLING!!

A detailed Member's Update was distributed to all members on 14 March. Please refer to that. Some of the key points of the email are as follows:

- Mt Martha-Mornington Medley is to be held on Friday 26 March at Mt Martha. Entry sheets are in the foyer
- Founder's Day Medley is to be held on Tuesday 20 April with \$1,000 prize money
- Pot of Gold is to be held on Saturday 24 April with \$2,000 prize money
- The Bowls Section has quite a number of positions vacant for next year and they need volunteers to help run all our events. Please consider putting your hand up. Please speak to Kevin Dungey, Jan Bettess or Nola Osborne

Kevin Dungey
Bowls President



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PETANQUE!!

What a great month we have had with the development and Official Opening of our Terrain – Mt Martha Boulodrome!

The earthworks were successfully completed by Heaslip Excavations on Wednesday 24th February. This enabled us to commence installing 38 sleepers on the terrain, and securing them in place with one metre long steel rods. Then we marked out the first 14 pistes with string.

In the mean-time work was continuing in the conversion of the Greenkeepers Shed to the Petanque Office and Store. A partition was installed between the two areas, the Store lined with plywood, insulation was installed in the Office and the room lined with plasterboard.

Four shelters were relocated, by a Sturdy Team of Bowlers, from the Northern and Southern sides and reinstalled on the concrete slabs at the Western end of the Terrain. The slabs were poured by a team of 8 members on Sunday 8th March under the able supervision of Paul Murgia.

Then the massive clean-up was achieved to make the area respectable for the Grand Opening on Friday 12th March.

In total 20 Club Members plus the "Sturdy Team of Bowlers" were involved in the Working Bees. A magnificent effort.

Boulodrome Opening Ceremony.

On Friday we saw proof of what a group of people can achieve with many weeks of hard work by the volunteering members and supporters of the Pétanque and Bowls club, wonderful financial assistance from various sources and a determination to build an International Standard Pétanque Terrain. A huge thanks and job-well-done to all those who worked long and hard to ensure all was ready for the opening ceremony which was attended by Mr. David Morris MP (Member for Mornington); Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Councillor Despi O'Connor and Councillor Steve Holland (Briars Ward). We are very appreciative of the assistance from Tony Spring, Bill Gomme and all the Bowls and Pétanque Club Members who assisted on the day to make it a wonderful success.



Mayor Despi O'Connor



David Morris & Tony Spring



Mt Martha Bowls, Petanque & Social Club

Tournament Results.

It has been a busy month with our members playing in several tournaments.

At the St Andrews Beach social tournament Andrea Bowles & Louis Fenollar were placed 4th.

12 Members paid a social visit to Maldon Petanque Club - it was a great success and lots of fun. Geoff Turner won the Tournament, winning all four games. Peter Wells was placed 4th and Laurie McLeod was shooting at 90% accuracy.

Camberwell held a Mixed Triples tournament with Geoff Shaw's team and Ros Allen & Andrea's team, placed equal 5th in the 60+ Principale (knock-out final).

The Victorian Singles Championships were held at Camberwell. In the women's 60+ division Sue Barron was placed 4th, and Ros Allen & Sue Rickarby were placed equal 5th.

The Doveton Open Doubles saw a large number of players from our club participating. Conviviale (social) results were – Jennifer Cuthbert's team 1st, Louis Fenollar's team 2nd, Peter Cuthbert & Sue Rickarby 3rd, and Lochie Keleher's team (our junior) 10th.

Inaugural Tournament.

On Friday 19th March we shall be holding the Jennifer Shaw Memorial Tournament Mixed Triples for over 60s with 75 players registered to date. Play commences at 10am and will finish around 4pm. It would be great to see bowls members come along and enjoy watching some great competition.

South & Metropolitan Regional Challenge Cup.

This major tournament will be held at the St. Kilda Pétanque Club on Sunday 18th April.

Congratulations to the following members who have been selected to represent our club.

Team 1 : Ros Allen, Andrea Bowles, Sue Barron, Geoff Shaw, Geoff Turner.

Team 2: Sue Rickarby, Leonie Conway, Max Chaperon, Michael Harrisson, Ian Barron

World Championship Junior Squad.



Training has commenced for this tournament and we are thrilled to advise that Lockie Keleher has been included in the squad of eight juniors, five of whom are from Victoria. Four of the juniors will be selected to go to the World Championships in Thailand in November (Covid permitting). Well done Lockie and we wish you good luck with training and selection.

Miscellaneous.

Geoff Turner stood down from the position of Vice President of the Petanque Section and is replaced by Geoff Shaw. Geoff Turner is taking on the position of Tournament Director – a role in which he has much experience. Belinda Lightfoot has joined our Committee as Communications Officer.

Six of our Members attended the Responsible Serving of Alcohol training session held at Mornington Bowling Club, four have completed the Bar Familiarisation with Jill and are already serving.

On behalf of the Pétanque Members we would like to thank the Bowls Members for their warm and friendly welcome to Our Club. We are enjoying getting to know everyone and are certainly appreciating our Club's wonderful facilities.

Michael Harrison
Petanque President

