



THE TOUCHER

Raumati Bowling Club

10th December 2021

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News from the President

For most of us, an early Christmas present has been our Vaccine Passes. Without these, life would be slightly more problematical. Your club Covid team has been delighted with your response to have your passes verified. We were prepared for the entire process to be difficult, but with your co-operation, it has been very smooth. Thank you all.

We rocked into the Christmas season with a fantastic dinner, quiz, raffles and sing-along which was organised by the club's social team led by Moira and Bev. Possibly Brian Nicoll deserved a special prize for his Xmas outfit which he wore with his usual smile. Bev's husband Bruce coerced each table into singing a festive song, Don tested our knowledge with his quiz and the food was plentiful and tasty. Merry Xmas!

Our initial 'Town Hall' meeting achieved plenty. Facilitated by Heather and attended by 60, discussions and ideas covered a wide range but eventually focused on how we members want our club to be regarded- friendly, social, and competitive- and the processes required to get there. A précis of the discussions will be sent to all members before Christmas. A second such gathering will be held early in 2022.

With the installation of the new floor covering, the women's toilet area renovation is complete. There is more to be done to bring the remainder of the clubhouse up to a similar standard.

We all have the urge to smile when playing in the weekly galas. That's because the club continues to provide the majority of entries, so the blue shirts are predominant.

Finally, from me, welcome to all new members and farewell to one of our regular Friday night socialisers, Robyn Roberts, who has moved to Christchurch.

Merry Christmas, John



Our big New Year event: The TigerTurf Mixed Triples will launch us into 2022. It's a 2day event and is a lot of fun as well as being competitive. There'll be plenty of food and some excellent prizes, so if you haven't yet entered, please do so.

Social Trip to Bulls: Yep, this is no bull. We are developing a close relationship with the Bulls BC. It will be firmed up when a crew from Raumati travels to Bulls for a one-day social and bowls event. If you're keen, please let Glenn Blakey know.

Club Championships & events



Championship Triples
Winners

Women: Kathy Edney-
Meechan, Trudy Nicholson
(S) & Maureen Gestro

Men: John McBeth, Neal
Pritchard (s) & Reg Goston



Junior Pairs winners

Men: Alex Reid & Mike Hunter

Women: Sue Veart & Heather
Simpson



Championship women's pairs

Heather Simpson (s) & Sue Veart – runners-up.

Ronnie Crone (s) & Jane
Bradbury - winners

Winning team in Bob
Donaldson Cup Match

Bev Lang, Harry Meechan
& Trudy Nicholson (s)



National Championships

There has been quite an amount of interest from some members about playing in the pinnacle event of New Zealand Bowls- the National Championships. This season the Fours and Mixed Pairs are in Taranaki. Already we have one Men's 4 and two Mixed Pairs combinations entered and 4 women in composite teams. More details are available on the Bowls NZ website, <https://bowlsnewzealand.co.nz/> or chat with President John or Sam Kwok.

Greens report – some information in the Centre Newsletter about this in general. Here is the part of the report sent to us referring specifically to our greens.

“RAUMATI 2 x Tiger Turf artificial greens both 36.6m x 36.6m. Ditches conform. Both played well at 16/17 sec. Front green is 10 years old and due to be replaced in next 3/4 years. Back green is 18 months old. Both suitable for Centre play”

Hire of building and greens: There has been steady demand from the public to use our facilities for social events. Often this includes the playing of bowls, and usually a quite heavy demand on the bar. Thanks to all members who willingly assist on these occasions. The financial benefits to the club are not insignificant. All groups have willingly embraced the Vaccine Policy and provided their passes when requested.

New Members: Welcome to these new members over the past couple of months – members please add their names to your handbook

Rochelle Stevenson	114 Aston Road Waikanae Downs	027 6757631	Associate
Andrew Raynor	10 Gandalf Crescent Paraparaumu	04 298 5995 027 492 8625	Full
Anne Rose	138 Pohutukawa Place Raumati Beach	021 158 2304	Social
Malcolm Rose	138 Pohutukawa Place Raumati Beach	04 979 2757 021 100 9005	Social
Robyn Severinson	66A Bluegum Road Paraparaumu Beach	021 261 4647	Social

Executive News: Reluctantly we have accepted Gavin Muir's resignation from the executive team because of health issues. Gavin has been an extremely positive and supportive member of the team for several years and his common-sense, humour and dedication will be missed on the committee. Thank you, Gavin. We look forward to seeing you back on the green when you feel ready.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year from your executive.

Friday night social time - Bar open from 4.30pm. Raffles. Lucky draw at 6.00pm. Lucky number draw - Remember you need to be there to win. NEXT Friday - \$40

Results of the last few weeks – 15/10 Russ Wilkins \$180, 22/10 Chris Cobb, 5/11 Lesley Cooper. 12/11 Bev Lang \$80, 19/11 Pete Foothead, 26/11 Bill Ward, 3/12 Neal Berry, 10/12 George Roberts \$100



Ham Raffles

The first ham raffle was drawn on Friday 3rd December and was won by Rob Adair. Another raffle has started so get your number on the sheets by the bar.



Profile by John McBeth

Tony Burbage is approaching 90 years of age and this quiet and unassuming character has lived a life that bears telling, even in a very abbreviated way.

He was born in Plymouth, England, the eldest of three boys. They lived through the dreadful air raids of World War 2, luckily surviving the bombing and destruction of the family home.

Tony completed his National Service with the RAF based in Singapore and when he returned to England he struggled to settle. He noticed an advertisement calling for applications to a position at the Sun Herald, a

newspaper in Melbourne. He was accepted and worked there for nearly ten years before deciding to try his luck across the Tasman. First up it was Dunedin and the Dunedin Star, then to Wellington as a printer with the Evening Post.

He entered the commercial printing business with NCR whose offices were in Tawa, and after 15 years with them he became manager of Spicer Cowan, an envelope production company.

Tony and Patricia met when Tony moved to Wellington. Their three boys and one girl produced four grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. Sadly, some of the family are in The Philippines, so Covid restrictions have kept them apart.

When Tony retired in 1989 - retirement wasn't really retirement. Quite by chance he met renowned stained glass expert, Olaf Wehr-Candler, in Pukerua Bay and ended up working for him for ten years. The windows in the Kapiti Funeral Home chapel were constructed by Tony.

He joined the Plimmerton Bowling Club. Not many can boast (and Tony never boasts) to having made the final of the famous Taranaki Open Fours. Tony did. He also has a remarkable record as a technical official. He has been seen on the greens at the Asia Pacific Championships in 2007 and the World Championships in Christchurch the following year. I recall announcing to the international TV audience "Your umpire for this match is Tony Burbage". He was an umpire in a three test Trans- Tasman series and numerous national championships. When asked why he gave up umpiring he replied " I could get down okay it was the getting back to my feet that was a bit of a struggle"!

Tony admits he would be lost without bowls. He looks forward to playing in the galas and attending Friday drinks, and one of his highlights is the regular "Widowers Dinner" on Thursday.

Lots of us will grin when Tony Burbage says " I'm happy that others tolerate my bowls". Because we all know that's far from the truth- we play with him because he's a wonderful gentleman.

SUMMER CLUB DAYS – discs in by 1.15 for 1.30pm start please

Any info/photos for newsletter let Sue McFarlane know at raumatibowlingclub@outlook.com / 0210648251