

MEMBERS BULLETIN

26th March 2010

Bowlers win through to the Pennant Finals

In a first for the club all three men's bowls sides have made it through to the Pennant finals. Our Division 4 and Division 6 sides have finished on top and the 7s qualified fourth. All three sides have very good chances of winning flags for the club and will do battle at Lavington (Division 4), Walla (Division 6) and Windsor Park (Division 7) over the weekend. The teams have had the advantage of Coach Wally Bourne's expertise and team building over the season and the much maligned selection committee can look back on these results as a testimony to their judicious selections.

The teams have lifted the competitive image of the club which already boasts the best greens in the district and a hard working match committee headed by Bowls manager Arthur Prosser that rate with the best in the district.

We wish our three teams the best of luck at the weekend and are confident that they will do us proud.

From the Board

Nominations for the 2010 election are now open and close on Wednesday 7th April at 5 pm. Those wishing to nominate for positions will be able to pick up a nomination form from the Club Office. Nominations will be posted on the notice board in accordance with the requirements of rule 37.4.

Each member should have received in the mail a copy of the Concise Annual Report. This contains all of the audited information. A copy of the full report is available from the web site or from the Club Office. The full version contains the remaining official reports and the departmental trading statements. The Board took the decision to send a report to every member after receiving a myriad of complaints from members who did not receive copies last year.

Our trading position through the first three months has us ahead of our profit budget and on track to achieve our annual budget. The Board intends to schedule an information meeting in June to provide a half year report on our trading position and how we are tracking on our first year recovery budget. This meeting will also be used to provide details on the consultant's updated irrigation report.

Male Bowlers are reminded that their Annual General Meeting will be held at 7 pm on Monday night at the Clubhouse. The District President will be in attendance and will be explaining some proposals for future pennant competitions.

From the Greens Committee

An inspection of the course bunkers was completed last week and the Superintendent is currently costing the proposed work. The inspection followed a number of complaints ranging from a lack of drainage, insufficient sand through to the difficulty of getting in and out of some of our bunkers. The inspection revealed that three bunkers required new drainage (major work); others needed minor work and additional sand whilst the third group needed specific action to improve access. The Superintendent is currently costing a proposal that would see;

- The right hand greenside bunkers on 8, 11 and greenside front of 14 rebuilt with new drainage. The 11th will be scheduled first with work expected to commence after the club championships.
- The pot bunkers surrounding the 14th and 16th greens will have their base raised about a foot and small access tongues provided to improve entry and exit.
- The bunker at the rear of the 16th will be lengthened toward the wind mill and an easy entry provided from the left rear. The bunker will also stop balls entering the water in front of the 17th.
- There will be some minor reshaping of the bottom right edge of the left greenside bunker on the first to stop water from entering this bunker
- Refill of sand will be programmed as part of normal maintenance.

The Irrigation consultant Paul Jones has contacted the club and advised that he is close to completing the revamp of his initial Howlong proposal and this should be available to the committee some time shortly after Easter. The membership will be advised of the outcome at the half yearly information meeting.

As chairman of greens I was pleased to hear that Fabulous Phil Gibbons had taken advantage of the excellent fairway and hit two perfect shots down the 15th last Saturday that resulted in a tap in Birdie for 3 a 5. Apparently Phil was unlucky not to have eagled the hole and score 2 a 6. The Niven brothers were with him and were obviously upset that Phil had not made his eagle I could tell by the animated discussion and sympathy that they were showing although I could not quite understand the language they were using. Keep up the good work Phil.

From the Bowls Manager

It is with mixed feelings that I write this report to the members as I am retiring my position on the Board as Bowls Manager at the Annual General Meeting on the 15th April. Over the years that I represented the Bowlers there were a few ups and downs, there was a period where our greens fell short of the requirements needed to promote and keep members on the green. In fact it caused our Howlong Classic two day tournament to be cancelled however with our present Greens Superintendent and her staff our greens are now as good as any in the Albury/Wodonga district. This has been borne out by comments from some of the best bowlers in the Albury/Wodonga district and as far away as Melbourne and this has enabled us to reintroduce our Bowls Classic Two Day competition which was a great success this year.

One of the most difficult periods for me was whilst on the Board of 2008. The General Manager of the day convinced a number of the board the way to go was to borrow some millions of dollars and virtually rebuild the club during a time of financial down turn. However two or three of us strongly opposed the proposal suggesting that it would be far better upgrading the Club we already have. This laid heavily on my mind and a suggestion was put forward that we spend money to create a dining area. I pushed this alternative at every opportunity and eventually the GM at the time resigned not getting his big spend. It has been gratifying to see our newly elected Board for 2009 turn our club around and begin to show a financial revival and it gives me a great deal of pleasure to see a dining area being introduced and last (Sunday evening) the dining area filled to capacity flowing over to the conference area. This is no doubt a great step forward as I know people will patronise good food in a good environment, I say come and try it, you will be pleased. Our new GM Chris must be congratulated on his initiative, come and meet him.

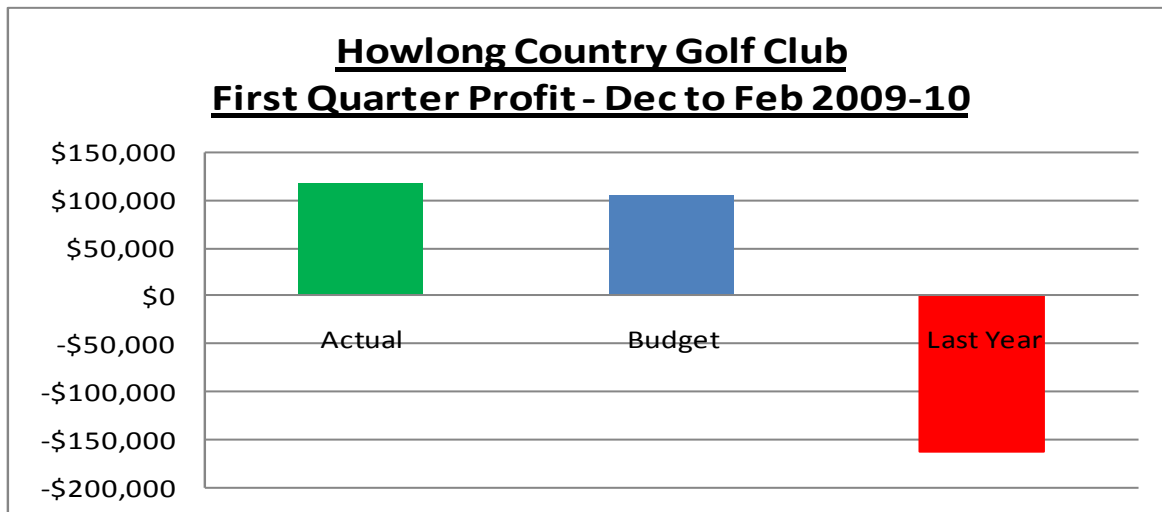
Our Wednesday Charity Night event has been another success this year raising funds for the various sporting clubs in our town thanks to the organisers Bob Schneider and Russell Schmidt. Some of our senior bowlers have been playing in district club events. Our Ladies club has given us great support by way of preparing lunches etc for pennant and small tournaments. The bowls jackpot went off last Sunday, guess who: - Roy, Mary & Eileen \$378.

During my term as Bowls Manager I have been fortunate to have the support of a strong match committee whose members have carried out the work necessary to keep the bowling fraternity running as a cohesive operation. The 2009 match committee members included Russell Schmidt, Bob Schneider, Jeff Brundell, Terry Fletcher and Treasurer Duncan Chappell who kept a stringent eye on our finances and to these folk I say thanks. Gordon Routledge's initiative to open a refreshment bar on the green has proved a great success, thank you Gordon. Also a big thank you to Sarah and her staff for keeping the greens in excellent condition throughout the year and to Shane and his staff within the club, thanks also to the office staff. Last but not least my gratitude to all board members for your support and help during this last twelve months and especially to our President Ken and General Manager Chris and I hope that you give our next Bowls Manager that same support. And so I leave the Board at the age of 80+ with great satisfaction and pleasure wishing all well in the future and success at our next AGM.

Arthur Prosser Bowls Manager 21/03/2010

From the General Manager

The first quarter's accounts have been completed and are on the notice board for members. We are pleased to announce that our trading position is ahead of budget and represents a significant improvement on last year as indicated in the graph below.



Members would have noticed that we are starting to get to bus groups back again and this is helping to improve revenue in the club. The upgrades to the gaming room over recent months is starting to pay dividends with the new machines proving to be very popular with revenue up 20% for February. Further upgrades are planned in the gaming room during April.

The Happy Lotus has been extremely busy and we have received many positive comments from members and guest about the food. On Friday evenings to alleviate some of the pressure on the restaurant we are opening the Windmill Bistro for lighter style bistro meals. This week's menu is listed below;



Café Menu

Available Friday Evenings from 5.30pm

Member Non Member

Garlic Bread	\$5.00	\$5.50
Crumbed Prawn Cutlets (6pc), served with salad, chips lemon and tartare sauce.	\$9.50	\$10.50
Foccacia, Choice of foccacia; vegetarian, Italian or chicken.	\$8.90	\$9.90
Windmill Steak Sandwich, scotch fillet, beetroot, onion, tomato, lettuce, BBQ sauce and chips.	\$8.50	\$9.50
Beef Lasagne, served with chips and salad.	\$7.50	\$8.50
Battered fish and chips, served with chips and salad.	\$7.50	\$8.50
Bowl chips and gravy.	\$4.00	\$4.50