PRESIDENTS REPORT 10.11.26

Alexandra Bowling Club

Barry Helm (President) and Kathryn Lynskey (Treasurer) recently asked for a meeting with Pauline and I. Unfortunately, Pauline couldn't make the meeting which was held on Sunday, 1 November. Clearly, the most pressing matter is finance and, in particular, the cost of maintaining their large building. The only realistic option I see is for a commercial partner to become involved. I am aware of an interested party. I am yet to meet with the Presidents of Alexandra, ADC & Clyde so must progress this. Realistically, I do not see solutions falling out of the meeting but nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Barry highlighted the challenge of attaining markers for the upcoming Bowls Central Otago 7's competitions. Pauline and I agree Alexandra should not have to provide markers more than any other competing club. I note Pauline has recently highlighted to clubs their requirement to provide markers. This must be a not negotiable.

Barry also raised the number of weekends that Division 2 players have off so this is of a more general nature. Alexandra has started organising games on a Saturday afternoon for players not selected for Pennants and they wish to extend this to involve other clubs. Similar noise has emanated from Arrowtown. I do not believe Bowls Central Otago should be involved in this other than be supportive of it.

Culture

Carl recently sent the following to me and it makes interesting reading and is likely from an Australian source.

WE CAN'T RECRUIT OUR WAY OUT OF A CULTURE PROBLEM.

We want more members. More juniors. More young people taking up bowls. More clubs thriving.
But here's the question we need to ask:
What happens AFTER we get people through the doors?
Do they find encouragement or criticism? Fair opportunities or favouritism? Strong leadership or club politics? A community that welcomes fresh ideas or one that insists everything must stay the same?
And perhaps the most uncomfortable question of all…
How many players have we worked so hard to recruit, only to lose because of the culture they encountered?
A membership drive can get someone through the door. But only the club itself can give them a reason to stay!
Healthy clubs are built on respect, fairness, inclusion, and leaders who listen. Not just trophies, titles, and tradition.
Tradition matters.
Competition matters.
Standards matter.
COMMUNITY matters…
But without people, there is no sport.
If we want bowls to grow, we need to stop asking only, "How do we attract more players?"

and start asking, "What kind of club are we asking them to join?"
LET'S OPEN THIS CONVERSATION.
If you could change ONE thing about bowls club culture to make the sport better, what would it be?
Drop your answer in the comments. Be honest, be constructive, and let's talk about solutions. Growing the numbers means very little if we don't create an environment where people want to stay…

WHERE TO FROM HERE???

2026/2027 Selectors (Men's)
15 Development Squad players were selected to play Dunedin at the Alexandra BC on Sunday, 1 November – 2 x Fours, 2 x Pairs and 2 x Singles. Two Central Otago players played one game only. Two rounds were played which allowed me to interchange players across the day.
Conditions were very testing with a strong wind which was great from a selection perspective. You want players who can play in such conditions so consequently some have played their way out and a lesser number put their hands up for selection for the Southern 6 in January.
The fixture was all tied up after the morning games @ 3 apiece with a zero differential but Dunedin won 4 games to 2 in the afternoon with a sound differential.
Overall – Dunedin 7 wins (208 points): Central Otago 5 wins(162 points)
The Alexandra BC did an excellent job in terms of catering and green preparation. The Central Otago players paid $10 to cover catering for themselves and the Dunedin players. This was a result of what Dunedin provided last year and was an interim measure. Pauline and the other Centres have now formalised an agreement for the future.
The next Development Squad fixture is against Southland on 29 November and once again at the Alexandra BC. The Seniors (5 rinks), Women (6 rinks) and Development Men (5 rinks) will mean both greens will be fully utilised.
Southland Development are now only bringing 9 players. As my selections for Dunedin were based on Southland bringing 14 players I will be selecting 13 players, 4 of whom will play a Central Otago selection in the morning and afternoon. Once again, I will be mixing teams and combinations up.

The Men's Senior team will be selected and announced to the players on Monday, 9 November. The respective coaches have agreed a new format involving 2 x Fours combinations and 3 x Pairs. Two rounds will be played with each round decided by the total points scored by the 5 teams. If each team wins a round then it becomes the most games won and, if still tied, the most points scored. Feedback from players and spectators will be very interesting.

Wanaka 100th Year Celebrations
I am interested in Barbara's feedback on the celebration.

Pennants

Saturday & Wednesday Pennants are well underway and it is pleasing to see the close scores across all Divisions on Saturdays. A lot of time has been dedicated over the past few years to provide a platform for "meaningful" competition so I think all concerned should be well pleased. I believe it is very important to conduct player meetings for both men and women so all clubs and particularly their players have an open opportunity to provide relevant and current feedback. These meetings can potentially remove the need for remits where not all relevant parties are in attendance or do not have a full understanding of what they are voting on. I am not aware of any defaults to date on Saturdays and I believe this is as result of the changes made and clubs moving to a squad format.

As outlined at our last meeting our response to the query from an Arrowtown member regarding the wording in the Handbook under Saturday Pennants has been passed on with no dissent. For the sake of yours truly let's ensure the correction is made next year.

Interclub 7's

At the President's meeting Patearoa put forward an idea that the Centre accept a team or teams selected from the 5 clubs in the Maniatoto. In progressing this I looked at the number of full player members in each of those 5 clubs and put the following out to the Match Committee for comment.

Affiliation: *All sides must be affiliated to a Bowls Central Otago Club. A club is permitted to enter more than one side. Clubs with less than 20 members of the same gender will be allowed to enter a combined side with 1 other club of similar size.*
From the Handbook:

Men's eligible clubs: Hawea (14 male members), Middlemarch (6), Naseby (13), Patearoa (9), Roxburgh (14), Waipiata (16)

Women's eligible clubs: ADC (18 female members), Bannockburn (9), Hawea (14), Middlemarch (6), Naseby (7), Omakau (12), Patearoa (3), Queenstown (14), Ranfurly (12), Roxburgh (7), Waipiata (8)

Ranfurly has 27 Men and 12 Women

MENS - Given the numbers above I do not believe a Maniatoto team, to include Ranfurly, should be invited to compete in the Men's section. However, I have no issue with invitations being extended to Ranfurly (standalone) and the other 4 clubs as a composite team.

WOMENS - The numbers here do not seem as simplistic. I would recommend two invitations be extended - one to Ranfurly as standalone or combining with one other club and the second invitation to the balance of clubs, being three or four.

e. Interestingly, for a composite team to qualify for the National Club 7's they obviously need to win their Centre's championship BUT their Conditions of Play say "with less than 10 members". Therefore, had Hawea/Roxburgh won the Men's 7's last year they would not have been eligible to go to the Nationals. I have no issue working slightly outside of the rules for the promotion of the game but any such consequences need to be spelt out to all clubs.

To act on the above will very likely draw criticism from some quarters but I am comfortable with that as it sends a clear message as to where we see the focus should be i.e. it's about the future and not just on the select few

Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 10 November
Venue: Community House, Alexandra
Time: 4:30pm

Cheers
Peter D