

Happy New Year everyone,

Christmas certainly seems a long time ago now doesn't it, but this is our first newsletter since then. Things were a bit quiet at bowls over the Christmas period but we are now in full swing again.

This weekend saw the finals of both the men's and women's singles, where some exceptionally good bowls were played by everyone. This, despite the horrendous windy conditions you all had to contend with, so very well done. The singles winner for the women was Robyn Crankshaw and the men's was Terry Leadbetter. Congratulations to you both and to everyone who took part, you all made your games very enjoyable to watch. There were lots of spectators throughout the day and the sunshade over the deck was definitely a bonus. I'm sure our bowlers could have done with one over the entire green! Last, but definitely not least, many thanks go to our volunteer markers, which prompts me to share this with you, Up and down, walking, walking, often measuring sometimes chalking, shifting mats, keeping score, twenty one ends, maybe more, aching back, tired of limb, cheers for others, none for him, night draws on, darker, darker, no one cares for he's the marker! However, we do care, you are very important so here is, 'Cheers to you'!

The later start for roll up last Wednesday, followed by a BBQ, was a great success. Thanks to Gary and Lynne for their work in the organisation and to Gary who cooks a mean sausage! It was a perfect evening for eating outside and spending time socialising with a drink and chatting at length, rather than just a hurried ten minutes or so over a cup of tea and biscuit. If you didn't manage to come to this one, do mark it on your calendar for next time, Wednesday 19 February at 3.30 pm. Bring a bottle.

Note to Junior players 1 > 5 years.

There are several club events coming up especially for you, including 1st year singles, Junior championship singles, Junior pairs (box drawn teams). Please check sheets on noticeboard at the club to enter. Bay of Plenty Junior Open Single 21st, 22nd March at Rotorua. On-line entries on Bay of Plenty Bowls website or talk to Lynne.

Our water urn (was used without water), boiler and irrigation system are now all up and running again, after a few problems, and we have John Keen to thank for organising the repairs.

Nationals: Bowls New Zealand ran the single and pairs championships in Christchurch with 2 club members, Gary Bodger and Terry Leadbetter participated in both events. Both qualified in each event only to be defeated in the first round of the post section. A great effort and great for Papamoa Bowls.

The 4's event is being held from the 27 Feb to 2 March. This is noted in our book as we are on standby for inclement weather if play needs to be moved to an artificial surface to complete the event. Very unlikely but possible. More likely for late post section 1st or 2nd March.

We have several players in this event, Bill Brown, Bob Dunning, Lynne Bodger, Sally Cox, Alison Brocklehurst, Terry Leadbetter, Gary Bodger and his big brother Ron. There may be others.

Good luck to you all.

Our open triples tournaments are well attended by both our members and outside teams. We have a full green already for our next tournament on the 18th of this month and enquiries are in already for March. We have had many compliments from outside teams on the welcoming attitude and friendliness of members at our club, which is really encouraging and obviously makes them keen to return - along with our fine feast of goodies for afternoon tea, of course! Fantastic results for January tournament 3 teams with prizes.

Happy Bowling from the Team.

