



The MANLY MESSENGER

September 2021 edition

EDITOR

RON BROOKS

I have the sad duty to record the passing of member, Ron Brooks on 4 September 2021. Ron was a long-time member of the Cannon Hill and Belmont Clubs who joined Manly a few years ago. He was a regular player at Manly on Wednesday mornings until 2019.

Ron had a long and distinguished career in Lawn Bowls. Highlights included that he was Australian Singles Champion in 1981, Queensland State selector and inaugural president of the Gateway District Bowls Association.

I am sure members join me in expressing their condolences to Ron's family.

John Curr

Editor

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The pennants season has now been completed for men and ladies 2021. I would like to congratulate all who participated in the events.

We had a very successful competition with the Ladies 3rd division winning the flag and the men's 2nd division and 4th making the semifinals, to all involved, well done!

A special mention to our teams that won or participated in Gateway champion of champion events.

You would have noticed that we are steadily working to improve facilities around the. The damaged blinds on the bottom green have been removed and application has been made for a grant to cover the gap from the roof to the clubhouse.

We have also replaced the damaged palings on the top carpark fence, so I ask everyone to be more careful when reversing into your car-parking spaces.

Work has also been done on the vinyl in the kitchen.

We have started a Friday night corporate bowls event for September. This will be followed by the highly successful Jack Attack. Now's the time to encourage neighbors and friends to come and try lawn bowls and see what they are missing out on.

Murray Burdett

Chairman

MEN'S DIVISION REPORT

In spite of Covid lockdowns, the shortened version of the Gateway Pennant season is nearing completion. Unfortunately, all four of our teams came up a little short. The second and fourth division teams reached the finals. The sixth division and eighth teams were eliminated. None the less, we congratulate our players for their effort and perhaps next season will be better. On that note, the Men's Committee are currently looking at ways of improving our overall playing standard in readiness for the next season, more will be reported in the coming months.

Unfortunately, there have been some complaints in relation to excessive drinking during pennant games by a few players which has had an adverse effect on behaviour, performance and team morale. The problem has been raised in the Men's committee which has agreed to give full support to the selectors if they find it necessary to act on the matter.

Barefoot Bowls is slowly growing in numbers and, with the appointment of our Coordinator, Helen, behaviour on and around the greens has vastly improved. We look forward to the ongoing steady development of this activity along with its many positive spin offs.

Friday night Corporate Bowls has commenced and is proving to be very popular for all involved. However, we do need to support this event by way of volunteers from our membership to participate in the games to ensure all the novices are well catered for. The income to the Club is substantial and already we have received several applications for full playing members from the corporate players.

Jack Attack will follow soon after Corporate Bowls finishes again on Friday nights, so keep an eye on the notice board for details. It is a lot of fun.

Members will be aware that two designs for our new uniform have been displayed on the notice board during the month of September, members are asked to give their preference by completing the form and placing in the adjacent ballot box, the Board will make a decision in early October with a view to having the new uniforms available for the 2022 season

Sadly in recent times we have witnessed the passing of Keith Harris a long standing, highly regarded member and Ken Sowden's step-son, David Byrne. We send our condolences to their families.

It was approved at our last meeting to run a Queen's Birthday [4th Oct] Open Triples competition as proposed by Rob Dilworth. Members support is needed to make it viable, keep an eye on the notice board for the flyer with all the details

It is clear that Covid will be with us for some time. Perhaps, with 80 % vaccination and associated opening up of borders, there will be even a greater need for masks, safe distancing and other safety measures including disinfecting of mats. The Board has approved the purchase of new specially -designed mat stackers to make this task easy and effective with improved drying capability

On this toxic topic of Covid, members will be aware that the Club has a legal obligation to follow Government protocols. Failure to do so could lead to hefty fines and even closure. Accordingly, I ask that all members and their guests pay special attention to the legal requirements in regard to Covid registration, safe distancing and the wearing of face masks. Remember, " we are all in this together "

On a final note, I ask that all members make special effort to ensure that their bowls bags are placed well clear of major access ways, make sure bags do not clutter prime areas of movement, push below or behind seats. Cluttered walkways can cause serious accidents

These past two years have been very challenging, but somehow Club Manly has survived very well and the light at the end of the tunnel is growing stronger, let's pull together even stronger and bring it on

Kind regards

Ross Watson

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MEN'S GAMES DIRECTOR

Club Championships:

The Open Singles has progressed to the quarter finals with one game already completed where Gary Gilbert defeated his brother Noel 25 – 21 (maybe a changing of the guard)?

The Mixed Pairs has reached the final (Barrie Browne and Desley Bissett v Norm and Marcel Broadhurst).

The B Grade Singles has reached the final (John Zarb v David Bach).

The Triples and Veteran Singles commence shortly.

Gateway District 'Champion of Champions' results:

The Gateway District Fours champions – John Curr, Rob Dilworth, Paul Smith and Bill Thompson were defeated in the Zone 1 final by the Tweed Heads Bowls Club, Champions of the Gold Coast and Tweed District.

Pairs – Dale Beardmore and Gary Gilbert, with a win and a loss, were eliminated in sectional play.

Singles – Syd Bean, with a win and a loss, was eliminated in sectional play.

A resounding well done to all of our representatives.

Pennants:

Division 2 lost their semi-final to Victoria Point 68 – 54

Division 4 lost their semi-final to Cleveland 72 – 49

Division 6 did not make the finals.

Division 8 narrowly missed out on making the finals.

Upcoming Events –

3 October – Breakfast Pairs

David Bach –Games Director Men’s Division

LADIES DIVISION REPORT

Tuesday bowls is almost back to normal after 3 weeks in lock-down. Great to see the ladies enjoying their Tuesday competition and social bowls again.

Since we have been back, I have had the pleasure of supporting our singles Champion Beverley Ryan representing our Club in the District champion of champion district play off over 2 Wednesdays. Congratulations Beverley for winning the Gateway District C of C singles. On Saturday 4th Sept myself and a few other Manly Ladies went to Paradise Point to support Beverley in the Zone play off against Gold Coast C of C Lindsey Clark in pouring rain. Unfortunately, Bev could not continue her winning ways. Congratulations Beverley for representing the Club and becoming the Gateway District Champion of Champion Singles champion.

Monday 6th Sept. was another great day for the Manly Ladies with our Division 3 winning the flag for our club. Congratulations to all the Division 3 players for a great win. Thanks also for all the ladies and men who made the effort to support our Division 3 players at Victoria Point. They played the Victoria Point Division 3 who had a home advantage but our Ladies played brilliantly and came out on top.

I am still in training as the new President and am sure will make mistakes but my main aim is to unite our Ladies division again. We are all entitled to our opinions /differences, but let’s work through them

to becoming the best club again. Hopefully we can get through the rest of the year with no more lock-downs. See you on the green.

CLARE HALL

LADIES PRESIDENT

Our member Heather Jones celebrated a serious birthday recently



LADIES' GAMES DIRECTOR REPORT:

Ladies,

Our Pennant season has come to an end. Due to Covid, Gateway had to reduce the number of rounds played.

Our Third Division ended up on top of the ladder and played the finals on Monday 6th September at Victoria Point. Thank you for all the ladies who attended and supported these Ladies. Again, our third division came forward and won the 2021 Division 3 Pennant Flag. Congratulations Ladies, well done.

The 'B' Consistence semi-final was played on Tuesday 7th September between Denise Dowding and Clare Morton. Congratulations Denise. The final of the 'B' Consistency will be played on Tuesday 14th September between Denise Dowding and Shirley See-Kee. Good Luck ladies.

Our Championship Triples nominations will close on the 28th September and play will begin on the 5th October. Nominated dates are on the Competition notice board. If you wish to nominate for this competition, please put in a nomination form it will be placed in our nominations book.

The Gateway Ladies Champion of Champion Singles was completed at the end of August. Congratulations to Bev Ryan for winning this event. Bev advanced to the Group Level to play the Gold Coast-Tweed Heads District Champion of champions Lynsey Clarke at Paradise Point on Saturday 4th September on a very wet day. Although Paradise Point had a covered green, the ladies had to play outside in the weather. Unfortunately, Bev was defeated by the well-known, Australian international player.

For those that have not yet returned to bowls we look forward to seeing you in the very near future. In the mean, time great bowling everyone.

Kym and Marcelle

Your Games Directors

GATEWAY DLBA 'S SINGLES CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS 2021

Manly's Ladies Member Beverley Ryan won the Gateway's District Singles C of C for 2021. Her pathway to the Championship was:-

25 August 2021 at Victoria Point	Cheryl Lindfield Kay Fick	Mt. Gravatt Victoria Point	25-13 25 – 10
1 st September 2021 Victoria Point	Suzie Teitzel	Wellington point	25 - 11

In the Zone final, the final score was Lynsey Clarke 25 to Beverley Ryan 12.

Beverley said after the match, "It was a delight to meet and play against Lynsey". Lynsey stated that "The game was played with good sportsmanship and Beverley and I had a few laughs and chats during the game".

Beverley expressed her gratitude to Manly members including her spouse Neville who came to support her in the District and Zone games.



WAR VETERANS

Hi Everyone

Well, this is my first report for the Vets. We finally had our AGM – a couple of weeks late (due to COVID). Firstly, I would like to thank Murray Burdett and his board for handing over a great club. A lot of hard work goes into getting grants, sponsors etc – good show!! I would like to wish Odile all the best and a good recovery from her accident and hope to see her at Bowls sometime soon. Secondly, I would like to welcome the new board and hope we have a great year together, and smooth sailing. (Oops, that should be smooth bowling!)

Coming up for September – we have a visit from our Sponsors Friday 10th Sept. A visit from Samford Sunday 26th Sept, and normal bowling days every Friday.

We were lucky enough to get a grant to subsidise our bus trips – thanks to Murray Burdett. This means more people are likely to go as costs are reduced and, especially for couples, the cost is now affordable.

Our outings for October – Pt Lookout 31st.

Outings for November – Bribie (in visit) 21st, Tewantin (out visit) 28th.

Outings for December is our trip to Bribie (not to play bowls) but to go on a boat trip up the Bribie Passage. Details on the notice board. And last but not least is our Xmas lunch, date TBA.

Until next time. Keep safe, be happy and enjoy bowls!!

Lyn Cotton (President Vets)

LENNIE AND GINGER MICK



It's 1932 and Australia is in the grip of the Great Depression. One in three workers are unemployed. Decrepit shanty towns hug the outskirts of the big cities. A scrawny rabbit caught in a trap will feed a family for a week. Country roads are filled with broken men walking from one farmhouse to another seeking menial jobs and food. On the outskirts of the South Gippsland town of Leongatha, an

injured farmer lies in bed unable to walk – or work. World War I hero Captain Leo Tennyson Gwyther is in hospital with a broken leg and the family farm is in danger of falling into ruins. Up steps his son, nine-year-old Lennie. With the help of his pony Ginger Mick, Lennie ploughs the farm's 24 paddocks and keeps the place running until his father can get back on his feet. How to reward him? Lennie has been obsessively following one of the biggest engineering feats of the era – the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He wants to attend its opening. With great reluctance, his parents agree he can go. So, Lennie saddles up Ginger Mick, packs a toothbrush, pyjamas, spare clothes and a water bottle into a sack, and begins the 1000+ kilometer (600+ miles) trek to Sydney.

Alone.

That's right.

A nine year old boy riding a pony from the deep south of Victoria to the biggest and roughest city in the nation.

Told you it was a different era. No social media. No mobile phones. But even then it doesn't take long before word begins to spread about a boy, his horse and their epic trek. The entire populations of small country towns gather on their outskirts to welcome his arrival. He survives bushfires, is attacked by a "vagabond" and endures rain and cold, biting winds. When he reaches Canberra he is welcomed by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, who invites him into Parliament House for tea. When he finally arrives in Sydney, more than 10,000 people line the streets to greet him. He is besieged by autograph hunters. He becomes a key part of the official parade at the bridge's opening. He and Ginger Mick are invited to make a starring appearance at the Royal Show. Even Donald Bradman, the biggest celebrity of the Depression era, requests a meeting and gives him a signed cricket bat.

A letter writer to The Sydney Morning Herald at the time gushes that "just such an example as provided by a child of nine summers, Lennie Gwyther was, and is, needed to raise the spirit of our people and to fire our youth and others to do things – not to talk only. "The sturdy pioneer spirit is not dead ... let it be remembered that this little lad, when his father was in hospital, cultivated the farm – a mere child."

When Lennie leaves Sydney for home a month later, he has become one of the most famous figures in a country craving uplifting news. Large crowds wave handkerchiefs. Women weep and shout "goodbye". According to The Sun newspaper, "Lennie, being a casual Australian, swung into the saddle and called 'Toodleloo!'" He finally arrives home to a tumultuous reaction in Leongatha. He returns to school and soon life for Lennie – and the country – returns to normal.

These days you can find a bronze statue in Leongatha commemorating Lennie and Ginger Mick.

But Australia has largely forgotten his remarkable feat – and how he inspired a struggling nation. Never taught about him in school? Never heard of him before?

Spread the word. We need to remember – and celebrate – Lennie Gwyther and his courageous journey. It's a great story. God knows we need these stories now, more than ever.

**This is a contribution from bush poet and story teller,
Long John Best who has kindly allowed me to publish
some of his work.**

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