



BOWLS NORTH HARBOUR NZ MASTERS
15 - 19 February 2021
 Headquarters - Birkenhead

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Not Open Just Yet

As we enter day 28 of Alert Level 4 we look forward to Alert Level 3 coming into affect Tuesday 28 April with a slight relaxation of the rules. As far as the Club is concerned it is effectively no change, the Club rooms and greens are still closed. Level 2 is when we will hopefully be back open for business, but with restrictions and the greens available for limited use. Working on the Government's latest announcement we could be able to open again during the second week of May, after we have taken the Clubrooms back from the sparrows, spiders and whatever other insects are currently partying it up at the Club. Closing day for this past season is down for Saturday 16 May and will pass quietly this season as we sit under, hopefully, Alert Level 2 restrictions. As for Prize-giving, this date may well go back to late May or even June as this will enable us to hold such an occasion with the full honours it deserves

The AGM 2020 is set down for 10am 7 June at the Clubrooms. Although this may change depending on what level will we be under and restrictions that are in place. The Board is currently looking at all possibilities with the assistance of Bowls North Harbour and Bowls New Zealand. These are unique times we are in and no doubt Club Constitutions and Regulations didn't foresee this type of event when they were written or updated.

Presidential Update

Hi everybody, I hope that you are all not only surviving, but thriving during these unprecedented times. I thought it was time to give you an update as to where the Club stands as we look forward to coming back to level 3 of the Covid-19 lockdown.

I would like to start by thanking all those involved in essential services who have made this situation tolerable. I know there are a number of Club members who are in this situation, and you need to know that your efforts are appreciated by all, especially those of us who are in the age group that makes us more vulnerable.

Be assured that the Board has not been sitting on its collective backside over this past few weeks. The last Board meeting was held using Zoom, which was a challenge in itself, particularly for those of us that are not as technically inclined as others. Terry did a great job in setting this up in a way we could all understand.

We have been very fortunate over this time in terms of maintaining the greens. Fortunately, the Green's Fairy heard the Prime Minister announce that the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny were considered essential services. On this basis, there was an opportunity for him to keep an eye on the situation. Bowls New Zealand were eventually able to get permission for Green Keepers to do essential maintenance and as a result of both factors, our Greens are in good condition. It looks as though they will be ready to use when the Government allows us to get back to bowling again.

Ok, the current situation is this:

Bowls New Zealand has announced that at level 3, the status quo will remain, that is " no activity allowed at all Bowling Clubs throughout NZ".

This will obviously have an effect on the Club in the short and medium-term. The Board is regularly reassessing how to minimize these effects. While some tournaments have been cancelled, if any can be postponed to a later date they will be. Bowls North Harbour are rearranging their programs and will update as they can.

The date for the AGM is Sunday 7 June, but this may have to be put back. If this is the case, the current Board will continue in their role until the AGM is able to be held.

Keep safe and look after yourselves. We will come out of this.

John Croy - President

Congratulations Ann Lepper
 Top Skipper for Birkenhead Branch 2012 | Top 25 within the Barfoot & Thompson company 2012

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If you or anyone you know is struggling with the lockdown you can call or text 1737 – free, anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – to talk with a trained counsellor.

“The Dog House”

The third instalment of our weekly “lock-down” column by Mike Cartwright.

I returned to bowls in 2007 after I had spent a few months in the Solomon Islands. I was a lean, mean fighting machine with a crook neck. I had Solomon's tour cut short after I ended up in hospital for 5 days after I slipped a couple of discs in my neck playing mixed netball against the Australians. Not my finest hour as a sportsman especially when it was because I got shoved in the back by this gorilla who was passing herself off as female. I spent 5 days in hospital over there before they gave up on me and flew me back to Auckland where I spent another 5 days in isolation at North Shore Hospital.

I returned to Browns Bay in January 2007 and because of the hard work done by Doug Bishop I managed to finish off my 5th year as a junior...for what it was worth. Browns Bay had progressed since I had been away. Women had their own toilet and could be in the club by themselves and they could even buy a drink. Allowing them to buy a drink was a good thing for me because I got picked up by this woman who kept sticking pints in front of me. I was not complaining, but what I did not realise she was priming me for marriage. I will not go into the sordid details but most of you will know who I am talking about. She is a bowler but not quite as good as me.

On my return I ditched the Dog House and retired them to my practice days and bought a set of size 5 Vector VS's....best bowls I have had.... only me and Bruce Cochrane can handle them. The start of the 2007/2008 saw me roll up my sleeves and decide to give bowls a good crack and see if I could win something worth bragging about but that petite young lady from Australia was to have the last neck went again and I ended up in hospital having my neck fused during a five hour operation, Twelve weeks in a fixed neck brace and sleeping in a lazy-boy was to be my punishment....but...all was not lost. After the initial few weeks of rest I was allowed to play bowls, with my neck brace on.....you know where this is going....correct....having my neck in a fixed brace kept my bloody head still. It was all go and I was away and although I didn't win anything significant a lot of people didn't want to play me....it had nothing to do with my bowls...I looked like a bloody freak.

The neck brace had done me a world of good come the 2008/2009 season with some reasonable results before Xmas. Now fortunately for me Browns Bay had a North Harbour selector. I am not sure where Tony Marinkovich is now, but somebody told me he was now in Australia living in Keith Murdoch's house. Now Tony and I had a bit in common as he had known my Uncle back in the days when he worked for Lion Breweries. I did what most people do to get into representative sides and started drinking with him. It must have worked because eventually he and Max Dick took a shine to me and selected me for the North Harbour Development Team....I was on my way to stardom! It was a bit of a surprise being selected but I suppose having a brace on for a season must had improved my bowls.



BNH Development Team 2008/2009, From left to right: Nigel Drew, Mike Cartwright (back), Tony Marinkovich - Selector/Manager, Scott Cottrell (back), Max Dick - Coach, Bob Howitt, Martin Short, Trevor Forward.

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COVID-19
ALERT LEVEL 4 - CLUBROOMS & GREENS CLOSED
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The one downside of being selected, I had to play bowls with a couple of Birkenhead boys I had never met, just kidding.

Nigel Drew and Martin Short had played the year before...I think and had been selected for this year's team along with Bob Howitt, Scott Cottrell and Trevor Forward. Bob Howitt and I had met through Katrina's Mum, Madeleine Holland who had won the North Harbour Mix 242 Pairs with him a couple of times.

We got on well as a North Harbour team back then and it was a pleasure to wear team clothing that did not fit us. Nigel and Marty refused to buy me a beer because of my links to Browns Bay but were very polite with their refusals. The aim of the year was to make it to the national finals in Palmerston North and it all came down to the regional finals at Browns Bay and playing Auckland. I led for the triples with Marty two, and Bob skip-ping. Nigel and Scotty played the pairs and Trevor the singles.... well that is how it start-

ed. Anyone who has played with or against Bob Howitt will know he is partial to giving the bowl a bit of weight. Bob tended to make the decision about what he was going to do with his bowl about 5 minutes before he got on the mat. Poor old Marty had a nightmare of a time trying to control him and, in the end, it cost us as a triple. Eventually I was approached by Max and Tony. We are changing the team around they said. I was happy with that, thinking Marty would go to lead and I would move up to two.....no.no they said. I got moved from lead to skip with Bob dropping down to two. Marty was a good lead and he was happy there....me.....well what the fuck, skip was not my position but hey, we had nothing to lose.

The team went well and Marty and I conjured up a cunning plan to stop Bob from throwing his bowl down before we had a chance to look at the head.....we stood in front of it....yes as soon as the opposition bowl came to rest, Marty or I would stand in front of the head to look at it.....poor old Bob had to wait, and wait, and wait. Eventually we moved but the tactic slowed him down and gave us time to think. The tactic worked and we went into the final round against Auckland brimming with confidence.

Auckland, well yes, what can I say, a bunch of young guns who thought they were going to give us old bastards a bath. It was a good game, but we went into the last head three up and holding 5 shots with an Auckland bowl to come. The three of us thought it was all over and in a couple of minutes we would be in the bar celebrating our regional finals win with the other lads and dreaming about Palmerston North. Wrong...we forgot what an over inflated ego Auckland bowls players and management had at the time. They took 15 minutes to decide what shot they were going to play to get a nine-shot turnaround. I am not kidding they looked at it, they got their coach to look at, they got their manager to look at it, they went away and got other players to look at it. In fairness I felt sorry for the poor skip as he was at the mercy of his management team who thought they were working out a game plan to win WWII. He missed and we picked up three and were on our way to the paradise that is Palmerston North. To be continued.....



Mike Cartwright making the most of the lockdown with a few shots of JB and a wee French bit on his lap.

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Masters Returns

In a world where uncertainty currently swirls around us and where empty streets are now becoming the norm around the world. We have to look a little beyond Covid-19 for the return to a day on the green in the company of mates and a few cold ones after. The 2021 summer season starts in September and some news to brighten the over 70s day is Bowls North Harbour NZ Masters returns for its second instalment in 2021. Masters 2020 proved a success in every sense and 2021 is aiming to go that step further. Ring the dates in permanent marker on your calendar Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2021 for five days of Masters Bowls with cash and medals up for grabs. The event will be played on natural greens in North Harbour with Birkenhead again headquartering the event.

Spotlight on Club Partners

This week we put the spotlight on "The Birkenhead Licensing Trust". Although not a sponsor, but with the Trust's support over the years the Club has benefited from many grants. As with the Club we are all closed at present, eagerly awaiting Alert Level 2 to kick in so we can trade again. The easiest way to support the Trust is to support it's establishments, the closest to the Club being The Good Home.

Source <http://www.birkenheadlicensingtrust.org.nz>

The Trust is a net proceeds-committee of the Lion Foundation and is responsible for approving grant funding to the local community groups in Birkenhead and surrounding areas from gaming funds generated by Lion Foundation.

The Birkenhead Licensing Trust was established in 1967 after voters decided that the Birkenhead Council area should change from 'dry' to 'wet' under the control of a licensing trust.

In 1970 the Birkenhead Trust Hotel was opened, with catering facilities designed to cater for all locals.

A period of expansion was followed by the economic slump of the late 1980s, the recipe for a loss-making enterprise. In 1992 the trust hotel complex was sold and only the wholesale outlet retained.

The Birkenhead Licensing Trust then sat for a number of years, accumulating revenue through the wholesale outlet and distributing interest accrued to local community groups. Meanwhile local licensing reins were loosened, allowing other operators to apply for licenses.

In the interim the Trust sought other suitable sites. In 2002 the Slipp Inn Pub had been opened

by Allen Vaughan, who had a long history with Lion Breweries. In 2006 the Trust approached Mr Vaughan with an offer to buy the Slipp Inn, as it seemed a good fit for several reasons: the Trust is a net-proceeds committee of the Lion Foundation; grant funding to the local community comes from funds generated by Lion Foundation; the Trust was already the pub's landlord; the pub fitted the family-friendly ideal of the Trust; and the gambling facility was a source of revenue. The Pub undertook extensive renovations and was reborn as "The Good Home Birkenhead"

But, you ask, what is the difference between a Trust operation and a private or brewery-owned enterprise? Well, all profits from bar and restaurant sales and gaming proceeds are distributed in the local community through the Lion Foundation, rather than going into a big national pool for distribution nationally.

As Mr Vaughan points out, "The Trust does a lot of good in the community, it is not self-rewarding or ruled by self-interest, there are no paid directorships, and all six trustees are chosen by the electorate in the local body elections. As a result close to \$1 million annually has gone back into the community in recent years."

The Trust also owns the Glenfield pub Inn Field; revenues go back into the Birkenhead, Glenfield and Northcote areas from both establishments.



Keep Safe....