

# 55+ TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

## April 2014 Newsletter

### Editorial

Congratulations to Joy Nicholson and Del Girvan, the Association's first two Presidents, on being elected to Life Membership of the Association at the recent AGM held at Waitakere. Both ladies have given faithful service to the Association's activities since the Association's inception and their Life Memberships are richly deserved.

At the Delegates meeting held at Waitakere on 1 March 2014, I was elected to be the Association's Newsletter Coordinator and rightly or wrongly, I have assumed that this also gives me editorial responsibility for the Newsletter. So here goes.

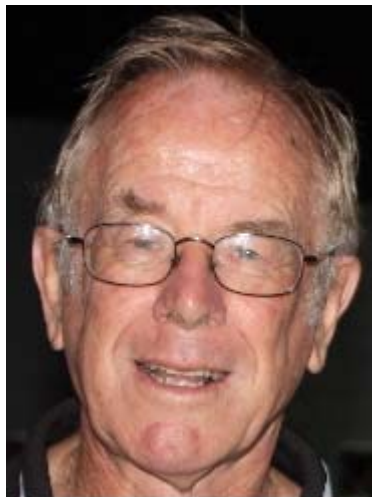
Firstly, as the majority of you know, our new President, Les Stuart, has undertaken this task from the time the Association was established and I take this opportunity to congratulate Les on a job well done.

As I am sure Les will tell you, what appears in the Newsletter is largely dependent on information and articles provided to the Coordinator by Delegates or a nominated person within a Delegate's Centre. So please keep the information and articles coming in. The Newsletter provides a focus on the Association's activities and therefore it is a valuable marketing tool in encouraging other senior bowlers to join the Association and to participate in the Association's activities.

I also propose that over the issues of the next 2 years that the Newsletter includes pen-pictures of each of the Executive and Delegate members for member's information. To set the ball rolling, my own pen-picture is given below.

### Pen-Picture

#### Dave Hercus – Newsletter Coordinator and Porirua Delegate



I was born in Wellington and have lived in the Wellington area for most of my life apart from 3 years in Christchurch attending Canterbury University Engineering School and one year in each of Masterton and Tauranga. Having completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) degree, I then spent my working career in telecommunications engineering initially with the New Zealand Post Office, then its engineering successor, Telecom New Zealand, followed by Southern Cross Cables Ltd from whom I retired in late 2003. From about 1980, I specialised in international telecommunications, mainly associated with international submarine cable systems. During this time I travelled widely overseas and became well known and respected internationally in submarine cable circles. I was awarded honorary Life Membership of the Institution of Professional Engineers, New Zealand, in 2010.

In the early 1980's I developed osteoarthritis, mainly in my hands, but later on the arthritis spread to my knees and destroying my knee joint cartilages. I had two successful total knee replacement surgeries on my knees about 3 months apart in 1996. While I occasionally went tenpin bowling with my children, I generally found that my hands would remain swollen for about a week afterwards, which impacted on my ability to do my job. Then in 2002, Southern Cross Cables Ltd entered a team in a business house tenpin league at Porirua, for which my wife, Fran, also played, while I was the

non-playing manager. Fran also joined a day league at Porirua in 2002, where she saw someone bowling with a handle ball and suggested that might be OK for me, which it was, so I have been bowling since the start of 2003 and Fran and I both joined the Association in time for the September tournament in that year held at Porirua. I was able to give away using a handle ball in 2006 after the handle of my ball broke and I had one of Fran's earlier lightweight balls re-drilled for my hand dimensions and since then I have never looked back. Currently I bowl three times per week in 2 leagues at Porirua and in 1 league at Kapiti.

I was elected the Association's Porirua Delegate in late 2007 by the Porirua members and I have been re-elected 3 times unopposed since then at two-yearly intervals.

## **Our President's Corner**

Hi all,

First I would like to thank you all for accepting me as your President and I will try and be as good as the last two.

Mind you that will be very difficult indeed as the past two were extraordinary, to say the least. I do feel for Lorraine and the problems with the draw etc, as I can recall what happened in 2000 when we had our first tournament, "OH MY GOD what have we let ourselves in for?" We persevered and believe we still have a great system that works for us, and that's what matters to most us.

Some bright spark recently said, "You are not getting any younger ya know". Thanks a lot, we actually though we were!

Thanks to all the hard workers of the Waitakere group for making the tournament a success, without the "Buzzy-Bees" there would be no tournaments.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to all our members who have lost loved ones or who have illness in the families.

Everything being equal we will catch up with most of you at Rotorua in June where, I'm sure will all again have a great time.

## **From Our Tournament Director, Lorraine Heath**

Hi everyone, hope everyone has now got over the last event at Waitakere, on my part as director well what can I say??

I didn't realise there was so much work in putting the tournament on and when I got to the 5th attempt at the programme I must say I was ready to hand it all back, BUT once I had spoken to Bev (who I must say has so much information) it all went a bit better. So I thought till a few more mistakes were pointed out once the programme was out but these were easy to fix.

On the whole I think everything worked out well. I have learnt that we need to alter the format a bit for Mystery Pairs by 4 men and 4 ladies mixed on lanes. Otherwise I think all went well and with no mistakes in medals Yeah and dinner went well.

So now roll on Rotorua look forward to seeing you all there.

Cheers

Lorraine

Tournament Director

## **From Panmure**

Panmure sends greetings to all Association bowlers.

Another successful 55+ Association Tournament was held at Henderson Feb28th-1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> March. It was a well-run tournament, good lanes (wooden), friendly staff, and the centre had a great atmosphere to it. Everyone was smiling and happy. Everyone enjoyed the 3 days of bowling. Did not notice any lane break downs.

Congratulations to all Panmure bowlers who won medals. Cherie Roberts, Allan Lawgun, Barry Faulkner, Wayne Milicich John Whitely, Anne Faulkner and, Gordon Berry. Special congratulations to Wayne Milicich as a first time bowler in 55+ Association tournaments in winning the Men's Champion of Champions.

As for the scribe I bowled my average over 5 games 161, so that means I stay in Open Grade for the next tournament at Rotorua in June 2014. Anne Faulkner has booked a Motel right next door to the bowling centre, just roll out of bed and walk to the centre. On Thursday 13th March Panmure had an Inter club tournament with Takapuna at Panmure which Panmure won the Trophy. At the prize giving I asked Wayne Milicich how long he has been bowling 6 years and the way he is bowling I can see a 300 game not too far off. Mighty Monday League 17<sup>th</sup> March Wayne, 193/238/278/235= 944 Series. So that gives you on how well he is bowling. So people, that's it from Panmure 55plus bowling. Enjoy your bowling & high scoring.

Question: "Why did God invent Whiskey?". Answer: "To stop the Irish from ruling the World". I heard this one on the Breeze radio station on Saint Patricks Day. CHEERS From PANMURE SCRIBE. Enjoy the good weather.

## From Porirua

### Waitakere Tournament

Congratulations to Waitakere for organising another great 55+ Association tournament, which we thoroughly enjoyed, even though our bowling could have been a bit better at times. Thank you to all members through their Delegates who supported the Porirua Remit at the special General Meeting held prior to the AGM at Waitakere. Congratulations also to the Association's newly appointed Tournament Director, Lorraine Heath and to Judy O'Rourke, the Association's newly appointed Secretary/Treasurer. Both of these positions are extremely important to the conduct of the Association's ongoing activities.

Fran and I drove to and from Waitakere and we had a couple of experiences that we could have done without. Going up just south of Waiouru on a newly sealed bit of road a truck with an oversized load was coming the other way in excess of the 30 kmh speed limit and as we passed, the truck a rock was thrown from the truck's rear wheels onto our windscreen, causing damage to the outer glass skin of our windscreen. We were staying in Taupo that night, so after booking into our accommodation we drove round to a windscreen repairer who regularly advertises their services on TV to be told that they had no replacement windscreens in stock, as they don't carry any in Taupo and the damage was too extensive to do a resin repair. On a positive note we were told that we should be able to continue our trip and then drive back home without any further problems. The last advice was correct and we had the windscreen replaced after we got back home. The second experience was a flat tyre that occurred in Taupo on our way back. Shortly after I had bowled my singles event on the Sunday morning, we headed off to Taupo for the Sunday night and onto home the next day. Normally when we go to a tournament we don't leave for home until the Monday morning, but we were flying to Sydney on the Wednesday morning with 4 other Porirua members and the wife of one of the members to go and see the show "Mrs Brown Rides Again" and we had some things to do before we left for Sydney. Anyway we checked into our accommodation in Taupo and unloaded our bags from the car, before going to find somewhere for dinner. Went back out to the car to discover we had a flat tyre. Started changing the flat tyre for the spare and a couple of Asian men, who had been competing in the Taupo Triathlon that weekend, came and kindly gave us

a hand, which was much appreciated. The next day we drove home with no roadworthy spare, but we had no further incident. We had both the windscreen and puncture fixed after we got back home.

## Joe Fraser's Strike



On 24 October last year around 5.00 pm, one of the Porirua Members, Joe Fraser, got a Strike he will never forget. This was a lightning strike that he received when he was in his lounge at home standing about 300 mm from his wood burner heater. Joe had gone inside his house when he saw the thunderstorm approaching to be safe, when lightning struck the heater chimney on the roof, travelled down the flue to the firebox and then into his left leg and exiting his body through his left index finger. Joe remembers seeing a small green flash come out of his finger and then his speech and vision going fuzzy. Joe managed to call his son, who lives next door to Joe. Joe's son came over and immediately called an ambulance and Joe was rushed to Wellington hospital, where he was seen by a visiting American doctor in A&E who specialised in treating people in America that had been struck by lightning. The doctor told Joe that it was just as well he was not touching his heater or its chimney at the time of the lightning strike, as he would have been history. After monitoring his blood at regular intervals overnight, Joe was allowed to return home. The only after effects were a bit of stiffness and a burn to his left index finger. About a week after Joe's experience, the story of his experience was the top story on the Fairfax NZ website. The photo above is of Joe standing next to his wood burner heater.

## Trip to Sydney

The trip to Sydney to see the show "Mrs Brown Rides Again" went very well and we all enjoyed the show, which ran for about two and a half hours and featured the characters that appear in the TV show Mrs Browns Boys. We spent 6 days in Sydney and apart from late afternoon on the first day, the weather was perfect. We stayed in a couple of apartments in Surrey Hills about 700 metres from Central Station, but the road from the station was very steep and one would be hard pushed to find a steeper road in Wellington. Around 5.00 pm we decided to walk to a supermarket that was about a km away from the apartment, noticing a rather dark cloud was coming towards us. A few minutes later down came the rain in torrents, so the road and gutters were completely awash and then the thunder and lightning joined the rain and went on for at least half an hour. The thunder was extremely noisy and Joe Fraser became rather agitated following his earlier experience. A shop manager kindly invited all seven of us into her shop and to stay there until the storm had passed. In the end we never made it to the supermarket we were heading for.

The show itself was held at the All Phones arena in Sydney's Olympic Park that was created for the 2000 Olympic Games. For those of you who follow the trans-Tasman netball, the NSW Swifts normally play their home games at the All Phones arena. The seating capacity of the arena is probably 20,000 to 30,000, so it is huge compared to any similar venue in New Zealand. We thought we would have dinner before seeing the show, but all the local eateries were just takeaways, so we settled on going to the local Subway.

The following night we went on a Sydney Harbour dinner cruise, which included a floor show. We also went on a Sydney Explorer tour bus trip, went to the Rocks craft market, took a trip to Manly and on the last day we went out to brunch before we had to head for Sydney airport to come home.

Dave Hercus  
Porirua Delegate

## **From Wanganui**

A big thank you to Waitakere for hosting a very enjoyable tournament. While not many medals were won by Wanganui members, we had gold medal enjoyment at the dinner and dance. Wanganui were the last group to leave the function.

Congratulations to Kay Spackman on winning medals at the tournament.

Travel to and from Auckland uneventful ignoring the blowout at Taumarunui on the way home and the AA then not being able to find us straight away.

We have seen the new attractively designed 55+Association shirts which appear to be most suitable for our needs.

Roll on Rotorua!

Wanganui League

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Rotorua Tournament 12 to 15 June 2014**

The next Association Tournament is being held at Rotorua from 12 to 15 June 2014. This will be a 4-day tournament because of the number of lanes available at the Rotorua Centre. Entries close on 12 May, so please get your entry to your local Delegate before that date. Some information on accommodation is on the Association's website.

### **Kapiti Tournament 18 to 21 September 2014**

The first Association Tournament to be held at Kapiti from 18 to 21 September 2014. This will also be a 4-day tournament, as Kapiti only has 14 lanes. Entries close on 18 August, so please get your entry in to your local Delegate before 18 August. There is a wide variety of accommodation available and Jim Twist, the Kapiti Delegate, has approached them all about providing discount rates to Association Members and details are on the Association's website. Some of you may have heard of recent management changes at Kapiti and this has all been positive and the Centre is now a very pleasant place to visit and bowl.

### **Gil Evans Memorial Tournament, 10 November 2014 at Porirua**

Gil Evans, who passed away in late October 2011, was a very popular Bowler at Porirua. When Gil was first introduced to bowling, one of the first bowlers he met was Les Stuart and from that time, Gil and his wife, Sharyn became lifelong friends with Les and Bev. Sharyn Evans has agreed to an annual tournament in Gil's name being held at Porirua. A Trophy has been donated together with engraving plates on the trophy by Porirua bowling friends of Gil and the first of these tournaments will be held on Monday 10 November 2014. More details will be given in the next Newsletter.