

55+ TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

April 2016 Newsletter

Editorial

Welcome to the first 55+ Association Newsletter for 2016. With the February AGM at Waitakere including an election of the executive for the next two years, the Association now has a new President, Preston Epplett from Hastings. Congratulations Preston on your election and hope that you enjoy your time in Office. Congratulations also to Lorraine, Judy and Shirley for being re-elected to their executive positions for the next 2 years.

Congratulations to both Les and Bev Stuart on their recent election to Life Membership of the Association, which is richly deserved. Both of them are foundation members of the Association and Les has been on the Association Executive from day one until he stood down from the position of President at the last AGM. Both of them have devoted much of their time on Association activities to the benefit of all Members. However, Les is still active; no doubt with Bev's assistance, by currently writing the history of the Association and the first instalment of this appears in this Newsletter.

Fran and I had fully intended to bowl in the Waitakere tournament in February, but I was a bit tardy in organising accommodation, so there wasn't any to be obtained. So thank you to Colin McLean for representing me at Waitakere. Then in January, after constructing a punga log fence with the ends of the logs buried in compost, I ended up in Wellington Hospital with pneumonia and dehydration on Wellington's Anniversary day and was in Hospital for 4 days. So that would have put paid to us going to the tournament in any event. Then concurrently I began having problems with varicose veins in my left leg, which have now been treated. The good news is that I am now back bowling, so we will see you in New Plymouth in June.

Obituary



Frances Clay, who was well known for telling Jokes, passed away in October 2015 at the Charles Fleming Retirement Village in Waikanae from Cancer. Frances was born in England in 1925 and immigrated to New Zealand in 1950. Frances and her late husband, Ollie, both travelled to New Zealand on the same ship, but their romance only blossomed once they were in New Zealand.

Sadly, Frances was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago, but was able to continue bowling until May 2015. Frances celebrated her 90th birthday in September

2015 with a party for family and friends, including tenpin bowling friends. By this time she had moved into the Charles Fleming Retirement Village in Waikanae. In reaching her 90th birthday, Frances achieved one of the items on her bucket list. The other item on her list was to bowl a ball on her birthday, which she did on the floor of the rest home library where her party was held. Frances was given a private funeral by her family, but a few weeks later her family came along to the Kapiti Krocks league after bowling with some of Frances' bowling memorabilia and had a celebration of her

life with the Kapiti Krockers members. Here is a copy of a Poem written by Jim Twist that was presented to Frances' family at the celebration.

FRANCES

'twas in the years post World War Two
The thought of living somewhere new
Inspired our Frances to leave England
So off she sailed unto New Zealand
It was a trip of fate not folly
And through it all she met her Ollie
Her soul mate through the years ahead
And in their new land these two wed
Through years of joy and sometimes strife
They forged together a happy life
Blessed with a daughter and a son
In later life they found time for fun
To tenpin bowling they did turn
It wasn't very hard to learn
At Porirua twice a week
The Clays did satisfaction seek
Along with grandchildren it is noted
Upon whom the couple doted
They found their time was occupied
But then through illness Oily died
Frances continued with her game
Although it wasn't quite the same
She still enjoyed the friends she had
And had her good days and her bad
Then Frances fell and broke her arm
The injury had done great harm
It could not cope with weight of ball
So Frances thought about it all
And with true spirit and resolve
Her wish to bowl easy to solve
She with her left arm would deliver
But oh the anguish this did give her
But through the years she did persist
She seldom struck and sometimes missed
And when the ball went in the gutter
She always had some words to mutter
She had a knack of telling jokes
To all the ladies and the blokes
This soon became a weekly chore
As everybody asked for more
Her memory was such a feature
She could have been a High School teacher
And with each punch line's final word
A burst of laughter would be heard
This wondrous person now has left us
Without doubt and without fuss
We must admit that in the end
We all have lost a special friend

Our President's Corner

In this, my first official communication to members as President, I wish to firstly recognise the wonderful work done over the years by Les and Bev Stuart. The award of a Life Membership was a fitting recognition of the work and effort put in over the many years by Les and Bev. On behalf of all members I again offer our thanks.

June will see us going to New Plymouth, another new venue for most of us. It is important that we try and grow the number of our members and by visiting new Centres we will hopefully attract new Members.

The Waitakere Tournament was very enjoyable. Thanks to Lorraine and her team for the great work. It was good to see so many entering into the Saturday night fun and the wide variety of hats. Hastings were pleased that they could still perform their skit which had been well practiced in conjunction with a few (or should I say a number) of wines.

I closing I wish everyone good bowling, high scores and a safe trip to New Plymouth

Preston Epplett

From Our Tournament Director

Well once again our first tournament of the year was held at Pins Waitakere, who hosted the February 2016 tournament.

Unfortunately entry numbers were down and we only had 75 bowlers, but in saying that it was a lovely tournament.

We were able to condense the tournament program into 2 days and finish with our Saturday night Dinner at the Henderson RSA. Bowlers from, Porirua, Petone, Kapiti, Wanganui/Palmerston North, Rotorua, Panmure, Whangaparoa, all attended to make this event great.

As Tournament Director I did not bowl this time and found it to my benefit as results came out faster and bowlers appreciated this.

The AGM was held on the Friday and a new President was elected, being Preston Epplett from Hastings, while the rest of the executive committee were re-elected.

It was with sadness that Allison Patten one of our long standing members passed away earlier that week.

Also I believe other members have also passed away and it would be great if details of any of these could be passed to our secretary so we can acknowledge them.

The next tournament is to be held in another new centre being New Plymouth, so I hope we will see a lot of you there.

Cheers

Lorraine Heath

Tournament Director

From Panmure

It was a Summer Sizzler 55 plus Association tournament held at Pins Henderson, Well another 55 plus Association tournament has been done/dusted, where it was rather warm both inside and out. At least the fans worked better than at another centre at which I bowl at, where at times they do not work at all. As for the lanes at Pins Henderson, they were pathetic on Friday, not scoring very well at all. But on Saturday they came right. Very low entries hence the two days tournament instead of 3 days. Another well run tournament by the 55 plus committee and staff at Pins Henderson. Congratulations to Preston Epplert of Hastings, who was elected the new President of the Association.

As for the Panmure Team bowling achievements in the tournament, congratulations to Anne Faulkner ladies mystery pairs 3rd place Bronze. Ron Winkle, 2nd Men's open grade event 2nd place silver medal. A grade teams event of Peter s/Ivan Kesha/Cherie Roberts/John Whiteley, Bronze medal. Peter Smith, A Grade Men's singles event, 1st place Gold medal.

Well the two year tournament calendar is out and with 3 away tournaments in 2017; this scribe will only be going to one tournament. Congratulations to New Plymouth for being awarded a 4 day tournament in June 2016, hope you get lots of entries.

Breaking News: Read in the NZ Herald Death notices, "Adrian Chitty, husband of Margaret Chitty, passed away on March 22nd 2016 at Tauranga, Late of North Shore Auckland." Rest in Peace Adrian.

Congratulations to Les and Bev Stuart for being awarded life membership of the 55 plus Association.

Well that's it from me not much to report.

Your Panmure Scribe, see you all in Porirua 2016.

Upcoming Events

New Plymouth, 16 to 19 June 2016. Saturday Night Theme to be advised. Entries Close 16 May 2016.
Porirua, 16 to 18 September 2016. Entries close 16 August 2016. Saturday night theme to be advised.
The Third Gil Evans Memorial Tournament will be held in November 2016 at Porirua.

Petone (Strike Lower Hutt) February 2017.

Rotorua, June 2017.

Kapiti, September 2017.

Hastings, February 2018.

More details will be included in later newsletters.

Dave Hercus
Editor

**History of the New Zealand 55 + Tenpin Bowling Association, Part 1,
written by Les Stuart**

HOW THE 55+ ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED

CHAPTER ONE

Away back in 1992, there was a feeling in the bowling fraternity, if you were 55 or older the then NZTBC were not interested in catering for the age group.

I took the responsibility into my own hands, thinking, I would try and help these people. I was rapidly approaching the age group and enjoying Tenpin Bowling at Porirua.

I spoke to the delegate at Porirua and at the time, got a similar reaction.

In my wisdom, I made a decision to try my luck throughout the vast number of bowling centres available in New Zealand at the time.

I wrote and posted (at my own expense) to all those on the list suggesting the formation of some sort of a group to cater for the aging.

I received (1) one reply and that was from Christchurch, so I thought, at the time, (what a waste of time and effort) and gave it no further consideration.

In 1997, I was approached by a lady from Waitakere while playing in the Hamilton annual tournament. She asked me if I was the one who sent out letters of suggestion on forming some sort of tournaments for the 55+ age group. I told her I had, some year's prior, and only got one reply saying they thought it an excellent idea. She asked if we could get together after bowling and discuss the matter.

At the get together I told her that I was disappointed at only getting one reply to my letter. She said she had only just found out about it prior to coming to the Hamilton Tournament. Someone had found the letter which the centre had had lying about. I told her I had sent out the proposal in 1992 and this was now 1997. "What in the devil was going on?" I said, to which she replied, "It appears you were 5 years too early, but foresaw what could be happening within the NZTBC. Now she was very keen to get moving on the subject".

She spent some time with Bev and I at Porirua and a decision was made to travel the South Island tenpin centres.

First we played in a tournament in Christchurch, (from memory I think we actually won the Mixed Pairs). The centre was closed shortly after that tournament.

Bev and I travelled the South Island the following year, visiting my sister in Invercargill.

We discussed the possibilities with her and a few of the age group about our thoughts on the subject. They thought it an excellent idea.

At that stage Dorothy had her full eyesight and enjoyed bowling, (with a 6-pound ball), which I hasten to add she still has, but can no longer see it because her eyesight was lost some years ago. Dorothy was the first ever actual delegate and lived in Invercargill.

We then started our return journey and called into the Dunedin Centre and was told in no uncertain terms, they were not at all interested, as it would mean travel and that would cost too much.

As you well know, the Association has never been to Dunedin and that is one of the reasons.

Another reason for this is:

I did a tour of the South Island with a bowling group from Porirua, of which I was the President. I also drove a 24 seat bus for them. We had bookings at all the known centres and had a whale of a time on the tour.

The only downfall and disappointment in the whole tour, was DUNEDIN.

We were there for 1 pm play. We had been told the league would be there who were prepared to host our group.

We were ready to bowl and asked management where the host league was. There was a league playing at the time, so we thought we were to be hosted by them.

The answer: "Oh! Sorry, they didn't want to play your group, so we put them on the other lanes." "Thanks", we said and packed our bowls and sundries and off to the main street of Dunedin we went, in disgust.

I heard of the same problem from my sister Dorothy when she was trying to bowl in Dunedin. They too finally gave up trying to get interest there.

Today of course may be totally different. (Who knows?)

Bev and I stopped at the 6 lanes in Oamaru.

The people we spoke too said they would join a group if started, but would not travel because of the cost involved, however, if the group would like to have a tournament there, they would only be too pleased to host it.

Thus, Oamaru really was one sided.

We then called into the Blenheim centre and were told the owner was due to close the doors and pull all the lanes and equipment out, but the Motueka centre would remain open.

At that point of the trip we had virtually run out of time and needed to get back to Porirua as our leave was running out.

CHAPTER TWO

A couple of years went by while the lady from Waitakere and myself organised what we now know as the 55 +Tenpin Bowling Association of New Zealand, however, it was not until April 1999 that we managed to obtain enough support from around the country and finally managed to have a meeting in Taupo with some 12 others.

At this meeting it was decided call it the name as we all know it by to this day. It was also decided that we would not expect too much profit, but to break even where possible. The fees would be \$5.00 per annum.

I was voted the secretary/treasurer and generally organise any tournaments that may happen. They considered I had enough computer savvy for what we required.

The next consideration was where we would try for a tournament!

There was a bit of a long involved discussion on that matter as no one could come up with a positive solution. However, one member, who might I add is still with us, suggested, the first to get 20 members, that's where we could start. Everyone agreed.

So, after bowling at the Taupo centre, we all set sail back to our respective areas.

I posted out the minutes and entry forms to those people at the meeting.

Still in April 1999, I received communication from Hastings and with it were 22 members. This then gave us a starting point for the Association.

Hastings was the venue for the very first tournament of the Association.

That was all very well, what to do next???

I designed a program that I considered adequate for the first ever tournament.

For those interested in entering the Hastings tournament an entry form, to be sent back to me with a cheque for the games @ \$2.50 and a meal @ \$10. 50, was sent out.

This being the cost at the time.

How things have changed???

CHAPTER THREE

We had another meeting at Taupo to discuss what to do next.

At this meeting averages were discussed.

It was suggested rolling averages were the correct way to go, but as mentioned by the President, we are supposed to be catering for the older group who still want to bowl and have a social time. We wanted to get away from the TBCNZ.

It was quite a lengthy discussion and all, but one, finally agreed.

The format of our tournaments **UNDER THE UMBRELLA** of the Association would be:

100% of 180

Graded: Open-A-B-C

Open 160 - A Grade 140-159 - B Grade 120- 139 - C Grade up to 119.

There would be 9 Games.

The averages to be carried over from one tournament to the other.

This was considered a virtual rolling average anyhow, with 9 games.

It also suggested that just maybe, some members could and would change grades, which could go down very well, considering one's age, health and bowling conditions, wherever we were able to bowl.

We all agreed that we wanted the Association to be a friendly get together, a place for this purpose and to have fun in bowling.

Yes, there was going to be very keen competition, but we had to remember we were getting to the age where we were no longer able to compete with the much, much younger bowlers.

At this point we did not have a full field for the Hastings Tournament.

Not knowing what could be involved, as to the numbers, I thought:

"If we managed to have entries of 14*4, we should break even, as there were only 14 lanes at the Hastings venue". Needless to say, this was my theory at the time!

You can imagine my panic when we got the final number of members entering our very first ever 55+ tournament of 88. "What on earth will we do to accommodate this many members".

Bev and I went up to a Hastings tournament in August and had a round table with Barbara Nonu, the owner.

She was most helpful and said not to worry, we can have the centre as long as we wanted, which eased the panic a little? Then, to really send me into a tizz, the lady from Waitakere who was the President at the time rang and said, she could no longer be the President as she was shifting to be with family in Australia.

We communicated with her for a while but like most things, drifted away. I really don't know what happened to her, but she is still in the memory.

I personally considered continuing alone as we had to keep going, considering we had got this far.

There were no such things as delegates, the whole thing landed on my plate.

CHAPTER FOUR

At Hamilton, I met up with another lady from Rotorua and finally conned her into the Presidents place. She was very helpful as will be shown in further afield.

Bev and I, together with two ladies from Porirua set to and made up a draw for the Hastings tournament. The draw was all very good, but, how were we going to get through the time table with only 14 lanes?? More panic!! Remembering that Barbara said we could have the centre for as long as we liked. OOPS!! But we only had three days!! Phone call to Barbara! "You'll have to start early and finish late that won't be a problem as far as I'm concerned".

At the time we only had, mixed doubles teams and single which = 9 games.

I might add, it was a nightmare trying for the very first time to timetable and sort out such a large number for the tournament, as the tournaments we ran at Porirua were tiny in comparison and easy to manage.

-----TO BE CONTINUED-----