



July 2018 Newsletter

Editorial

Welcome to your second 55+ Association Newsletter for 2018. I was wondering what I was going to include in this editorial because I was unable to go to New Plymouth, but all of you who participated in the New Plymouth Tournament and then provided items for this newsletter were full of praise for the work and contributions of the New Plymouth hosts, so I can confidently state to you all "Well Done New Plymouth". In addition, New Plymouth have offered to host the June 2020 tournament, so they clearly enjoyed their role as Tournament Hosts.

Our President, Preston Epplatt, unfortunately became ill during the course of the New Plymouth tournament, from which he is still recovering. Preston, just get yourself well again by the time of the next Tournament being held in Invercargill in September.

As Members would have seen from the New Plymouth Delegates Meeting minutes, our Tournament Director has resigned her position as from the end of the Invercargill Tournament. I am sure all Members join with me to thank Lorraine for the excellent job she has made of the Tournament Directors position during her tenure. Hopefully Lorraine will be able to participate in future 55+ Association Tournaments.

Presidents Corner

PRESIDENTS REPORT ON THE NEW PLYMOUTH TOURNAMENT

We had a very successful tournament in New Plymouth. Good entries, a big number of new bowlers and a trouble free Tournament.

Thanks to the New Plymouth organising group. To all those who prepared food, sold raffles or help in other ways you did a great job. The innovation of the shuttle bus was very well received by bowlers and a great idea.

Congratulations to the medal winners and to everyone who competed in such good spirits.

Unfortunately I was unwell during most of the Tournament and could not attend the Saturday night dinner. I have heard many of the stories about the great food and the excellent costumes. I would like to thank Lorraine for stepping in for me to chair the delegates meeting and to Chris Clare who stood in for me on Saturday night.

Lorraine did a fantastic job again running the Tournament and it was very sad to receive her resignation which is effective after the Invercargill Tournament.

Thanks to Benny for his work researching and testing a new Tournament Program.

We will mark 20 years of 55+ at the Waitakere Tournament in March 2018 and planning is underway to make that a tournament to remember. We look forward to a very special celebration. Thanks to Max and Irene Good who again sold sweets as a fundraiser towards meeting some of the additional costs of those celebrations.

In the meantime, good bowling, high scores and I look forward to seeing you all again in the deep south in Invercargill. WE are praying for a little less snow than last time !!!!!.

Preston Epplert

From Our Tournament Director

Hi everyone

Well once again we had a very successful tournament at New Plymouth. There were 104 bowlers and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

We went to dinner on the Saturday night and I must say the room and decorations are one of the best I have seen in a long time, the Theme was black and yellow and there was a hive of bumble bees swarming the place all night thanks to Waitakere. Shirley won the Ladies she was a gorgeous butterfly, and Trevor won the men's as a bumble bee.

IN the champion of champions, Judy Woods won the Ladies, and Merv Brookes won the Men's with a 287 game.

I think it was a great weekend finishing about 1pm Sunday.

NOW time for Invercargill, so far I have a squad of 16 bowlers from Invercargill and 6 bowlers from Christchurch so welcome South Island lovely to see you attend our Tournaments again.

Cheers

Lorraine Heath

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

From Hastings

Yet another great tournament. I take my hat off to all the local bowlers, especially for all the early hours every morning preparing food for us all, Janet and Justin and all fellow helpers, well done!

A big thanks to Lorraine and all her gang for a very organised Tournament, very sad to hear Lorraine will not be carry on as tournament director as from the end of this year.

We are looking forward to the trip to Invercargill, there will be eight bowlers from Hastings, just keeping our fingers crossed, hoping it doesn't snow again, although it was very pretty. Marie (Hastings)

From Petone

Congratulations to New Plymouth on a very well run Tournament, it makes it a very pleasant experience for everyone when everything runs like clockwork. I would like to thank all the New Plymouth members for being so welcoming, and an especial thanks to Janet & Justin and their helpers for the excellent spread of food supplied to us each day, especially

Justin who got up at 5am to bake the scones & muffins. It is nearly 60 years since I was last in New Plymouth and although I didn't get to see much of the city I enjoyed my weekend as did all the Petone members, especially Elaine Oldfield who won 3 medals and was runner-up in the playoffs, she told us on the way up to the Tournament that she was so looking forward to talking to "Real People" and she managed to do that very well all weekend. Due to "Total Brain Fade" on my part we spent too much time looking for a non-existent hotel for our dinner, but after a quick trip back to motel and a check of my paperwork we finally arrived safely at the correct place in time to enjoy a lovely dinner. It was so good to see the wonderful effort that was put in by members for the theme of Black & Yellow. That will be a hard act to follow. Good luck to all the members who are venturing to the "Deep South" in September hope you all bowl well.

Cecilia Jenner, Petone Delegate.

From Porirua

I wish to thank Colin McLean (Woofi) for attending the Delegates meetings at New Plymouth on my behalf. I also congratulate him on winning the Men's Open Grade Singles at the New Plymouth Tournament and for coming second in the Men's All Events Scratch. Woofi was the only Member from the Porirua team of 8 Members to be awarded a medal at the tournament.

Dave Hercus, Porirua Delegate

From Wanganui/Manawatu

Wanganui/Manawatu Well what a difference a day makes or so they say! We have just returned from the Naki and what a tournament it has been. Enjoying our night of nibbles, drinks, fish`n chips, stories and a laugh in John and Kays room on our first night then dining out the others. On entering the New Plymouth Centre, once again being met with hugs and kisses from our close friends while also feeling the loss of others. The dinner was a spectacular view with the colours of Yellow and Black and everybody got behind the theme once again! Congrats to our Butterfly - Shirley Wilson on winning the Ladies Costume and Graham Barrow for being chosen by the staff `Behind the Bar`. The meal could only be described as "Mouth Watering" and it was a great privilege to be waited on. Well done Justin and his team and of course Marty, Shelly and their 'small' crew working behind the machines and counters! While bowling was a challenge our members have managed to come home with some of the spoils and I can happily report that I, me, myself, finally got one! Congrats to all! Harry Wiggins 1st and John Burmeister and Wayne Dunn 3rd equal Men's Mystery Pairs, Alden Heppleson 1st Teams, Brian McKenzie 2nd and Wayne Dunn 3rd equal Men's B Grade Singles, Lil McGregor Ladies C Grade Singles and also 2nd Ladies All Events and Arlene Dunn (me) 1st Ladies B Grade Singles. To Janet - Congrats for getting 'your medal' if only for a moment - I'm sure you yourself will be in the medals in the not too distant future. Have you noticed all the different expressions that are given to the way the pins are left on the lane. There is the threesome that is known as the mother in-law, the two pins that stand back to back are known as the truck and trailer and then there is that ****split, and the ef'n F for Foul! The waving of the hands that seem to be either directing traffic or as Denise from Petone put it - swimmers! I am definitely learning a few new expressions along the way. We are looking forward to hopping on our plane or making our own ways to Invercargill in September, where we will meet up again with our friends and 'family' and get the chance of finally catching up with some old friends or making some new ones and to once again enjoy the fun, the challenges and the fellowship that our tournament brings. See you 'Down South' Arlene Dunn

From New Plymouth

Greeting from New Plymouth, home of the Ranfurly Shield and the Pulse netball team in New Zealand. We have just completed a most successful tenpin tournament with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves, even though some ladies objected to having to put the toilet seat down after a man had used it. The same could also be said from a man's point of view having to lift the seat. One could say that if this is all that went wrong, the tournament went well. From the organiser's point of view it was disappointing that the room occupancy rate at the hotel was low. We have managed to secure the hotel at the same rate as at June 2018, but it is dependent on the hotel having a better room occupancy rate. The New Plymouth members will still provide transport to and from Bowlarama each day so parking will not be a problem. New Plymouth had a number of newer bowlers, which was very pleasing to see, especially when a number of them won medals. The theme on Saturday night, 'Amber and Black', was great to see. When one walked into the dining room, one would have sworn that one was in Yarrow Stadium watching a Ranfurly Shield match with a sea of yellow and black. Congratulations go to all those people who managed to win bottles of wine on the night. My congratulations go to Lorraine for organising yet another successful tournament. You are going to be a hard act to replace, but I'm sure that the next tournament director will also put on a great tournament at Invercargill. Finally it was great to catch up with so many old friends, from previous tournaments. I hope that everyone got home safely.

Barry Dick, New Plymouth

Honorary Members Corner

I have fumed and stewed and procrastinated about writing this note but I feel all members should know how I feel. I was going to send a note to the secretary but then I realised that only the delegates would hear about it.

For nearly 20 years Les has been the backbone of the 55 plus group.

On reading the minutes from the delegates meeting in New Plymouth you should know how shocked and deeply perturbed we were by what we read in those minutes.

What am I on about?

In the 17 plus years when Les was tournament controller he used his own computer, and printer, now over the last 3 years the club has bought 3 computers and 2 printers. Come on that expenditure is not needed.

The club has been paying \$145.00 annually for a website owned and operated by Les. And he has done a jolly good job. Now from new information, I see you are paying \$3000.00 for a new website which will cost the club \$600.00 a year to maintain. Talk about reinventing the wheel.

But what disgusts me the most is no one has said a word to Les. He's had to read it in the minutes. That is disgraceful and a real slap in the face. I feel the executive of the 55 plus have a lot to answer for.

Beverley Stuart.

Editor's Note:

In view of the comments included in the above contribution, I sent the contribution to the 55+ Association executive for their comments and responses from Lorraine Heath, Tournament Director and from Preston Epplett, President are:

From Lorraine Heath

Firstly the Association has not paid for 3 computers over the last five years, they paid for 1 and I donated the other two when we had problems on the computers so all up we only ever paid \$500 for computers when I first started the Tournament Directors position. As for printers, we used the one given to us from Les till it gave up and we had to rush out at Porirua and buy a new one which cost us at the time I think \$40 the only reason we are looking at buying another cheap printer now is to go wireless, which the printer we have cannot do.

Yes we have now brought an up to date computer for whoever takes over from me as Tournament Director (as mine is on its last legs) and it will have the new program installed on it.

The \$3000 is what not only the delegates but also the members of 55+ Association have agreed to pay for a new website to be produced after the 30th September, when Les's website will no longer be available to the Association.

I know I have given in my resignation as Tournament Director and a new one will be decided at Invercargill in a special General Meeting, which is the correct procedure to do this, but the 55+ Association have my full support in what they are trying to do which is "bring the society into the present time, It will be so much easier with the new programme being produced which will also link straight up to the website.

I personally thank Les Stewart for all his work and help since I have been Tournament Director but surely he also can see it is time to update the system.

I don't know what else I can say but thank you 55+ Association Members for the last 5 years. It has been great working for all the members.

Cheers

Lorraine Heath
Tournament Director

From Preston Epplett

Presidents comment on items from Beverley Stuart

I reluctantly feel the need to respond to the item submitted to the newsletter and published under the heading Honorary Members Corner.

Unfortunately the article contains statements which are factually incorrect, comments which are made on incorrect assumptions and is not in line with the spirit of the 55+ Tenpin Bowling Association of New Zealand.

Lorraine in her response has outlined the correct position re the computers and printers.

With regard to the website, now is the time for members to find out the full story.

For some years the delegates have been uncomfortable that only Les could update the website. That put the Association at some risk and that risk was highlighted during the time of Les's ill health. We offered to have someone understudy Les so his good work with the Website could be continued. That offer was declined.

Then at our delegates meeting in Hastings we were advised that the website was going to be "turned off after the Invercargill Tournament"

The delegates unanimously agreed that :

- 1) The Association needed a robust, modern website.
- 2) That the Association would never again be put in the position where one person controlled the website.
- 3) That the Association needed a professionally developed website developed using industry standard tools which could be, if necessary, picked up and updated by any developer.

- 4) The website needed appropriate security.
- 5) That the Association would always have at least two members who could access and update the website.

Yes we could have had a friend of a member do something cheaper, but we would have only found ourselves in the same position. So we agreed on a professionally developed site. And yes that will, be more expensive, but we will have something which is not one person dependent.

Yes to some extent we are reinventing the wheel, but with a much more up to date version, and we had no choice, as we were told the website was to be turned off.

After Les advised us that the Web site was to be turned off we had no further need to discuss the matter with him, so I cannot understand the need for the last paragraph in Beverley's article.

Les did a great job in establishing the 55+ Tenpin Bowling Association of NZ and his work with the website was, at its inception, ahead of its times and it has served the Association well over the years.

To me, it is a shame that all that good work is being overshadowed by comments such as the articles in this newsletter and the previous one.

Our Delegates have one thing in mind, namely the future of the 55+ Tenpin Bowling Association of New Zealand.

As long as I am President we will make decisions which enhance the future of the Association and we will not allow it to return to the position where it is not in control of all aspects of its activities. We are prepared to make the hard decisions to ensure that the Association is viable and successful in the future.

Preston Epplett President

Upcoming Tournament Events

The 2018 September tournament will be at Invercargill from 20 to 23 September 2018. Invercargill have always provided excellent hospitality to their visiting bowlers who have gone to Invercargill for 55+ Association tournaments. If you are coming from the North Island and are driving down via Cook Strait, I suggest you allow at least 2 days each way for the drive between Picton and Invercargill and enjoy the South Island scenery in between. There will also be the risk of snow falls during this time as those who went to Invercargill the last time a 55+ Tournament was held there can confirm. The closing date for entries for the Invercargill Tournament is 20 August and the Saturday night function is being held at:
CLUB SOUTHLAND Inc.

115 Leet St

Invercargill

The Theme for the dinner is Bright and Bold Colour Patterns

Waitakere – March 1 - 3 2019 For this tournament, the Association will be celebrating being in existence for 20 years. It will probably be wise to book your accommodation for this Tournament now as I am aware that some Members have already made their bookings

Rotorua – June 2019 to be confirmed

Porirua - Sept 13 – 15 2019

Hastings – February 2020 dates to be confirmed.

New Plymouth – June 2020 2nd weekend dates to be confirmed.

Palmerston Nth – September 2020 dates to be confirmed.

Waitakere – February 2021 to be confirmed

Petone – February 2022 to be confirmed

More information on these Tournaments will be included in the next Newsletter.

Dave Hercus,
Editor