No.179 July 2025

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The Board has decided that the newsletter will be published every second month rather than monthly. The next newsletter will be published early September. Contributions are welcome. Please email them to <u>tonyral49@gmail.com</u> by the end of August.

This edition has articles by regular contributors plus some new or occasional ones. Our club provides many activities as well as the core ones of bowls and bridge. This month we have articles about mahjong, garden plots and indoor bowls as well as the regular craft group report. Patrick Culshaw resumes his series of articles about club personalities with one about our Vice President, Brian Quinn. As an editorial indulgence, I have written the first of a series of articles about the mechanics of bowling.

The reports of the President and various Directors give important information about what is happening in the Club. See the important dates in Peter Harry's report as we prepare for the 2025-26 pennant season.

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President's Report

Hello Members,

Our new **LED lights lit up our greens** on Friday 27th June. Under cold but still conditions fifty members joined our Sponsors to celebrate and get a feel for night bowling under lights. This time of the year is a busy time for the many businesses that support our club. We welcomed our major sponsor Ian Mollison of Hello World Travel Balwyn North and 3 staff from Joyce Optometrists. Local Member for Kew Jess Wilson was able to make time in her busy schedule to pop in for a short while and say hello.

After an hour of bowls, we retired to the Clubrooms to warm up, and chat further with the Sponsors, fellow members and enjoy a delicious chicken and salad meal. Thanks to our Social Director Sue Stephens and her wonderful helpers and everyone who helped in the organisation of the evening. We look forward to summer nights to bowl on a regular basis under lights in warmer conditions.



Bowls Director Peter Harry, President Robyn McClelland, Member for Kew Jess Wilson & Vice President Brian Quinn

We are grateful to the **Boroondara Council** for their initiative to replace the lighting throughout our clubrooms. The work is now nearly complete. Jesse from Evex Services has done an excellent job working around our busy schedule of weekly activities. These energy efficient lights are a huge improvement and I'm sure will be much appreciated by all our Bridge players and Indoor Bowlers. Further works regarding ceiling Insulation, and extraction vents are still in the pipeline.

Volunteers - Our hard-working Secretary Deb Petty would very much like to hear from any member who may be interested in helping her with some of the Club administrative tasks. In a club of 371 members the workload is substantial so please speak with Deb to obtain more information.
It is however very pleasing that 5 members have this past month volunteered to help in various arears. We thank:
Colin Cust - TidyHQ Shopkeeper
Gayle Slessar - Functions Manager
Peg Ditchburn & Dimi Hoppe - Welfare Officer (s)
Liz Dufty - Additional Bridge Rep on Membership Committee

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The Board is looking for **one or two other members** to put their hand up to research the **recycling of the bottles and cans** generated from our bar. The recently established Reverse Vending Machine (**RVM**) at Gordon Barnard Reserve on Balwyn Road prompted us to start thinking about how to better manage all recycling.

There may be other options apart from the RVM of which we are not aware. We propose that all funds generated from receiving the 10 cents/item be donated to a worthwhile charity in our local area. By doing this we can help others and improve our sustainability without imposing on our members for charitable contributions. For more information, please contact me or Michael Potter on his return from overseas in mid-July.

Bowls Director Peter Harry and his committee have been busy drafting selection and club championship guidelines, finalising our selection panel looking at coaching options and preparing for the bowling season. More details below in Peter's report.

Thanks to all members who have requested their sizes for the proposed new club shirt. We are still consulting with our supplier Premier Bowls Wear (**PBW**) to refine and clarify some finer details. The **Uniform Committee** will provide members with more details as soon as to hand.

For members, friends & visitors who are looking to keep warm on Friday mornings **Pickleball** is continuing with 2 sessions each week. Book and pay for your spot on the Events tab on the NBBC website. <u>https://northbalwynbowls.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events</u>

Some members and user groups have found the brief time lag when disarming the **Security Alarm**, a little challenging. Pro Security will attend on Friday 11th July, so hopefully this will make entering the building a little easier on the ears.

Our **Lost Property** box is again very full. Peg Ditchburn has offered to look after this and in the coming weeks will be putting items out on display on Tuesdays & Saturdays for members to peruse and hopefully take their forgotten items home. We recommend all items you bring to the club have your name clearly marked so they can be returned to you quickly.

As a large amount of our club information can be now found on our website <u>https://northbalwynbowls.tidyhq.com/</u> and taking into account the time involved for the contributors to write their reports the Board has decided that the **e-newsletter** will after this July edition be published **every second month.** The newsletter will be published early in the month and contributions should be submitted by the end of the preceding month.

Stay warm & best wishes, Robyn McClelland

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Membership Report

Connie Wong and Samson Fong have been joining us for Friday afternoon social bowls for a while, and we now warmly welcome them as new bowling members.

Last year Robyn McClelland was our Welfare Officer and also Shopkeeper – thank you Robyn for all the effort you put into these roles. Obviously, we needed to find replacements for these Office Bearer positions after the AGM, so thank you to Peg Ditchburn, Dimi Hoppe and Peter Sexton for kindly and jointly taking on the Welfare Officer role. We always try to keep in touch with members experiencing health or other problems. If you have any member updates, please let one of our Welfare Officers know.

Many thanks to Colin Cust for taking on the Shopkeeper role. At the moment name badges, garden plots and lockers can be ordered using the shop. To "shop", members go to the NBBC website at https://northbalwynbowls.tidyhq.com/, log into TidyHQ (the log in button is on the right side of the NBBC homepage), then select the Shop menu item. An order must be paid for as part of the ordering process. More than one item type may be ordered with a single payment.

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You'll notice there are products shown in the Shop that cannot be ordered (caps, hats, Grippo etc). These products are identified as such in their description but can be purchased directly at the bar. If you're having any problems, please feel free to contact Colin <u>cjcust@gmail.com</u>

Yvonne Wheeler Membership Director

Bowls Director's Report

Hi Bowlers,

We're on track for a terrific 2025/26 pennant season, and I can't wait to get back on the green with you all! Please take note of these important upcoming dates and make sure to mark your calendars:

Friday 18 July – 5:00 PM

Meet the Selectors Night

Join us as we introduce our selectors and present the 2025/26 Selection Policy, along with the revised Club Championship format and updated Code of Conduct.

Friday 8 August - 3:00-6:00 PM

Bowls Clinic with World-Class Talent

We are thrilled to host an exclusive clinic with **Kelly McKerihen**—2024 Women's World No. 1, 2025 Vic Open Singles Champion, Premier League competitor, and Canadian international. Joining her is **Ali Forsyth**, a New Zealand international, former World Champion of Champions gold medallist, Commonwealth Games medallist, former World No. 1, Premier League player, BPL champion, and winner of countless titles worldwide.





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Upcoming Practice Matches:

- Saturday 13 September vs. Camberwell
- Saturday 20 September vs. Ringwood
- Saturday 4 October vs. Doncaster

Looking forward to seeing you on the green and building momentum toward a fantastic season.

Cheers, Peter Harry

Fair Play or Foul?

Below are a couple of questions to test your knowledge of Bowls Rules. In particular, note the distinction between "Bowl in Motion" and "Bowl in Course" as the action required after displacement of a bowl can vary depending upon whether Bowl is in Motion or in Course.

Rules reference is World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 4th Edition Revised May 2023.

Question 1

Define what is meant by the terms:-

- (a) Bowl in motion;
- (b) Bowl in course;
- (c) Jack high?

Answer

(a) A bowl which is moving as a result of play after it has been at rest as part of the head. (**Definition C.16**)

(b) A bowl from its delivery until it comes to rest, no matter how many times it comes into contact with the jack or other bowls before it comes to rest or becomes dead. (**Definition C.15**)

(c) Means that the nearest portion of the bowl referred to is in line with and at the same distance from the mat line as the nearest portion of the jack. (Definition C.27)

Question 2

The skip of team A drove at the head and displaced several bowls. The three team members of team B, who were standing together at the head, were unable to move quickly enough and some of the bowls in motion were displaced by their feet and caused further displacement of the head.

What action should be taken?

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Answer

The skip of team A must choose whether to:

Place the bowl where the skip believes it would have come to rest, replace any part of the head disturbed after the displacement, **or** declare the end dead. (Law 37.1.4.2)

Terence Staunton Umpire

Bowling Myths and Maths

This is the first of a planned series of articles on the mechanics of bowling. Unless otherwise stated, all these comments relate to bowls delivered smoothly on their running surface with no bounce, tilt or wobble on a uniform (true) green and with no wind effect. Variations in these conditions introduce much complexity to any attempted analysis.

Understanding some of the mechanics of bowling may not make us all better bowlers, but it may help some of us if we understand more about what we are trying to make our bowls do. On the other hand, one can over-analyse the game. Expert bowlers usually don't need to analyse what they are doing but can just visualise from experience what is required and then do it.

Two Misconceptions Relating to Line and Weight

Fortunately, one doesn't hear this comment very often, but it does happen and it can mislead a new bowler. It is the comment, usually while the bowl is in motion, "you're too wide" when in fact the bowl finishes close to the centre line but too long or conversely "you're too narrow" when the bowl finishes close to the centre line but too short. What is being commented on and misinterpreted is

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that at its shoulder and other points along its path the bowl is either wider or narrower than it would be for the perfect draw to the jack. However, the problem is too much or too little weight, not the delivery line (aka aiming line).



The second misleading comment is one that I hear more often, including from opposition skips in pennant. It is when someone says something like "it's just your weight, your line was very good" when a bowl finishes, say, about a metre and a half short and three quarters of a metre wide of the centreline but an extrapolation of its curve would take it to the jack. The implication is that if the bowler delivers the next bowl with the same delivery line and a metre and a half more weight, the bowl will finish on the jack. However, neither the weight nor the delivery line was correct. If the line had been correct, the bowl would have finished on the centre line. A bowl delivered on the same line as before with a metre and a half more weight will finish about jack high but a bit more than three quarters of a metre wide. This is because the first bowl has come to rest not on the centre line but on a line at an angle to the centre line. A bowl delivered with the same delivery line and more weight will come to rest further along this angled line and hence further away from the centre line.

Tony Ralston

Social Director's Report

The social committee has commenced meeting for the 25/26 bowls season. Lois Staunton has taken leave, and I would like to thank her for her valuable contribution to my first season as Social Director. Joining our committee we welcome Anna Durrant, Gayle Slessor as Functions Manager and Bev Brown who shares the role of Providor with Cheryl Amos. Anna Sinclair, Anna Dunn and Ellen Solomon continue to provide valuable support in the organisation of our many and varied functions.

We plan to re commence our Friday Evening BBQs in September, with variance as required. Dates for the coming year to note are:-

- 27th July Celebrations and thank you to our Sponsors as we Light up NBBC.
- 30th August Opening of the Greens for the 25/26 season.
- 4th Oct Bowling Season Launch.
- 4th November Melbourne Cup Day get your hats ready.

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Our Christmas functions are scheduled for:

- Thursday 4th December Bridge Lunch
- Friday 12th December Club Christmas Party, from 6 pm

Further information will be provided later in the year.

Looking forward to seeing members join in our many activities for the coming season.

Sue Stephens Social Director

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Craft Group



As craft fell on the King's Birthday, we elected not to hold it.

Our next meeting is Monday, 14th July 2025 at 9am. Anna is going to teach us to paint this Wooden Keyring. I can see this being my keyring for the Garden Shed as depicted by the lovely flowers. Crafters will have received a separate email from Lois asking if they would like to make one, if you are new and would like to join us in painting one of these please phone Lois Staunton on 0417 164377 so Anna can arrange for one to be prepared for you.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Lois Staunton

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Choices Thereise Annual Annual Annual Annual Annual Annual Annual	We invite you to Choices Flooring's stunning new showroom in Doncaster. We have the latest in residential flooring in carpet, timber, tile, laminate, luxury vinyl and the new hybrid flooring.		At Anytime Fitness you will Find Your Fit. Inclusivity starts with us. So, no matter your body type, fitness level, ability, or gender, you'll be welcomed into our club. Because everyone deserves to feel like they can get moving the way they want to.
back to	sleep	world of b specialised staffed by a	eep exert a rare uniqueness in the edding and mobility products - a showroom in the heart of Balwyn, friendly team whose only focus is to sleep better, live better®, now, and into the future.

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Garden Plots

What do we NBBC garden plotters plant during Melbourne's cold dreary Winter months. Here are a few ideas. The following vegetables flourish, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beetroot, radishes(great to add to salads), spinach is fantastic, kale and silver beet always reliable and easy. Peas, snow peas garlic, lettuces and onions are also good. The other items which are beneficial are herbs. These are great as there are a wide range of health benefits, and good to support our immune system. Also, some herbs help with anti-inflammatory problems, anti-tumour, help in fighting the common and can reduce risk of heart problems.Winter herbs worth a try are parsley, rosemary, thyme, sage, mint (best in pots as it spreads), basil and coriander.

A tip worth trying is to use coffee grounds to help control weeds. Also, avoid putting citrus, onions or garlic into your compost bin as the worms are not too keen on these.

Renting a plot is a great way to not only enjoy the fruits of your harvest but also have a chat with fellow plotters and also you can swap produce, it's amazing how many people walking past admire our plots and stop to have a chat. This is a fantastic advert for our club. Also, during pennant season opposition teams are pleasantly surprised by the plots.

For further information about garden plots, contact Chris Walker.





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Mahjong



Several members have formed a group to play mahjong. They would welcome other members who want to learn the game and join the group to play. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at around 12 to have their byo lunch and then play from 12.30 to around 3. The form of the game is 3 player, modified Malaysian, which a lot of players find easier to pickup.

Tricia Abbott says it doesn't matter if you haven't played before,

we will teach you. It is easy to learn and lots of fun in good company. Anne Williams usually organises the sessions but while she is away Tricia can be contacted for further information on 0478 583 516.

Hilary Lamacraft says: I am still a beginner but I am really enjoying this rather unique game. I am getting the hang of Pongs and Kongs and have had the pleasure of going 'Mahjong' a few times but the scoring and the 'Winds' are still a bit of a mystery. I believe we are playing a modified Chinese version of the game. There are apparently more complicated versions but this is hard enough for me, although the experienced players are very helpful with their advice.



is everything made in china these DAYS?

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Indoor Bias Bowls

Our Indoor ESIBBA Winter Pennant season has just passed the halfway point with 17 players participating. Details of where our 4 NBBC teams sit on the ladder can be found at the ESIBBA Home Page. Spectators are always welcome at our home games each week on Tuesday nights at 7.30pm and Wednesday afternoons at 1.00pm.

Our NBBC Men's & Women's Singles competitions

are finals will be played soon.

Peter Harry v. Doug McClelland.

Lilac Kamiya v. Robyn McClelland. Date & Time TBA. The winners of these two events may choose to progress to play in the ESIBBA Champion of Champions competition at the end of July.

Five of our NBBC members were part of the composite South/Eastern team competing at the 43rd Intergroup Championships on the June long weekend at Ballarat. 208 players representing 6 associations (including Mount Gambier) battled it out over 10 disciplines at the Ken Kay Badminton Stadium. Once again it was an enjoyable and as expected cold weekend with the Warrnambool Orange team taking home the trophy.



L to R David Grundy, Lilac Kamiya, Anne Williams, Robyn & Doug McClelland at

The same five players ventured to the West Sunshine Community Centre on 22nd June to play in the VIBBA (State) Men's & Women's Pairs. Lilac & Robyn after losing their first game progressed to win the Plate competition. The event was well represented by players from across the state.

Barry Stillman teamed up with Doug McClelland to play in the ESIBBA Men's Pairs final at Blackburn RSL on the 26^{th of} June. They lost to Jim Bullow and Rodney Jones from Blackburn RSL. The Women's final was between Anne Williams and Jodi Jones from Blackburn RSL against Lilac Kamiya and Robyn McClelland. The



17 mats were in full use for the VIBBA (State) Pairs at Sunshine

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game was tied after 14 ends and Anne & Jodie won after playing an extra end. As you can see there are lots of indoor bowling opportunities.

Our social Indoor sessions on Friday mornings are continuing to be well attended with an average of 20 players each week. All NBBC members are welcome. If interested, please put your name on the list by the main noticeboard. Come along it's a lot of fun.

The Indoor Bias Bowls Team

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Bridge Wildcards



The **OPENING LEAD** can make or break the contract. It is the first lead of the first trick and is made by the player to the left of the declarer. What we're hoping to do when we make the lead is give partner information. We're also hoping to win or set up tricks for our side.

At this stage, what do we know? We have been attentive to the bidding, even if we weren't involved, and we've inferred something about the three other hands. Has partner bid? And what did the opponents bid?

If partner has bid, it's usually right to lead partner's suit. For one thing, our partner will expect it! Lead our highest card. But if we have three cards in their suit, we'll lead low if we have an honour, or middle card if not (as in 'MUD' middle-up-down, which is explained further below).

Our next options differ for No-Trump and Trump contracts (in order of preference):

Against a NO-TRUMP contract, our aim is to develop tricks in our partnership's long suits.

Lead the fourth highest card from our longest and strongest suit, promising an honour or two in that suit. This will allow our partner to use the "Rule of 11" to help ascertain the distribution and strength of declarer's cards in that suit. Partner should return this suit at her earliest opportunity (unless it is obviously not going to work out). If we don't have an honour, we lead the second highest. (The "Rule of 11" is explained further below.)

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> If we have a 3-card honour sequence (or 3-card broken honours), lead the top of the sequence, which will drive out the declarer's high cards. For example, <u>KQJ7</u> lead the K, <u>QJT4</u> lead the Q, <u>JT963</u> lead the J, and from broken sequences K<u>JT54</u> lead the J, Q<u>T975</u> lead the Ten.

Against a TRUMP contract, we don't have time to develop long suits. We get our defensive tricks from high cards, and rarely from setting up long suits, as the declarer can trump/ruff.

- Lead a suit headed by AK (not in the trump suit). Lead the Ace, assess the dummy, and continue with King unless obviously wrong. If our partner has two cards in this suit, she will play high then low; and we will continue with a third round hoping partner can trump/ruff.
- Lead a Singleton (not in the trump suit). When partner gets the lead, she will return this suit to us, which we may then ruff. However, don't lead a singleton King unless it was bid by partner, as it may win a trick on its own.
- Lead the top of a sequence of (two or more) honours (not in the trump suit). This will force out higher cards and promote our high cards. For example, with <u>KQT5</u> lead the K, <u>QJ75</u> lead the Q, or with the internal sequences KJT5 lead the J, <u>QT94</u> lead the Ten. Give some priority to our suit headed by King-Queen.
- Lead the top of a Doubleton (not in the trump suit), including Ax (but not Kx unless it's partner's suit). When we later play the lower card, our partner will know what we have (or don't have), and we may be able to ruff in on a third round of this suit.
- > Lead the bottom card from a 3-card suit with an honour.
- Lead the middle card from a 3-card suit without an honour. Use 'MUD' middle-up-down. For example, with 9-7-4 we lead the 7; then play the 9 before the 4. Leading a middle value card usually denies an honour in that suit and probably shows a weak hand. Our partner need not return our suit; But should consider that it may be a singleton lead.
- > Lead Top of Rubbish. If we have four or more small cards, lead the top one.
- Lead a low trump if we cannot find a better lead. Typically, this is when the opponents don't have a good Trump fit (or playing in declarer's second suit), and we are holding 2 or 3 small trumps and believe the opponents have a singleton or void in another suit. This will force out higher trumps and reduce the likelihood of the declarer crossruffing. Alternatively, it may be because we have a long/strong outside suit, and we can draw the opposition trumps before playing our suit.

THREE QUICK TAKEAWAYS:

- ➢ Honour promises the card below
- Low card suggests an honour
- ➢ High (non-honour) card suggests a poor suit.

RULE OF ELEVEN:

Here is how it works. In a No-Trump contract, when the lead is clearly fourth highest, subtract the value of the card from 11. This gives you the number of cards higher than the card led, in the other three hands.

Defence example:	6 lead	Dummy K 9 2	You A 10 8	11 - 6 = 5
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Here you can see all five cards higher than the 6 lead. Declarer doesn't have a card higher than the 6. You cover any card played from dummy and win the trick and are set to win all 4 tricks.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- > If the declarer has bid a suit, wait for the declarer to play that suit.
- Lead an unbid major in preference to an unbid minor, as the opponents will usually bid a major if they have one.
- Lead an Ace against a Small Slam. But not against a Grand Slam as declarer is unlikely to bid a Grand Slam without a void in their missing Ace's suit.
- Never underlead an Ace in a suit contract; that is, don't play a small card from a suit headed by an Ace. If you are going to lead that suit, lead the Ace (but find another suit instead). Imagine if opponent has a singleton King; You've just given him that trick, and you will likely never make your Ace. Ouch. (It's okay to underlead the Ace in a No-Trump contract.)
- > Try to avoid leading a suit containing the KJ or AQ tenace.

Now, not all expert sources agree with the priority of lead choices that I have presented here. For example, some consider the top of an internal sequence in a Trump contract a poor lead. And the leading of honour sequences other than AK and KQ to be of much lower priority. And some consider leading fourth from the top in a suit contract to be an acceptable penultimate option. But hopefully you will find this a good starting point.

Happy bridging,

Morry Freedman 💙



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Club Personality

Patrick Culshaw has agreed to continue the series of articles about club personalities that he wrote while editor of the newsletter. Here is the latest in the series.



Club Personality No. 30 – Brian Quinn

Brian Quinn is our Club's new Vice President and perhaps needs an introduction to many members. He is a social bowls player not involved in pennant but deeply interested in the social and community welfare aspects of the club. "We have a wonderful legacy in The Club, of friendly involvement, engagement and socialising". He goes on "My reason for agreeing to join the board is that I believe I can help this to continue and even expand. Clubs such as ours play an enormously important part in the life of the community especially for the *retired* generations who can find themselves left behind when their social networks have fallen apart".

Life started for Brian just after the end of WWII. He was one of three boys. His family was of Irish descent, coming to Australia around

1864 a few years after the great exodus caused by the potato famine. Born and raised in Ivanhoe he went to primary and secondary school at Christian Brothers in East Melbourne where his interests and strengths lay in Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics.

A scholarship took him to Melbourne University to study Civil Engineering. After graduating, he joined the Board of Works getting involved in sewage treatment and water supply. Short stints with a few other organisations including ICI could not keep his interest, He preferred involvement with a wider scope of challenges rather than the restricted detail required of engineering responsibility.

Brian made the huge move to self-employment starting his own business distributing and direct selling of educational toys. The Business – "*Leisurefun*" grew over the years until he had 300 staff all over the country 'till the "Recession we had to have" hit. Like some many other small and medium sized family businesses this had a devastating effect and began the demise of the business. Brian was lucky to survive financially but it took a toll on him personally and it says a lot about the strength of his character that he fought through this period of his life and remains one of the most cheerful and positive people you could wish to meet.

Somewhere along the path of life Brian met (on a Blind date!) his wife, Barbara. They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. He was a keen tennis player in his younger days and still plays golf on a regular basis.

One of Brian's passions is that of model railways. He has a miniature HO scale battery powered wooden railway complete with beautiful handmade buildings and rural settings and scenery. HO is

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1:87 as against the OO most people will know which is 1:76. He has now progressed to an electric train set-up which should keep him going for the rest of his life.

Brian's interests outside of family and bowls are politics - he reads voraciously on the internet; and, watching lots of U-tube videos, especially studies of ancient civilisations. He likes an occasional glass of Shiraz and reluctantly admits to supporting Essendon.

Brian Quinn gives an impression of gentle strength and determination, a thinker. We are lucky to have him on our management team.

OH&S Report

There have been some additions to safety equipment at the club we would like to bring to your attention.

1. Glucodin tablets can be found in the Defibrillator/First Aid cupboard.

If someone is known to be diabetic and suffers a collapse, it is safe to administer glucose orally, so long as they are conscious and able to swallow. 3 glucose tablets should be taken initially, and this dose can be repeated after 15 minutes.

- 2. A **Stretcher** is now located in the Men's Change room. This can be used to transport an injured or collapsed patient from the green. It requires 4 People to perform a lift and carry.
- 3. A **raised toilet seat** and a **frame** to provide 2 handles to assist with use of the Accessible toilet are now located in the Accessible bathroom. Please move them aside after use, so the toilet remains wheelchair accessible.



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