

DISTRICT NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY
BRISBANE DISTRICT BOWLS ASSOCIATION INC

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Issue 4/2022

OCTOBER

What is the Future for Lawn Bowls?

The sport of lawn bowls in Australia is declining in participation numbers. Regardless of success at the recent Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh where both Australian men and lady players brought home gold medals, less people are taking to the greens to enjoy our sport.

Recent figures provided by Bowls Queensland show the following membership numbers for our state:

2019 27,553
2020 26,906
2021 26,061
2022 24,773

It is anticipated that in
2023 membership will be
around 23,500.

The downward trend could be attributed to a combination of factors: small number of junior players, inclusion of a bowling green at retirement villages or the perception that lawn bowls is a sport for oldies.

The popularity of Barefoot Bowls is a comforting trend and promises to bring reward to clubs that actively promote this activity. Lawn bowls is a sport that can be enjoyed by all, regardless of size or age. Unlike other sports such as golf, that offer corporate days, lawn bowls can be quickly taught to raw beginners and mastered to such a degree that anyone could enjoy success and a fun time learning. As a Corporate experience it is ideal, as ladies can compete on a level playing field with their male colleagues.

For the same reasons, lawn bowls could be a popular sport if offered as a high school option.

From the grass roots to competitive games however, there is a continued trend towards lower participation numbers. Administrators at all levels are seeking answers.

One suggestion that is currently under discussion is the possibility of Open Pennants. Cunningham District are the trend setters and they have successfully conducted Open Pennants for more than two years. Division 1 pennants for both men and ladies remain unchanged because the winners in these divisions advance to State championship events. But from Division 2 and below, all pennant divisions in Cunningham District are Open Divisions allowing teams of all men, all ladies or any combination of both.

The mid-week Ladies Pennants remain unchanged in Cunningham and only accept nominations from ladies'

teams. If a ladies' team cannot field a full team, men are allowed to make up the numbers but can only play lead or second.

Brisbane District are currently seeking opinions from clubs and players regarding the adoption of Open Pennants for 2023. While Cunningham have found a formula that is successful in their district, it might need changes to be successful in Brisbane District. For instance, should Ladies' Mid-week Pennants also be Open? Could players play in both Midweek Pennants and Open Saturday Pennants? How will players be graded? Can a Saturday Div 2 player, play in a mid-week Div 3 game? Should Brisbane District commence Open Pennants in the lowest divisions such as Division 4, 5 or 6 and then work upwards in subsequent years? Should both Div 1 AND Div 2 remain separate and not be Open?

Open Pennants is a possible solution to increasing the number of teams playing pennants. Where some clubs cannot field a full ladies' pennant team, with the help of a couple of their male members, they might then be able to nominate a team. The addition of ladies into the traditional Saturday men's pennant season, could increase the number of teams each club could form.

From the recent BDBA Management Meeting, it was decided to form a committee of both men and women to work through the details of Open Pennants. This committee could then pass their recommendation on to BDBA which holds the responsibility for decision making.

Nominations are open for positions on this committee of three ladies and three men. Please email BDBA to lodge your interest. It is still not too late for all bowlers to have your voice heard. All players are encouraged to share their opinions on this new but exciting concept. Please talk to your club delegate, nominate for the new committee or send an email to BDBA at this address: info@brisdista.org.au



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A bowler's delight – Henselite!



A name that is synonymous with the game of lawn bowls for over 100 years, Henselite has now entered into a Business Agreement with Brisbane District Bowls Association.

The company's drive to create the most reliable and precise lawn bowls began back in 1918 when W.D. Hensel set up his own manufacturing company in Melbourne. In a time when all bowls were made of wood, William altered the bias of mis-shapen bowls that had come in from the UK by ship and started his own company. He came to an arrangement with the Dunlop Rubber Co. and in partnership they developed the world's first rubber bowls which were less affected by variations in temperature than their wooden predecessors.

In 1930, William and his son Raymond W. Hensell turned their attention to developing bowls made from a new kind of material which would be even more stable, and not expand and contract with temperature changes. After much experimentation they decided upon a plastic called Phenolformaldehyde and in 1931 the first solid plastic bowl was introduced to the market, changing the face of bowls as it was known. These original bowls were called Henselites.

In 1937 the first Henselite all-plastic jack was produced. Production was suspended during the Second World War. The factory took part in the war effort, producing plastic mouldings for 'turn and bank indicators' on aircraft for the Royal Australian Air Force.

When bowls production resumed, Raymond W Hensell, installed a series of specially designed, high-precision turning and biasing machines. In these post-war years, bowls consolidated its popularity as a mass participation sport.

With television yet to be introduced, there was also a demand for indoor recreational games for the whole family. In the early 1950's Henselite began to sell sets of "Junior Bowls". Later called "Home Carpet Bowls", these bowls remain popular with families today.

In 1959, Henselite introduced an improved powder compound with a 'Super Grip' additive, designed to give the plastic bowl a better feel in the hand and provide bowlers with a better grip on the bowl. Bowls with 'Super Grip' were called the Henselite Championship model. The additive has remained a feature of all subsequent models.

Up to this point, Henselite bowls were not machined with a dimple grip. In the late 1960's there was popular demand for a gripped bowl with many bowlers after a firmer,

more reliable grip on the bowl. Henselite brought out the Deluxe bowl, the first Henselite bowl with a dimple grip. This grip feature continued to be extremely popular and today it appears on approximately 90% of bowls produced.

1988 was a turning point for bowls when new rules allowed the introduction of 'narrow biased bowls', and also called for bowls manufacturers to identify their biases by a specific model name.

Consequently, Henselite released models such as Standard Bias, Classic Bias and Masters Bias. Updated models followed.

Henselite began to manufacture a number of different bowls for the different greens around Australia and the World, beginning with the Maestro bowl in 1992 then the ABT-2000.

In 2008, Henselite became the first manufacturer to produce 7 million bowls and in the following year, sales of coloured and speckled bowls over took sales of black bowls in Australia for the first time.

Further new models included Fusion, Dreamline XG and Cruze.

After over 100 years in business, the Hensell family sold the company to a new family, father and son team of Ian and Thomas Paterson, who are committed to building on the foundations created over that last century.

BDBA's association with Henselite represented by State Manager John Newell, has witnessed the re-emergence of Pop-up Shops at bowls clubs within our District. Due to the restricted number of bowls retail outlets within Brisbane and surrounds, John is keen to bring bowls products direct to bowlers. To date, Pop-up shops at Northern Suburbs and Ferny Grove have proven very popular. Many more at various clubs will follow.

More than bowls are available for purchase at these Pop-up Shops. John's travelling shop stocks bowls shoes, clothing, bags, pick-up sticks, hats and all manner of bowling requirements.

If your club would welcome a Henselite Pop-up Shop, contact BDBA Marketing Co-ordinator Lyn Fryer on 0423 374 929 to make a booking for your next special event.

2022 Qld State 8-A-Side Championship Group 4 Winners – Hamilton



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Picture Perfect Bowlers



BDBA team who played in the 2022 Ladies Brisbane Shield at Manly Bowls Club on 16th October 2022



Is Travel Insurance Important?

If you don't invest in travel insurance, then you should stick to playing the pokies. After the world wide pandemic put an end to any overseas travel and stopped every cruise liner in port, travel insurance is a no-brainer. It is more than an insurance policy. It is a buffer against unexpected and unwanted expense on a grand scale. Initially it is designed to financially protect you while you are travelling. It can also protect the financial investments of booking a holiday.

The Australian Government strongly advises that all Australians protect themselves with travel insurance, both domestically and internationally. Some countries even demand proof of travel insurance before allowing you to cross their borders.

Travel insurance is an essential tool and a stress reliever. It is designed to help protect you from financial losses that can be incurred from a wide range of factors. These factors include (but are not limited to) the need to cancel a trip, requiring overseas medical treatment, or replacing lost or stolen luggage.

Travelling in a post Covid world has changed and being insured is more important now than ever before. Travel Insurance is not there just to cover you from lost bags or a doctor's bill.

Many Insurance companies now have capped the level of "Covid" cover one can claim upon, in the event you test positive for Covid before your travel commences and you need to cancel your trip. It is extremely important that we make sure the cover you are getting is adequate for the amount of money you are spending as the costs of travelling now is very different than what it was in a pre Covid world. At Helloworld Everton Hills, we discuss this with every client and make sure that you are aware of the changes and that you have complete peace of mind even before you jump on that plane!

We also have an amazing new experienced consultant starting soon! Call us now to discuss all your travel needs.

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2022 BDBA Ladies Championship Singles Finalists: Jane Bush (left) from Hamilton with the winner, Pat Hobson (right) from Chermside



2022 BDBA Ladies Championship Pairs winners Wendy Wilson (left) and Pam Rowe (right) from Hamilton



2022 BDBA Senior Inter-District Challenge side who played against Moreton Bay, Cunningham, Sunshine Coast at Pine Rivers Club. BDBA finished second.

Picture Perfect Bowlers



Susan Jensen from Chermside (left) and Ann Clarke (right) from Ferny Grove

Novice Champions

The BDBA Novice Championships for Men and Ladies were played over the weekend of 22-23 October. Due to forecasts of heavy rain the venue was transferred from Chermside to Enoggera. There were 21 men entered and 11 ladies.

Winner of the 2022 Mens Novice Singles is Adam LeFlay from Enoggera with a 25-11 victory over Steve Reddaway from Red Hill.

The Ladies 2022 Novice Champion is Sue Jensen (Chermside) who beat Ann Clarke (Ferny Grove) 25-19 in a thrilling final. Congratulations to all participants and to the finalists.



Steve Reddaway (left) from Red Hill and Adam LeFlay (right) from Enoggera

Pink Day Well Supported

Chermside Bowls Club staged a very successful Pink Day on Sunday 9th October. Funds raised were donated to the Jane McGrath Foundation and St Vincent's foundation.



Pink was the fashion!



Well dressed team of Des Baglin, Thalia Lait, Susan Jensen and Jane Huang (First time bowler.)





Serenading umpire at the final of District Ladies Pairs played at Ferny Grove on Monday 3rd October.



BDBA Ladies winning team in the 2022 Gold Coast Challenge Match held at Beenleigh Bowls Club on 23rd September

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Community Climate Action grants now open

Applications are now open for Round 7 – Community Climate Action of the Queensland Government’s Community Sustainability Action grant program.

Grants of up to \$100,000 (excluding GST) are available for community-led projects that deliver climate action and deploy renewable energy solutions in Queensland.

Grants will be provided for eligible projects that enable community organisations to reduce emissions, boost

Applications close 4pm on Wednesday 7 December 2022. Program guidelines and application details are available on the [Queensland Government website](https://www.qld.gov.au).

For more information, email csagrants@des.qld.gov.au

renewables and reduce the energy bills that come with running facilities and services.

Applications will be accepted from:

- properly established incorporated associations (incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981)
- Australian charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
- not-for-profit organisations registered under the Corporations Act 2001
- First Nations corporations incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cwlth)
- regional natural resource management bodies.

From White to Black to Red

The decision to change the Ladies District uniform from white pants/skirt to black has been rescinded. Men and the Ladies will now both compete in the one uniform i.e. the current shirt plus red pants as presently worn by the men; the ladies to wear shirt and red pants/skirt/skort/shorts.

Ladies will be required to source their own red pants. All Brisbane District players in similar attire will look spectacular when both men and ladies events are scheduled side-by-side at the same venue.

BowlsLink Uptake

With the expected uptake of the Bowlslink system each Club will be required to have at least two members (most probably more) involved in the uploading/entering process.

Jim Walker (West Toowong) will be involved in the local training at individual Clubs. Pat Hobson has been providing live updates during recent events and several of the delegates have caught up with the results in this manner. Thanks and well done Jim and Pat! Further discussion including costing will take place before BowlsLink is used by the Brisbane District.

Group 4 Winners



L-R: Jacinta Weir, Pam Rowe, Lauren Carpenter and Wendy Wilson

Hamilton Ladies Fours team has been competing in Mackay in the Queensland Finals of Champion of Club Champions.

They have finished with the Bronze medal, a very creditable third. Congratulations ladies.

Broadbeach took out the ladies title. Pine Rivers Zone 4 won the Mens’ title.

Ordering Jackets

Orders are now being taken in advance of the 2023 season for District jackets. All current District players are eligible to place an order.



Please contact the BDBA Secretary on info@brisdista.org.au to place your order. Cost is approximately \$80 per jacket.

Nominate Your Teams

Nominations forms for Ladies Autumn Pennants (starting Feb 24) and Hosting Duties forms for 2023 events have now been distributed to Clubs/Delegates.

Player Profile and Expression of Interest for District Sides forms will be sent out at the end of October.