

# **MAIRANGI BAY BOWLING CLUB Inc.**

## **Annual Report from the Board**

### **General**

This past year has seen a change in both president and chair and acknowledgements were made at the last annual meeting of the outgoing office holders and their contribution to the club in past years.

Following the annual meeting in June 2024 I was elected chair and also remained in the Treasury position. This 12 month period has been notable for the number of maintenance and refreshing projects undertaken. Some projects were undertaken by members in a voluntary capacity and other projects were contracted out to be completed at commercial rates.

A member's working bee was held at the beginning of the season and this achieved a good basis to reinstate the grounds to an acceptable standard with some minor ongoing maintenance undertaken for the rest of the year. Our lawns and gardens are managed under contract arrangements and this has enabled them to be kept well under control and not require the input of members to do this work.

Mairangi Bay Bowling Club survives on the input of volunteers who turn up at working bees or contribute to the maintenance around the club. This is in addition to those members who volunteer their time to manage the affairs of the club (the Board members), those who assist in the marketing, managing and supervising the competitions which are run throughout the year, and those who look after the social atmosphere of club like organising club functions, major events and the all-important bar, and all this not forgetting the important value that hall hire adds to the use of the building and the income so derived.

The Board thanks the members who have made contributions in all these areas and the ongoing projects to keep the club functioning well. A small number of members continue to do these jobs and without their willingness the club would have further difficulties in continuing to operate as well as it does. Thank you from the Board to those who contribute so generously.

What is becoming very evident is the dwindling numbers of volunteers who put up their hands to help. This means the small band of members who are carrying out these tasks is reducing to a stage where the club needs to consider how it will survive if any of these important volunteers, in the 20% number, decide their turn is finished. The other 80% will then need to either step up or we will all end up paying a lot more in subscriptions to keep the club going. The Board has discussed the possibility that a part time club

manager may be required in the not too distant future, unless there is a renewed vigour of input from the 80% of the club members to keep the club alive.

A major cost and inconvenience activity recently involved the water leakage on the inlet pipe to the clubhouse. With no obvious signs of this leakage, it had run for some weeks, only being discovered when an increased water bill was received. Although immediate steps were taken to minimise the loss going forward, there was the associated expense for the plumbing and subsequent repairs to the concrete path. The Watercare charges during this period were in the vicinity of \$16,500 but fortunately we were able to gain \$10,000 rebate towards this as a leak allowance.

For the record I would like to note many of the maintenance activities which have been undertaken this year, as many members may not be aware of the tremendous amount undertaken by the Board. The list of activities is attached to this report.

There may have been other jobs not listed on the attachment but this will give members a sense of the wide range of tasks which have been tackled by the Board, with a number of these undertaken voluntarily by a small group of club members. Other works have been contracted out.

The severe windstorm which came through at the end of April destroyed roof panels on four shelters and took out three panels of fencing around the Harcourts Community Green and dislodged some concrete blocks on a shelter to the Knightsbridge green. Fortunately other than the excess, the insurance company picked up the remaining costs of reinstatements in all these areas.

## **Greens**

At the beginning of the season we saw the change of green keeper for our grass greens. Hamish Russell, who had been looking after our greens for the last several years finished on the 31st of August and we welcomed Brendon Kelly on the 1st of September. The Board thanked Hamish for the time he had served at the club.

During the season, the greens have been kept in good shape, with some bare patches appearing on Knightsbridge green on the South and West edges later in the season, but overall both greens held their coverage reasonably well.

The usual renovations will be undertaken during the winter and we should be able to look forward to good greens again next summer after the first winter of maintenance carried out by Brendon.

## **Use of Greens**

During the season, the club has provided greens for use by Bowls New Zealand and Bowls North Harbour in hosting events of significance and we thank the club members who have assisted in this task and made it possible.

In early January, there were two days of play for the National singles held at our club. We welcomed players from around the country, who were all complimentary on the support and welcome they received at our club. Interestingly one of these days involved the players competing in the disabled singles event.

In mid-March we saw the 1-5 year octagonal representative fixture held at our club, which involved play on all three greens over the full two days of the weekend. There were eight representative teams who took part, over 160 players and officials, with teams coming from Hawkes Bay to Northland. This event was very successfully managed by Board member Glenda Rountree, who had arranged a number of club members to assist over both days. Thank you to all who helped, it was a wonderful display of club support and did the club proud.

### **Lease**

The lease which the club has with the Auckland Council for the grounds on which our club sits expired on the 1st of April 2025. Auckland Council no longer renew leases and, as they expire, it is necessary to go through the process of making a new application each time. Our application has been lodged with Council and receipt acknowledged. However, they do not expect to consider this for a few months yet and will involve further discussions in the process of seeking a new lease. In the meantime our occupancy is being rolled over on a month by month basis.

A silent aspect of the new lease arrangements may well be annual charges by Auckland Council, which is indicated in the new lease guidelines of being up to \$1,300pa.

### **Re-registration**

Members will no doubt be aware that for the club to remain registered as an incorporated society it is necessary to re-register under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. As a step towards this re-registration, club members need to adopt a new constitution to incorporate the changes brought in by the new Act. A draft has been prepared using the basis of the template issued by Bowls New Zealand and amending this with some minor aspects which the club had incorporated in its existing constitution. This has been made available to members for review and request made for any questions to be raised ahead of the meeting to formally adopt this.

### **Good Neighbour Evening**

This year we resurrected the Good Neighbour Evening with the Mairangi Bay Tennis Club for the first time in many years. The evening was an unqualified success with 20 tennis club members crossing the fence to join us in a social game of bowls and fellowship between the two clubs. Afterall, when tennis players get to the end of their tennis careers, they make good bowlers. Going forward the Board plans to include the Good Neighbour evenings as a part of the club's annual programme.



## **Membership**

The 2024/25 Season saw an overall decline in membership from 170 to 156.

While we gained 13 new members, principally Business Plus and Associates, we only had two new full members.

The number of full members declined from 115 down to 101. Some switched to limited or social membership. Business plus membership also fluctuates quite a lot.

Over the past 14 years our full membership has declined by an average of 6 per year reducing from 190 down to the current 101.

## **New Tournament Entry System**

Towards the end of the year a new entry system to enter all club events was launched, this following a number of months of assessing and developing an update to the system used in recent years. This has been accepted by members as an improvement to the previous based system and allows members to view the players who are already entered into an event, especially valuable when looking for replacements.

## **Club Successes**

In Centre events the women have had an outstandingly successful season. Theresa Rogers won the Centre Singles, Sheryl Wellington and Theresa Rogers were runner-up in the Centre pairs and the women also making the semi-finals of both the triples and the fours.

The women continued their winning way with the team of Sheryl Wellington, Jan Gledhill and Colleen Rice taking out the Bowls North Harbour Champ of Champs for the triples and the pairs and fours bowing out in the semi-finals.

Also most notable for the women was the repeat success in the Women's Interclub 7's where they repeated the success from the previous year. This year they travelled to Wellington to play in the national finals but unfortunately the results were not so kind to them there.

The men had a quieter season for results at Centre level but were rewarded with reaching the semi-finals in the Interclub 7's and had several successes in reaching the final of the Champ of Champ pairs, and the semi-finals in a number of other Centre and Champ of Champ events.

Our Bowls 3/5 team of Kevin Cameron, Jo Baxter and Alan Telford performed creditably to become runners-up in the Centre competition only to be beaten by last year's winners, Birkenhead, with the last bowl of the night.

The club teams repeated last year's success in again winning the Men's and Women's Cadness Cups and in the Winter Cup the men went down to Warkworth in

the final, but the women finished with a 1-2 result to highlight the strong women's element of the club for this year.

The Club provided several members to the North Harbour Premier, Development and 1-5 year representative teams.

### **Finance**

As it has been noted earlier in this report the long list of maintenance and the water leakage has had its impact on the financial result for the year. A number of maintenance items became necessary to meet the statutory requirements for community hall hire and bar servicing, and with items like the water leakage and drainage/cess pits replacement mostly emanating from the deterioration of years of occupancy.

Repairs to the sunshades was long overdue and, while it may not be the complete answer for the future, it will certainly suffice as a significant improvement on the past few years.

An additional unbudgeted expense occurred during the latter part of the season to support our winning Interclub 7's women's team to compete in the national finals in Wellington.

The Profit & Loss statement also includes a direct investment deposit and reserve of \$20,000 as a provision for the eventual replacement of the carpet green.

Depreciation of \$23,000 is a non-cash item reflected in the accounts for accounting purposes only but does not affect the bank account balance.

Taking all these factors into account the club can be satisfied with the final result which is a deficit of \$30,000. However, continuing with our present position of falling membership numbers and increasing cost of maintenance, the real financial cost will soon be felt in our ongoing results. This situation will need further consideration of the Board and members for the club to survive into the future.

**For and on behalf of the Board,**



Tony Popplewell

May 2025

## **Projects and maintenance work undertaken during the year -**

Major working bee to clean up around the sheds and the car park area

Shades been repaired and fitted with new plastic clips and tie backs

Big clean-up of the back driveway area and sandbags replaced

Grounds cleaned by weed spraying and pruning

Cleaned and barked area under the fence line on the ramp

Concreted around the water sprinklers of both greens

Fence by tennis club supported and repaired

Back store shed cleaned out

Emergency lighting updated to meet public hall standards

Scoreboards updated with new blackboards

Major water leakage repaired

Self-closing lock on match committee room exit door replaced

Blocked drain on back driveway cleared,

Drain and cesspits replaced on back driveway

Club house microphone & amplifier replaced

Shelter roofs on west side of Knightsbridge green water blasted and painted

Brick paving area between Mayfair & Knightsbridge greens repaired

Men's locker room & lockers cleaned out

Club signs replaced and updated

Rear door to club house repaired and painted

Removed hose on the grass bank

Removed trees and pots around Harcourts Community Green

Garden by ramp cleaned of weeds and maintained

Replaced spouting and downpipe on store shed