

onehunga

BOWLING CLUB

BOWLS / VENUE MANAGER'S REPORT

The club has again enjoyed a fantastic year on the greens. The individual performances shone out on the National stage, but perhaps the most satisfying results on the greens were that of our Interclub teams; something that perhaps in the past hasn't been a strength of Onehunga. Winning both the mens & womens Premier Interclub titles reinforced that we're on the right track with our player programmes. Of course with the success of the Div 2 Womens National Interclub side we were duly named Auckland Interclub Club of the Year.

With so many fantastic individual performances over the year it seems inappropriate to just single out one player – but for me the rise of Scott Cottrell highlights to me the success of the high performing culture we have introduced, and a credit to the club.

18 months ago Scott would have been given zero chance of playing for New Zealand this season. But he turned himself around, embracing his new club – he trained, he mixed with his new clubmates, set goals for himself, and applied himself to succeed. He immersed himself within a friendly, competitive and welcoming club. It is highly unlikely that Scott would not have played for New Zealand this year had he not joined Onehunga.

I was immensely proud as a clubmate to present Scott with his first New Zealand shirt before his first test match, a tradition in NZ Bowls, and he performed admirably wearing the Silver Fern. We have 4 New Zealand reps in one club – the most from one club in the country – and I am sure we will produce more in the coming years.

This success on the greens has led to more players (and more members) joining our club. We welcome former World Singles Champion of Champion Tony Grantham to Onehunga.

The inaugural \$20,000 Easter Invitation Triples was a great success. Some minor teething problems will rest assured be rectified next year but on the whole Onehunga is back on the map with a major tournament on the calendar that was enjoyed by all participants – qualifiers, locals, "outside" teams and International players.

We have been recognised by Bowls NZ, with the tournament now enjoying inclusion on their calendar of events – ranking us right up there in importance with events like the North East Valley Singles, NZ Open and the National Championships. We will see more International players in the field next year, particularly from Australia.

It would be great to see some more support from the club bowlers – some of the world's best players will be right here on your greens for you to rub shoulders with. You can be a part of it too – four qualifying teams receive direct entry into the main event.

This shows that Onehunga not only caters for the "elite" players. Our 1st & 2nd year players showed tremendous improvement throughout this season, and every effort will be made to enhance the skills of the likes of Teri Anderson, Kerrin Fremlin and Mike Ngatai.

In fact, for me a big focus this year will be on providing more bowls for the "average club bowler". Plans are in place for:

- * Regular midweek tournaments
- * More weekend club days
- * 1-5 year/development tournament

It would be unfair however to state that there is "hardly any" bowls at Onehunga for the average club bowler. We have:

- * Friday Interclub
- * Saturday Interclub
- * National Interclub
- * 1-5 Year Interclub
- * Winter Interclub
- * Club Championships – singles, pairs, triples, fours
- * Club Championships – 1st Year & 1-5 Year
- * Club Championships – Veteran singles, Graded Fours, Mixed Pairs
- * Winter bowls
- * All Friday evening bowls – Shanghai, Burgers & Bowls
- * Various single entry "club days"
- * Ham Tournament – qualifier for Easter Invitation Triples

These events all need to be supported; they are the bread & butter of bowls activity.

However, I'm under no illusion that there is a demand for more club bowls – & with the major tournament now in place, more focus will be placed on creating more tournaments.

The playing of games via mutual agreement was not embraced by all this year. The BOC will work on tinkering the programme to best suit all members, whilst ensuring that the bowls being played at the club is done so cost effectively.

Now that the refurbishment of the club is complete we have a magnificent first class facility capable of hosting a wide array of events and activities. Although useage of the club has increased through venue hire, functions and social/corporate bowls the opportunities for growth in this area are huge, and imperative.

The income streams from these avenues are crucial to the operation of the club. Remember, word of mouth from you the member is the most effective form of advertising. Why not introduce Onehunga to your family, friends and workmates?

We look forward to the following season where there will be many highlights; the RWC, Easter Triples, & the National Championships of which we are not playing Headquarters, but will most certainly be social Headquarters for the bowlers of NZ over the New Year.

Chris Le Lievre
Bowls & Venue Manager



