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On The Greens Two Months Out

Saturday 10 September — Opening Day (details to come, Guest Speaker booked)
Note: this date differs from that published in last years handbook due to availability of the Guest Speaker.

\$400 & \$400 & New Draw Time

The Club Membership Draw currently stands at two draws each \$400. Drawn today at the new Wednesday draw time between 5 - 6pm. Members must be present to claim the prize.



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Five Minutes in the Job

Having only just been elected onto the Board and with portfolios not having been finalised, Colin Barrow certainly stepped forward and took control last week. The past month has seen a build-up of water in the sump well under the stairs and it was assumed it was the result of the heavy rain Auckland had recently experienced. This eventually overflowed and the surrounding area become wet. After some initial work to stop any future overflows and a system installed to discharge any water, the water still kept coming. Colin spent a day sealing all the exterior drains in front of the club and checking/clearing the sumps in the hope of alleviating the problem. The next day the well was still filling and it hadn't rained for a few days. Eventually the source of the problem was found, the water meter! The fitting on the water meter was broken, within half an hour of Colin calling, Watercare had a contractor on site and the fitting was fixed soon after. The water had been escaping from the broken fitting and running down along the outside of the pipe and into the club. Thanks to Colin's hands on management of the situation the Club will be able to recover some of previous months water bills and costs associated with the breakage. Thanks for a job well done, guess Colin has put his hand up for co-ordinating the club maintenance.

Social, Social, Social

It's not always about the bowls out on the green, the social side of the club is becoming just as important and especially now with such a large social membership. The majority of



Sabrina Cox all dressed up entertaining the kids at the Kids Christmas Party.

those that step into the club for the first time say "Wow, I never imagined this was here, I have been going past for years" and a fair few of them join as social members enjoying the social side of the club.

This past year the club has seen a number of well supported ticketed events, available to all members and our local community.

The coming year sees Sabrina Cox and Emmie Swart looking after the Club's social committee, both having been at the forefront of some of the most successful social events at the club over the past few years. They will be seeking assistance from time to time so if you are able to assist them it will be appreciated. Events are in the planning to ensure that the next twelve months will be just as busy inside the club as out on the greens.

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It's a Tight Programme

It's been all go, meetings with neighbouring clubs, a lot of juggling, but the programme for the coming season was signed off by the Board last night. The Bee Express spoke to those involved in putting the programme together and was informed it's possibly the tightest programme ever, due to a couple of factors. The centre encroaching on the beginning and the end of the season and Birkenhead also having a large number of open tournaments that the club offers and is renowned for. Ensuring a programme that meets the needs of all members was the primary aim and that has been achieved in what will be a busy summer season ahead.

The guest speaker locked in for Opening Day 10 September, thanks to Barfoot and Thompson Birkenhead for making this possible.

The weekends of late September, October and early November are predominantly taken up with centre events, 242 Mixed Pairs, Premier Singles, Pennants, Interclub, BNH Representative days.

The Club's Championship programme finally gets underway Saturday 19 November with both Men's and Women's Triples. Auckland Anniversary weekend sees both Men's and Women's Championship Singles. The final championship of the season is First Year Singles, Saturday 22 April.

The most significant change in the programme is Sunday tournaments, as voted for at the AGM and following the trend across the bridge, Sundays are going to Any Combination Triples.

"You Travel Birkenhead" Social Bowls returns Monday evenings from 31 October for six evenings prior to Christmas and six evenings in the New Year.

The Christmas Shield played against Northcote for 50 years, this year 51 years and at Northcote on the evening of Wednesday 7 December, always a great club evening of bowls and socialising with our neighbouring club.

The extend tournaments are all back, along with their respective tournament partners, although Ryman now going under the name of their new village currently under construction at Verrans Corner "Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village".

- \$5,000 "Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village" Classic - Sat 7 & Sun 8 January
- \$5,500 "Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village" Open Men's Pairs - Sat 4 & Sun 6 February
- \$6,500 "The Good Home Birkenhead" Open Women's Pairs - Sat 11 & Sun 12 March
- "Wheels On Wairau" Seafood Tournament (OMF) - Sat 8 Sun 9 April

Birkenhead Rotary Charity Tournament run in conjunction with Rotary and the Bowling Club, sponsored by the RSA, finishes off what will be a busy Waitangi weekend with the two day Men's Pairs played over the two days prior.

The ever popular Wednesday Club Day has a few key dates, 1 February Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village are sponsoring the day so expect something a little different. Ross "Trust Me" Murray Tournament 22 March and the "Fish & Chip Day" 10 May, both firmly entrenched in the Wednesday Club Day and of course the Dave Harper Memorial played for across the season.

There are a number of Saturday afternoons "Club Afternoon" spread throughout the season, Club Captain Keith Burgess told the Bee Express these are to give our newer members more opportunity to play in a competitive environment, it's hoped that our more experienced members actively support these afternoons. The playing format will be varied to keep them interesting for everyone.

Good Friday has in recent years seen the RSA / Bowling Club challenge played. This year sees an afternoon triples tournament. An RSA Tournament date is still in the planning stage.

After the Club gets through all this (fingers crossed Mother Nature plays her part) the season concludes with Closing Day and Prize giving Saturday 20 May, followed by the AGM 2017 Sunday 18 June.

Have a Go Day

Sunday 16 October - further details to come

Have a Go at Lawn Bowls Day is all about getting people into our club to give lawn bowls a go! From school children to retirees, lawn bowls is a sport which everyone can play and we want to share this special game with our community. Have a Go Day is a great opportunity for us to showcase our club to the community and attract social and casual members, corporate events and even full members!. Invite your friends and neighbours to come and experience what the sport and club has to offer.





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Newest Draw First

The Club Draw Wednesdays and Fridays sees two changes take effect as of today's draw. The newest draw will be the first drawn each evening with the oldest draw the last drawn. Wednesday's draw will now be conducted between 5pm & 6pm. Happy hour will remain 4.30-5.30pm, except on Wednesday Open Tournament days when there is no happy hour. Members have two minutes to make themselves known to the Draw Caller once their name is announced.

Greens Progress

The most common greens comment heard around the club of late is "not much renovation work happening" and "why can't we play on the greens, they look ok" The Bee Express asked our green keeper Glenn for some answers. Glenn replied "As winter is upon us the amount of rain we have experienced has made our greens extremely wet. Too much that we are unable to play on them without serious damage. On the bright side the rain has done a great job washing in the Autumn/Winter fertiliser applied since closing day".

And what is the plan for the coming weeks? "I'll be putting more holes into the greens, spraying out the Star Weed, patching bare areas with seed, applying another round of fertiliser and fungicides, raising low areas and increasing the mowing frequency."

Should the bare patches not have been seeded earlier "Yes that would be nice but we are restricted to when the seed becomes available and it has only now become available from the South Island, nature is the dictator".

So will the greens be ready for opening day? "Yes it's all planned to bring our greens up to speed for our September opening and they will be". And any winter play? "Maybe towards the end of winter, but it's all dependant on Mother Nature playing her part"

Live Music - Saturday 30 July

"The House Band" play Birkenhead for the first time, with three classy singers fronting the band the Club will certainly dance the night away. Rock, Pop, Soul, Motown hits from the 60's through to today. Tickets only \$10 available from the bar, Sabrina or Emmie.

Club Membership Draw - \$400 & \$400 Today

Drawn Wednesdays between 5 - 6pm (Happy Hour 4.30-5.30pm), and Fridays between 5.30 - 6.30pm. Members must be present at the draw to claim the prize.

Friday Club Nights

Merv "The Swerve" spins the raffles from around 4.30pm onwards, Happy Hour 5 - 6pm. Club Membership Draw between 5.30 - 6.30pm

Spotlight on Sponsors

This week we spot light "North Shore Osteopathic Centre" a new sponsor this season, located just across the road from the club rooms.

Source <http://www.northshoreosteopathiccentre.co.nz/>

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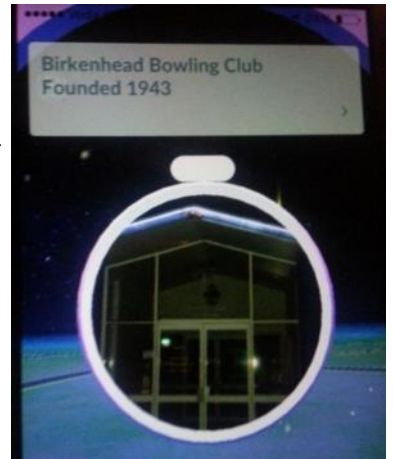
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BBC Pokémon Go

Last Sunday the club's carpark was visited repeatedly by teenagers through to adults in their 30's wondering round with their eyes fixated on their smart phones. After further investigation "The Bee Express" can report it's the result of the latest app to hit New Zealand, that appears to be a runaway success, Pokémon Go. New Zealand, the United States and Australia got Pokémon Go first as a beta, the rest of the world is waiting. So be careful pulling into the carpark on your next visit to the club as there could be "Pokémon Go" player that hasn't got a clue what is happening around them standing in your way. If your wondering what all the fuss it about he is link to explain Pokémon Go, it will help with dinner time conversation with you kids and grandkids.

<http://www.vox.com/2016/7/11/12129162/pokemon-go-android-ios-game>



"Pokémon Go" screen shot.

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