

## **Australian Blind Bowlers Association 29th National Championships – 2008**

### ***A Message to Members of the Club - from Hans Nyhuis, RVBA Section President of Mooroolbark Bowls Club and a Club Director.***

Dear Members.

Once again we have had the Blind Bowlers at our club (their 29th Australian Blind Bowlers Association National Championships), which finished on 8 May followed by a 2 day training camp for those bowlers who will be representing Australia in the world championships which will be held at the Glenroy Bowls Club next April.

It has been a wonderful 10 days for me personally and I was fortunate to both witness and mark some of the best bowls games I have had the good fortune to have seen. How they perform as they do is beyond me, but some of those bowlers could possibly beat the best in the country on any given day. I was fortunate to be able to attend every day of the Championships and have made a great number of new friends with both the Bowlers and their Directors. Their behaviour in the club rooms and on the greens was exemplary, and how they managed to go from an 11 second green to 17 on the synthetic was absolutely amazing and did not faze them one bit. Perhaps we could all learn from that.

The weather was reasonably kind to us and the greens stood up amazingly well to the conditions, especially after the hail and rain storm on the Friday afternoon (see photos on our web site - a link for which is shown at foot of this article) with all three greens flooded, and yet with the help of our members and the ABBA members they were able to sweep the water off number 3 green and continue play, but did not finish till about 5.45 pm in the dark and the directors were having trouble seeing the Jacks.

First of all I must thank the members of our Club who made themselves available to act as markers most of whom marked all 3 games on the one day, thereby standing on the greens for over 6 hours per day, a great effort by all.

The Members who made themselves available to help on the bar thank you one and all, and a special thank you to Peter Rawlingson who was there every day when needed most. Thanks also to the umpires who officiated each day.

Last but not least, thank you to the wonderful Ladies of this Club who prepared around two thousand meals during the course of these championships. A job well done ladies and accolades go to you all, not only from me but from the blind bowlers as well. All I heard from them was what a superb job you were doing and about the quality of the meals. Well done Ladies.

*(Particular praise should go to your wife, Jo, who also spent the entire time at the club overseeing the catering operations - Webmaster)*

I must also not forget our very own Dave Byars and his able assistant Brian Birthisel for their effort in the Championships and picking up the gold medal in the mixed pairs. Dave did not have the best of championships in the singles by losing a couple of games by one shot and a couple more by two or three shots, but he did have some very tough opposition, and our congratulations go to Dave and Brian for a great effort and well done chaps - you have done our club proud again.

To John Drummond, you have done it again. A difficult job well done under some difficult conditions starting as early as 5am some mornings and not finishing till late at night, making sure the rinks were set up right and ensuring the right State name markers were

put up on the score boards. Most of you probably are not aware but John has been given the task of Championship Director for next year's "2009 World Blind Bowls Championship" at Glenroy Bowls Club (Darebin greens won't be ready) and we wish you all the very best for that John, and hope that it runs as well as this Championship has. If you missed the chance to see these wonderful bowlers in action I suggest you try and get down to see them at Glenroy, I certainly will.

Once again a big thank you to all who made themselves available to help out, you did us all proud.

Hans Nyhuis  
President

***Mooroolbark Bowls Club welcomes Blind Bowlers and their Directors to the Club for their 29<sup>th</sup> National Championships***

The club is proud to be hosting the above Championships on behalf of the Victorian Blind Bowlers Association for the fourth time since 1990.

The Championships commenced on Wednesday, 30 April when a March Past preceded the Opening ceremony and a welcome from the Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Councillor Tim Heenan.

Over 40 blind bowlers assisted by their Directors are participating in the Championships which will run through to Thursday, 8 May.

The competition has been keen so far and apart from fourteen games being deferred from Friday 2 May due to lightning, hail & rain everything has run well. These games should be caught up within the next few days providing there are no further weather delays.

Many of the Club's members have renewed former acquaintances and made new friends through their involvement acting as Markers for singles games, serving behind the bar and other varied jobs around the club. Thanks to all concerned.

The ladies in particular must be thanked for their hard work in catering for around 100 meals at lunch times and every second evening alternating with their motel and of course the serving up & tending to the washing up that follows.