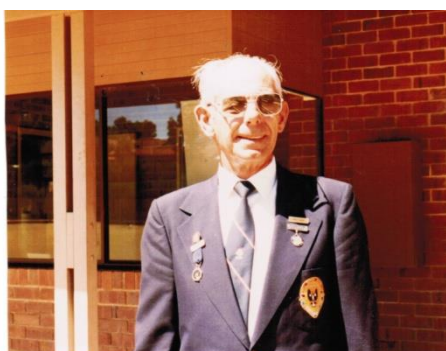


40 YEARS OF HAPPY VALLEY BOWLING CLUB

Establishment

The early foundation of the Club was instigated by the late Max Gage who was at that time, a member of Meadows Bowling Club and had moved into our area. Max advertised in the local paper for people who may be interested in forming a Bowls Club at Happy Valley. Following a good response to this, a preliminary meeting was held in the Clubrooms of Happy Valley Football Club which was attended by some 30 to 40 people, both male and female.

As a result, two committees were formed in early 1983, one for men and one for ladies. The Club was then registered, with the first Men's Club President being Max Gage and the first Ladies' President being Jean McIntosh. Initial membership was 28 men and 17 ladies with the initial membership fees being \$50- and \$15- respectively. The men joined the Southern Men's Bowling Association and the ladies joined the Southern Women's Bowling Association and the Clubs commenced playing Bowls in September/October 1983.



PRESIDENT MAX GAGE
1983-84



LADY PRESIDENT
LIL GAGE 1984-86

In 1984, on land specifically allocated by the then Happy Valley Council, now the City of Onkaparinga, permission was granted for new clubrooms and 2 greens for bowling, but on the condition that the Senior Citizens Club shared the clubroom facilities. Until the greens were developed and the clubrooms built, we were generously allowed to use the greens at Morphett Vale for Pennant home games and practice, with a few home games also played at McLaren Vale. Our access to these greens was limited, so it required co-ordination to arrange practice and club championships.

There were many working bees and a lot of hard work done to create and develop the greens and surrounds. "A" green was seeded by the ladies who formed a chain across the green to distribute the seed by hand. This was

supervised by the late Jim Light who was the first Greenkeeper and he managed both greens through the early years.



LEVELLING OF GREENS



PLANTING
FIRST GREEN 10/12/84
SECOND GREEN 23/12/84

While the greens were being established and our games and practice were being held at Morphett Vale, work began on the construction of the Clubrooms with some of the labour being performed by young people from the “work for the dole” or RED scheme as it was then known.



CLUBROOMS UNDER
CONSTRUCTION



Once the greens became usable in 1985, matches were played at Happy Valley but without the clubrooms being completed. Afternoon tea was served on trestles on the verandah with a drum filled with ice becoming a makeshift bar selling bottled beer and soft drinks.

The Clubrooms were handed over to the Bowling Club and the Senior Citizens on December 13th 1985 at 7.30pm. To meet our contribution to the construction costs, the Club took out a loan of \$33,500 and a further overdraft of \$10,000 to fund the fit out. The Senior Citizens Club also provided some of equipment for the kitchen.

The Committee did write to the SA Government asking whether the Queen could officially open our Clubrooms during her visit in 1986, (she visited the nearby Aberfoyle Park High School at this time) but by that time her official engagements had already been finalised so she was unable to come to our Club. It appears that there was some embarrassment when it was leaked that she may visit us.



OPENING OF GREENS
1984



HANDING OVER OF
CLUBROOMS
1985



OPENING OF GREENS
1984

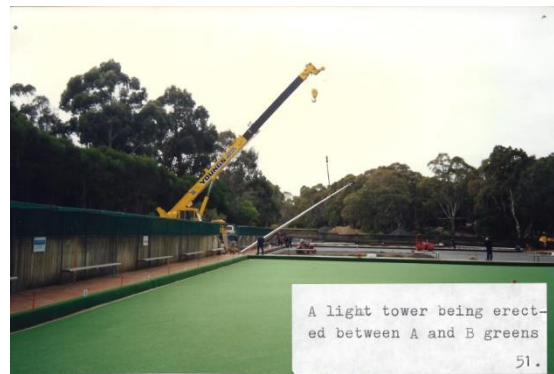


OPENING OF GREENS
1984

The Greens

Even though several pine trees were removed from near our greens, there seemed to be a lot of problems with the grass greens because of competition from the big trees, poor drainage, fungal diseases and wet weather. In 1992 a committee was set up to investigate a synthetic sports turf which was just becoming available, but the decision was made in 1993 not to proceed with it and it wasn't until 1997 that the Club voted to have 2 synthetic greens installed. As expected, the decision was controversial, but became accepted when everyone realised that they could now play bowls all year round. "A" green and "B" green were replaced in 1997/98 with the Club paying the cost of A green and the Council paying for B green. Lighting was also installed at this

time allowing Night Owls to begin. In 2017 the Club agreed to replace A green at a cost of \$372,000 with assistance from SA Govt and the City of Onkaparinga.



In 1991, land to the east of our current greens was allocated to the Bowling Club for future expansion. This was despite a survey of nearby residents which revealed that many did not want to see any expansion. This extra land would have provided enough room for an additional four rinks. Because these rinks were not required at the time, this offer was not taken up immediately and a lot of trees were subsequently planted in this area making it very unlikely that we will ever obtain approval to use this area.

Pennants and Social Bowling

When the two Clubs were formed, the men joined the Southern Men's Bowling Association and the ladies joined the Southern Women's Bowling Association.



This continued until 2001/2002 when the men joined the Metropolitan Association. As with any major proposed change, this was met with opposition at the time. The ladies continued to play in the Southern Association until the 2011/2012 season when they too joined the Metropolitan Association.

Once our greens became available, social mixed pairs were played on Sundays rotating between several Clubs. The men began social pairs on Wednesdays and this later became mixed pairs and triples.

Following the introduction of the Equal Opportunity Act by the Government, the Saturday competition became open gender, thus allowing the men to continue to have a Men's competition on Wednesdays and the Ladies Competition on Thursdays. However, from 2003, male substitutes could fill in on Thursdays and ladies could be substitutes in the men's competition.

In 2012/2013, the men decided to play in a Pennant competition on Wednesdays instead of social bowls. This decision was controversial and some members left our Club and joined other Clubs who offered social bowls on Wednesdays.

In 2017/2018, when arguably we had our most successful year, we won 5 Pennant flags and were awarded "Bowls Club of the Year" by Bowls SA.



Administration

The two Clubs were set up in 1983 with separate committees for the men and women. There was an overall administration committee which made the decisions affecting the whole Club. There were women on this committee but the men had overall control. The men took charge of the greens and the bar and the women had control of the catering and organising fundraising events. Women were regarded as Associate Members and paid lower fees than the men. It has been reported that suggestions and advice given by the women were often ignored or not followed up.

The two Clubs were merged in 2005/2006 and a new Board of Management was set up including the President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and

8 other committee members, 3 of which were to be female. This was further reduced to 10 members at a later date. Today we have a Board of 8 members with a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and 4 other committee members comprising 4 men , 4 ladies and 2 of either gender. Each Board member has allocated portfolios to oversee and report on.

Buildings and Surrounds

The clubrooms were completed by 1986 and originally housed both the Bowling Club and the Senior Citizens. In 2014 the Senior Citizens were wound up and our Club took over their lease. Since then we have constructed a new Secretary's Office and Tournament Office and brightened up the premises by covering many of the internal brick walls with gyprock so that now we have a light and bright clubhouse. This year the toilets are being replaced.

The shelters around the greens were constructed over the years, providing much needed shelter in summer and winter. The shelter on the northern side of our greens is being replaced this year with a steel shelter which will provide better cover all year round.

In the future we hope to develop the area near the equipment shed into an outdoor area with seating, shade, a barbecue and landscaping.

Uniforms

When the Club was established, the uniforms were all white with men wearing white shirts and trousers and the ladies wearing white dresses (the hems had to be 15 inches from the ground) with broad brimmed hats. For formal occasions the men wore a navy blue blazer and the women wore red blazers.



Uniforms had to be worn at all times on the greens , even for practice.

In the first major change of uniforms for women, slack suits were introduced for all women from 1992, with white being worn in summer and navy blue in winter. This was the first time women could wear attire other than a white dress. Also, a divided skirt with an overblouse was permitted with the proviso that suitable undergarments were worn.

In 2002, colour was introduced to our uniforms for the first time, with splashes of red and yellow featuring on our Pennant tops.



A radical change was made in 2012 with the introduction of red trousers and more colour in our tops. In 2022 we revised our design for the polo shirts and they now incorporate more red in our tops, linking our uniforms to our name “Valley Reds”.



Night Owls

For many years Night Owls has been an important part of our Club. Not only does it make a great contribution to our finances, but many of our players started their bowling career playing Night Owls. When the synthetic greens were laid, the opportunity was taken to install overhead lighting on the greens

and this allowed bowls to be played at night. It started with just two nights played before Christmas and in the following years increased to 4 nights, then 8 nights. Lobbying by some keen players ensured that Night Owls continued after Christmas until further demand resulted in a second night of playing being introduced in 2014. Many volunteers have been involved with Night Owls over the years.



About this time the Wrong Bias “fine” was introduced and social bowlers and Night Owl players have contributed over \$20,000- to charity since that time.

Council Involvement

Our land was allocated to us by the then Happy Valley Council and they built the Clubrooms to be shared by our Club and the Senior Citizens. However, the development and maintenance of the new Club was the responsibility of the early members. After numerous approaches to the Council for further assistance, we were finally provided with access to the bore water used for the rest of the Sports Park.

After the Happy Valley Council became part of the City of Onkaparinga, the relationship between the Club and the Council was greatly improved.

Their planning, engineering and financial contribution to the construction of our synthetic turf greens has been invaluable. They have been responsible for the majority of the maintenance of the surrounds of the greens, including the lighting, and the Clubrooms and are presently managing the upgrade of our toilets which are being paid for by the State Government and the City of Onkaparinga.

Changes over the years

Although the Laws of Lawn Bowling may have changed little over the past 40 years, the way the game is played has changed.

We now use coloured bowls with a range of degrees of bias, we have coloured jacks, and our uniforms, now available in a variety of styles, are a myriad of colours. Bowling arms have been introduced allowing many bowlers to extend their bowling careers.

Afternoon tea has also changed. Originally it was served on trays with a teapot, hot water, milk jug and sugar bowl with 8 teaspoons. Sandwiches and fruit cake were always offered.

In recent years, many younger people have taken up the sport. Players under 30 now dominate the National and State teams, but the majority of players at most Clubs are in the older age group.

The role of women in the Club has mirrored the role of women in the community for most of this period. In the early days, many women were not in the paid work force so they were available for a lot of voluntary work. Over the years more women had jobs or looked after grandchildren and the number of ladies playing bowls has decreased. After the merger of the Men's and Women's Clubs in 2005/2006, women were able to exert more influence over how the Club was run until in 2020, the Club elected its first female President.

Today we enjoy the benefits of the work done by all the earlier members of the Club. So much fundraising was done in the early years as the members strived to get the Club established and we all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. Without their past efforts we would not be the successful Club that we are today.

Compiled by Mary Baum from Club Minutes, Reports and Newsletters

Many thanks to Beryl May and Janni Wagenaar (Life Members) who provided invaluable information.

August 2023

List of Presidents

Men

Max Gage	83/84, 84/85
Dal MacIntosh	85/86
Phil Kelly	86/87, 87/88
David Parker	88/89
John Althorp	89/90, 90/91
Jack Roberts	91/92, 92/93
Mal Geisler	93/94
David Partington	94/95
Peter Guerin	95/96, 96/97
Lyn Webb	97/98, 98/99
Trevor Kellaway	99/2000, 00/01
Tom Williams	01/02, 02/03
Mike Colvill	03/04, 04/05
Arthur Turrell	05/06

Combined Club

Bill Tuck	06/07, 07/08
Mike Colville	08/09, 09/10
Ray Steer	10/11, 11/12, 12/13
Gibson Atherton	13/14, 14/15, 15/16
Ian Farrow	16/17, 17/18
Ray Steer	18/19, 19/20
Mary Baum	20/22, 22/24

Ladies

Jean MacIntosh	83/84, 84/85
Lil Gage	85/86, 86/87
Edith Donnell	87/88 92/93
Dot Finn	88/89, 89/90
Joan Jones	90/91
Betty Hillebrand	91/92, 92/93
Janni Wagenaar	93/94, 94/95
Margaret Roberts	95/96
Jean Smith	97/98/ 98/99
Helen Kellaway	99/2000, 00/01
Dot Finn	01/02, 02/03
Gillian Lee	03/04, 04/05
Pat Turrell	05/06

