

Keysborough Bowls Club

A Retrospect of our Previous Years

The following is a transcript of a document located in the Springvale Library, by Charlie Cullen who has done some great detective work. The author is unknown, but clearly the document was prepared by a member with considerable insight into the Club. The transcript is a direct copy of the actual document with only very minor changes to make it more readable. Our thanks go to Charlie Cullen. We hope to be able to provide an electronic copy of the actual document sometime in the near future as an attachment to this entry.

A meeting held in June 1947 considering purchasing of land for (the) Public Hall was held, and Don Werrett moved a motion that more than one acre be purchased as there was more needed than just a Public Hall, and that a sporting complex was required and suggested that 10 acre be purchased.

R. Allen offered 10 acres at the corner of Stanley and Brighton Roads (now Cheltenham Road) for £1,000. It was immediately taken up, and at the meeting £385 was raised, so Mr. Allen dropped his price to £900 to aid the project.

In the intervening period between the purchase of the land and the built of the Public Hall, Football and Cricket Club, the complex was handed control to the Springvale Council. At a meeting on the 29th October 1959, at the Public Hall, the residents decided to form a bowling club. The officers elected were President Walter Allen, Vice Presidents Bruce Cochrane and Dave Corrigan, Secretary Mrs. Ena Smith, and Treasurer Mrs Jack Trebilco (Ruby) – 30 members attended.

Application was made to the Springvale Council to secure land adjacent to the Public Hall as a site for the bowling green, and advice sought from the RVBA.

As our records have been mislaid, the extracts from the Dandenong Journal of 9th November 1966 states “New Bowling Green making good progress” and electric lights were being installed for night bowls.

The club held an annual meeting on the 15th November 1960, and Don Werrett elected Treasurer. A shed had been erected and a mower purchased.

A lot of work was done by members, and tenders were called for concrete work around the green’s edges, but being too high in cost, a working bee was organised and the work completed. Also shrubs were planted.

Unfortunately no actual record of the first bowls being played can be obtained.

In May 1961 we officially affiliated with the RVBA and a pennant team entered that season, but unfortunately they did not win one game. The Ladies also joined the LVBA and entered a team. They also had difficulties.

Don Werrett, Reg Williams and (the late) Vic Woods were delegated to represent the club. That year the Ladies elected their own committee, and Ruby Trebilco was elected President and Jean Allan Secretary. The ladies worked hard and raised £1,376, which today (*At the time of writing – ed*) would be £9,000 to £10,000. The Social Committee was formed in January 1964 comprising 5 Men and 4 Ladies, and about the year 67/68 ran card nights and dances. No mention has been made of results.

The Match Committee comprised Ted Brewer, Bruce Chocrane and Don Werrett. It appears that the Match Committee recommended players for Pennant. Though our teams were at the bottom of the

ladder, they slowly rose, and in 64/65 Division C3 won their flag, and the drinking fountain out the front green was erected as a memorial to that great performance.

In 1962/63, a fund commenced with a view to erect a Clubhouse. Previously afternoon tea was served in the old machinery shed as we recollect. In 1967/68 Springvale Council granted \$2,000 towards the new clubhouse which opened on Saturday 16th November 1968.

Regular Card Nights were held, and the indoor bowls actively enhanced. I understand we played indoor bowls in the Public Hall before our Clubhouse.

In 1969/70 negotiations were in progress to purchase of land for another green at the rear of the Clubhouse, and as a large number of us here remember, that green opened in 1977.

At the present time arrangements are being made for a third green, land has been set aside by the Springvale Council for future development, and a car park also at the side of the hall after we extend.