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THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

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Sun sets on another epic State Championships Week in Ballina



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The Bowling Greenkeeper

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President's Report with Mick Woods



As we see out another financial year it appears the disappointing trend of bowling clubs ceasing trade continues. This is concerning on many levels many of which some of us have had to deal with directly, job displacement, community hubs lost and often not thought about but social

benefits that bowling clubs house for both men and women alike.

This unfortunately also seems to be filtering across other sectors of the turf industry also with declining memberships in the golf stream and lower participation rates in many junior and senior sports. There is debate at all levels on this subject with no definitive answers on how to reverse this trend. A slightly more positive note is memberships within our association remain steady. With the retirement of Andy Rodger from the Executive at the 2018 AGM after many years of service, Rodney Crean moved into his position. This has been a slightly bumpy road for Rod as we transition to a more computer-based system for memberships and the like.

While Rod has done a fine job in his first 12 months I'm sure the future will see memberships processed much smoother and the distribution of media increased. A special mention to Matt Keough and Engadine Bowling Club for the two trade/machinery days held over the past 12 months. While unable to attend these myself, I've been informed both were well attended.

The Turf Management Training courses have undergone a significant overhaul over the past 12-18 months, with the Certificate IV being removed and the Certificate 3 and Diploma restructured and written at the same time. Their work involved in this has been tremendous and should lead to higher competency at the completion. The TAFE system of NSW is also applying for an increase in funding to better assist them in delivering these courses to students.

Finally, I must pass on my thanks to all members of the NSWBGA Executive for the tireless work put into maintaining this Association while holding down full time jobs and juggling personal commitments to ensure events such as the Conference, State Championship Week and Legends Day continue to run seamlessly.

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Bowls Report with Brent Norman, Bowls Secretary



Firstly, I would like to mention the efforts of our host Duncan Elphick during the last two years, not only his presentation of the greens and surrounds but planning everything from a courtesy bus to meals. His all-round hard work has set the bar high and exceeded our expectations.

Unfortunately, he did this with the pressure of rumours of the club closing its doors and as it turns out, we were the last visiting group to play at the fantastic club. Our thoughts are with Duncan as he moves forward.

The weather forecast had us all worried as rain was on the radar right up to the day before. But the weather gods were kind, with a great turn up of 44 Bowling Greenkeepers from across NSW, Queensland and ACT putting pressure on me as Bowls Secretary to get three rounds of pairs and singles completed on Monday and Tuesday.

Ben Morthorpe goes back 2 back in Singles

From the start, Ben was the man to beat. He came from a tough section of the draw, having to beat ACT legend Wade Turner (Queanbeyan RSL), local hope Paul Earl (Pottsville) and Queenslander Graham Cooper in his first three games, to set up a semi-final with Birrong's Adam Troth, who was in top form after taking out veteran Brian Anderson (Ret Tuncurry) in the quarter final.

Although Ben ran out 31-21 winner over Adam, the scores were level on 9 all and 13-12 before Ben won 6 ends in a row to take control of the match.

Pictured right: Singles winner Ben Morthorpe and below, on the greens at Ballina RSL Bowling Club.



Quarter finals included Dave Croad (Hat Head) taking on in-form Jason Stewart (Greta Workers) and dark horse Danny Knight (Urunga) taking on Brent Norman (Cabra-Vale Diggers). Jason Stewart continued his great form defeating Dave Croad and the other quarter final was a classic with Hey Danny benefiting from his early night in bed to dominate the match with some precision conversion shots, to just get pipped at the post by Brent.





In the semi-final clash Brent knew he had to lift and inspired by dodging a bullet in the quarter final, quickly found his line and length to run out a 31-7 winner over Jason. A lot was up for grabs with the new singles trophy designed and put together by host Duncan on the line. The battle was between former boss and apprentice, and after a week of over 10 games of bowls in four days and a few ales, both guys were starting to feel fatigued. Brent was able to take the lead at one stage 15-13, but the constant peppering of the jack saw Ben string together 9 out of 10 ends to run out the winner 31-20 and claim back to back titles.

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Historic Victory as Ben Morthorpe & Brent Norman take out the Pairs title

The 2019 state Greenkeepers pairs got underway on Monday 6th May under beautiful sunny conditions. Monday was a hectic day with three games of 18 ends and the last game played under some makeshift lights, with close to an 8.30pm finish. As the dust settled on Monday night we were left with semi-finals Brian Anderson and Kevin Bowcock (Ret. Avoca Beach) surviving early round winning by 1 shot then 2 shots before defeating last year's runners up Barry Wilkinson (Ret. Coonabarabran) and John Flaherty (Royal Sydney) in the quarter final 20-12.

The team of Damien Miller (Young) & Wade Turner also survived some early tight games to make their way through to the semi-finals, defeating young guns Dan Peck and Mitch McDonnell (Halekulani) 18-10 in the quarter final to set the semi against Brian and Kevin. In the bottom half of the draw, defending champions Ben Morthorpe and Brent Norman were looking in red hot form, winning their first matches by a total of 59 shots to make their way into the quarter finals and set up a clash with Col McPherson (Tweed Heads) and Paul Earl, who also had three solid victories.

Semi-finals were played on the Wednesday afternoon after some morning singles matches.

(Unfortunately, the semi-finals ran out of light and the decision was made to finish these games in the morning, with Brian and Kevin leading Damien and Wade 15-6 with 7 ends remaining. The other semi came to a halt with Ben and Brent leading Col and Paul 11-5 after 13 ends. The semi-finals were back on the greens early Thursday after some quick preparation from Duncan.

Thursday was finals day but first we had to finish the semi-final matches. Brian and Kevin continued from the night before, holding off Damien and Wade to record a 21-11 victory. Ben and Brent also continued with their game to record a 18-9 victory over Col and Paul.

After a short break, the final got underway, played in good spirits with some quality heads of bowls. Ben and Brent again found their rhythm early to jump 11-5 lead after 8 ends, but to Brian & Kevin's credit they fought back to narrow the gap to 9-11 over next 3 ends. This fight back spurred Ben and Brent back into gear, winning the next 6 of 7 ends to open a match winning lead 20-6 after 15. Again, Brian and Kevin fought hard, but ran out of ends with the final score finishing 21-11.

This created history for Ben being the first player to winning back to back Singles and Pairs.



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President steals victory in Plate Pairs

For the second year we ran the plate pairs for first and second losers as two sets and tie break system. Teams are drawn out of the hat with some interesting greenies teaming up together. This concept seems to work well with guys getting the opportunity to play with a different partner with different conditions of play.

The main talking point out of the early rounds was Simon Cooper winning a set 18-0 and then losing the match in a tiebreaker.

After some interesting games, semi-finals came down to Local gun Duncan Elphick and Mark Wilcher (South West Rocks) taking on 2 x Australian Singles Champion Peter Watts (Belconnen) and NSWBGA President Michael Woods (South Tamworth). This game came down to an exciting 1 end tie-break victory to Peter and Michael.

In the other plate semi-final, local retired Greenkeeper Glen Grady and Proud Parra Man Rod Crean (Lawson) vs Jason Stewart & Dave Croad. The combination of Jason and Dave proved too strong and they made their way to the final.

The final was played at the same time as the major final, with the quality of bowls worthy of spectators watching both games with interest. This game could not have been better scripted, with the NSWBGA President Michael playing a bomb to take out the plate title.

Once again, it's great to hear guys doing well in club and Zone events. Please send me a message on 0437 175 133 about results so I can share them.



Congratulations to Jason Stewart, Peter Watts and Brent Norman who won their respective club singles titles. Good luck also to the Greenies representing their clubs at the Pennants finals.

I look forward to catching up with everyone at the Legends Day which will be held at Cabramatta on the Monday 5th August.

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Secretary's Report with John Flaherty

The 2019 State Championship Week was held at Ballina RSL for the second time in May. The Club was presented in immaculate condition once again by host greenkeeper Duncan Elphick. It was a credit to Duncan and his team to have the club looking so good, considering the now disappointing news that the club is closing its doors.

We had 45 greenkeepers in attendance for the week with 10 new faces joining us for the first time and a few regulars having to miss the week. One year it will all come together and we'll reach our goal of over 50.

It was another very successful conference at Bankstown Sports in 2019. To the members that continue to support this great event thank you, a lot of time and effort goes into preparing for the conference to provide industry information for you all. We would like to see more members at this great event.



We once again managed to attract some high-quality keynote speakers, including our guest speaker, Mick Wood (*pictured above*) who has recently been promoted to Track Manager at Royal Randwick.

A full conference wrap up will be included in the next edition.

With 2020 being a Federation year there will be no State Conference but we will endeavour to have a couple of information and trade days throughout the year. Look out for some information for the 2020 Federation Week shortly as we head back to the Gold Coast.

I would like to thank all of the sponsors who continue to support our Association, whether it be advertising in our magazine, or supporting the conference or industry awards; it is very much appreciated.

Our financial statements were presented at the AGM and showed a small profit for 2018. The conference was the main reason for that and is the Association's main source of revenue other than the Magazine, hence why it is so important to keep the attendance and standard of this event as high as possible.

There is continued correspondence with the National Turf Education Working Group and as we heard from Albert Sherry at the Conference, there has been quite a lot going on.

I would like to thank all of the Executive and Committee for their support over the last 12 months. It isn't an easy job keeping up to date with everything going on within our industry, so to have people willing to put in their time and effort and have a go makes life a lot easier.

We've got some plans in place to improve our membership process so look out for that shortly. Keep all the content coming in for the magazine as it makes it much easier to put together when we have some! We've always got room for an article and there is always something going on around the traps!

We are continuing to encourage and improve the usage of the NSWBGA website for registrations and memberships and it is becoming a valuable asset for our Association.

A dinner celebration was held on 12 June at the Pennant Hills Golf Club to honour Peter McMaugh AM receiving his Order of Australia (*pictured below, courtesy of Gary Beehag*). Congratulations again to Peter on this achievement.



Around the Associations

Central Northern Districts and Western Clubs with Mick Woods

Wee Waa Bowling Club (Steve Berger)

Steve has had an interesting 12 months with the club receiving a Government grant to re-construct an existing synthetic green that had been out of use for several years. Steve reports that there were many hoops and hurdles to overcome during this period but the green has just been completed with an official opening in coming weeks. Steve is very pleased with his turf green and says he has had little disease or pest pressure with his preventative program in place.

The club has also recently employed an apprentice who will be doing his TAFE studies at Dubbo. This has been a blessing with Steve having to take time off work with a shoulder injury.

Narrabri Bowling Club (Peter Doring)

Narrabri will be replacing one of their turf greens with a Synthetic after a successful joint application with Wee Waa, PD has informed that construction will be commencing late July early August. While many of us have our issues with synthetics we included PD sees this as a positive step with drought causing many difficulties at the site, very poor bore water and inadequate irrigation systems in place adding to the difficulty in producing first class surfaces. PD has put a lot of time and resource in the beautification of his surrounds with fence painting, garden upgrades and shades.

Pete's ongoing battle with Ground Pearl in his Tifdwarf green seems to be heading in a positive direction with full coverage achieved for the first time since Pete took on the position 20 months ago, he says pace is down but is confident on rectifying this next season with a good platform to start from at renovation.

Inverell Sporties (Clayton Rogers)

Clayton advising what many of us out this way are saying that this past season has been one of the most challenging. With Inverell in severe drought many local businesses and farmers alike are struggling, people are just trying to ride out the dry and praying for that liquid gold from the sky. Not being able to access river water for the past two years solely relying bore water has resulted in regular applications of Soilmax Liberate to lower the high bicarbonate levels that are present in the bore water and maintain PH.

Clayton has repaired the end drainage on the No2 green although the repairs have not been tested as yet with no significant rainfall events. Although it has been tough there is good coverage across all 3 greens, which are now in full dormancy and running well.

Clayton will be taking several weeks off around August to welcome a new addition to his family with wife Sam due on August 1st. At the time of writing his apprentice is on annual leave. Clayton says he is progressing nicely and making new friends at TAFE.

Bourke Bowling Club (Ray Cooper)

Bourke advertised throughout June for a full-time greenkeeper and struggled for applicants this is when Ray (Dad) Cooper stepped in and has offered to take on the roll for the interim with assistance from Barry Wilkinson. Two great old heads that I'm sure will deliver for the far west club.

Kootingal Bowling Club (Zachary Curtis)

I can say on Zach's behalf he is excited to be hosting one section of the No3 State Pennant Playoffs.

Lightning Ridge (Adam no sugar Webb)

Webby is reaping the rewards of plenty of hard work with his grass green rolling at extreme speeds and trueness, receiving rave reviews after recent tournaments, the Ladies BLACK OPAL classic which fielded 20 teams. Lightning Ridge also hosted the zone 4's final with one of their own coming up trumps.

The club will hold their annual men's BLACK OPAL in October with renovations planned after this event. The club's highest grade No2 team will represent the zone at Huskisson and Adam's brother Dave will fly the flag in the singles at the Champion of Champions.

Uralla (Warren Lawler)

After a brief phone conversation with Warren he has said he is happy with his 2 Greenlees Park greens. Warren has ongoing concerns about weather patterns in the area with later onset of warmth and continued drought severely impacting his practices. There are real concerns that the areas water supply will not meet the demands of summer if there is no significant rainfall in coming months.

South Tamworth Bowling Club (Yours Truly)

As is the common theme amongst all us blokes up this way, water quality and worsening drought conditions have made for a very draining season both physically and mentally. As with Clayton, my water is very high in bicarbonates with salt levels also starting to rise with more dependence on bores to supply water.

I choose to use a multi-pronged approach using a combination of Anti-alk, Drop Zone acidifier and Calphlex to flush with positive results and improved nutrient uptake. My No2 green is suffering badly from patch disease and while the surface is fine now I suspect that by mid-spring this may not be the case. The No1 has lost some small are of turf in all four corners with a late season flare up of Pythium (May).

On a positive note we have just finished an upgrade to our greens lighting with all new LED light fittings making a significant difference to night bowls along with replacing black rubber on the ditch walls with synthetic turf rolled over onto the bowls rests.

The next three months will see an abundance of activity at South Bowlo with the No 3 Pennant Finals late July followed by the Champion of Champions Pairs and Singles Finals then Ladies State Championships on top of what is an already jam packed calendar at this time of year.

Hopefully I might get to catch up with a few greenies during these events.

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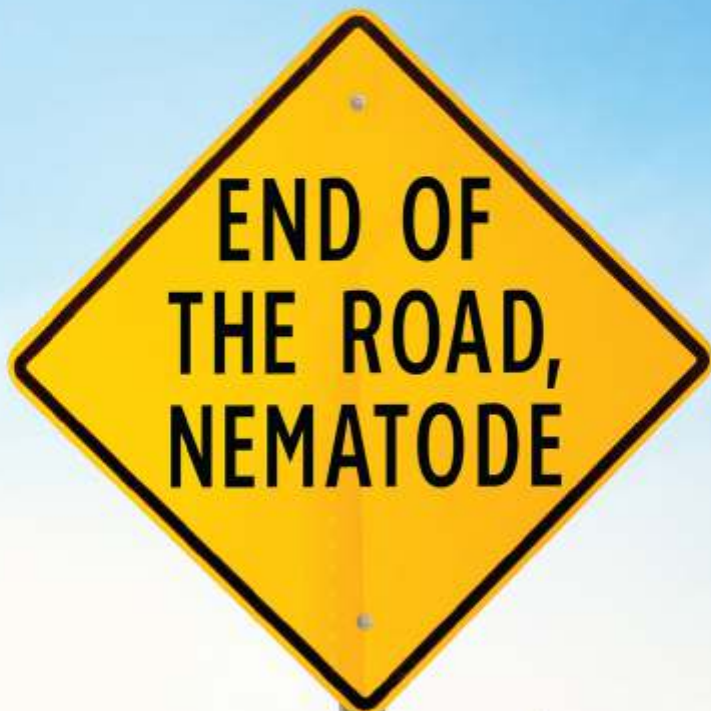
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Mid North Coast with Danny Knight

What a relief it has been to get into winter mode after what was another testing summer. Apart from one wet week the skies have been clear with crisp mornings followed by beautiful days.

A great time was had by all at our bowls week in Ballina. Our region was represented by Dave Croad, Mark Wilcher and myself. Duncan Elphick and his team once again produced outstanding surfaces and surrounds at Ballina RSL. What a tragedy that the speculation has become reality with the Bowling Club being shut down not long after the event. We all know how much effort and love went into creating surfaces of such a high quality and how heartbroken Duncan must have been when delivered the news. I'm sure there will be more written about this in other reports.

Whilst our bowls results failed to flatter, the usual comradery and opportunity to meet new faces well and truly made the week worthwhile. It is so beneficial to swap stories and approaches with other guys dealing with the same issues you are.

One memorable story from the week involved my other two colleagues. Mark and Dave decided to be a bit closer to the action this year and booked a couple of rooms at a pub in town. Not checking the 'late mail', on arrival they quickly realised the quality of the pub and its patrons had deteriorated significantly from the previous year. It seemed to have become the hub for wheeling and dealing and other unworldly activities involving very shady characters. After a short discussion they decided because they were only sleeping and having breakfast there, they'd ride it out as it was nice and cheap.

As an aside there were a lot of highway patrol police staying in Ballina for the week obviously on a blitz. At their breakfasts at the hotel, Dave and Mark noticed that they were being given a wide berth by the other patrons. They also noticed when they walked up the street that they were getting respectful welcomes and head nods by the police. It wasn't until our farewell dinner on Thursday night, with them both 6-foot-tall, that one of the greenkeepers mentioned that they look like undercover cops...the patrons and patrol officers obviously thought that also!

Long-time Park Beach greenkeeper Rick Southam has finished up, the board choosing not to re-new his contract after 20 years at the club. It was a tough call considering the service he had given the club over such a long period, especially given that we had just been through the toughest summer in memory. Rick was devastated at the time but since stepping away has realised he can now enjoy his final working years in a far less stressful environment. He continues to bowl at the club and has just added another notch to his belt winning the district singles.

Park Beach have appointed Dave Hall from Lennox Head as their new greenkeeper. Many will know Dave from his time in the Northern Rivers and also through his prowess playing bowls. With a young family Dave has put his bowls away for now and swapped them for a guitar and a surfboard. He plans on re-surfacing the middle green at the end of the year which has been suffering the effects of ground pearl. We welcome Dave to the Mid North Coast and also wish Rick well in his new endeavours.

Another well-known name has popped back into our area. 'Adopted' Queenslander Brett Long is back in town. Kim and Brett have bought a house adjoining the golf course in Sawtell. Kim is a little concerned at their proximity to the Golf Club especially after Brett purchased a golf cart to ease the walk for his afternoon beers. Brett is working part time maintaining the grounds at Boambee Public School and has become the 'King of the Kids'. Knowing Brett, I'm guessing he gives the good workers \$2 to misbehave in class so he can get them out doing his chores.

The boys had a meeting recently with most of the discussion revolving around Pearl, ERI and mites. There is a strong pattern with the Pearl having far more impact in greens that are struggling for nutrition or have missed renovations for various reasons. A healthy plant can combat their damage when combined with a balanced nutrition and pesticide program.

I had an interesting talk recently with someone from the golf industry. They mentioned that trials have hinted that ERI could be having more impact as a secondary infection on the back of Pythium. Because Pythium is mobile in the rootzone it can weaken the plant enough for the ERI to have a damaging effect. Vigilance with Pythium control as humidity increases could lead to better control of ERI.

This year's Greenkeepers Day will be held at Port City on Monday August 12th. Enjoy the rest of winter.

Northern Rivers with Duncan Elphick

Northern Rivers clubs are in the midst of some kind of revolution with a number of Greenkeepers on the move for various reasons and the closure of the Ballina RSL Bowling Club.

Dave Hall has cut his last green at Club Lennox and taken up in Coffs Harbour at Park Beach Bowling Club. He has made way for Darren 'Warnie' Smith who moves from Byron Golf Club. We wish both gentlemen all the best of luck in their new roles. Mick Anderson has moved on from Ballina's Cherry Street Sports Club, it's unknown who will be filling this position at the time of writing, and the closure of the Ballina RSL Bowling Club means yours truly is spending a lot more time in beautiful Byron Bay.

Ballina RSL Bowling Club recently hosted the NSWBGA State Championships and had a strong bowling fraternity boasting 3 grades of Pennants in the men's club, a very viable social bowling club 'The Sandflies' and on any given Thursday we would have 30 or so ladies enjoying the greens. Bowling numbers were relatively strong. Those who ventured to Ballina for the Champo week over the last two years would all agree the site had unlimited potential and we could confidently host any standard of bowls. Unfortunately, club management could not see the potential and consecutive losses in excess of \$200k left management and the B.O.D of Ballina RSL no option but to close the doors for the final time on Sunday 11th June 2019. Closing the doors on 63 years of history, and a valued part of the local Northern Rivers bowling fraternity.

The 31 years I've spent Greenkeeping I've had to move on from Clubs whose viability was somewhat shaky, leading me all the way up the East Coast to Ballina where I thought that a Club that turns over \$10M in gaming would see the end of that phase of my career, funnily all three of those clubs are still operating and the wealthy club is no more? A worrying time for our trade and the sport of lawn bowls. I feel for all those who have felt the same sadness I experienced with the closure of the club. It was the death of a part of my life and the funeral was heartbreaking!

On the brighter side of things in the North, the weather has finally decided to come to the party and the greens around our parts have finally dried. Growth rates were really quite ridiculous for June until dormancy hit in July. We have definitely had wetter Winters but the frequency of the rainfall and heavy cloud cover was making it near impossible to get pace consistently over the Autumn and early Winter.



Pictured: Duncan Elphick and his team enjoy last moments and drinks at Ballina RSL Bowling Club

Northern Rivers Greenkeepers met at Lismore City Bowling Club in what will be the last meeting before our AGM. We set an agenda for bowls days and are happy to be supporting Warnie at Lennox Head on Thursday 1st August and then to Club Byron for the 40th battle between QLD Greenkeepers of the South East v NSW Greenkeepers of the North on September 6th. Proud sponsors of the day will be Greenway Turf Solutions and Syngenta. Many thanks for their support.

Many thanks must also go out to the organisers of this year's conference in Bankstown. A very worthy experience for those of us who attended with some very interesting talkers and as always it's great just to network with peers... some of us are much better at that than others?

Rep's Report

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This report is mostly about movement in the trade. Keith Minnard at Sporties Tuncurry retired in May, after 32 years of service. Keith was a very good greenkeeper and is a true gentleman. I wish Keith and his family all the best for

his retirement. Nathan Fletcher, formerly from Forster Bowling Club has taken over Keith's job at Sporties. At the time of writing this report, Forster are still accepting applications.

Steve Green has left St George's Basin Country Club to take up the greenkeepers job at Tea Gardens Country Club. Dave Hukins is returning to the trade, after a few years on a property up north, as Steve's replacement at the Basin. I wish both Dave and Steve all the best at their new clubs.

Scott Denham from Mosman Bowling Club received a great honour from the club, when he had a green

named after him. Scott has been at Mosman for 40 years, first as an apprentice, then greenkeeper. Besides looking after the greens Scott has been at different times on the committee, bowls organiser and club champion in many events over the years. Congratulations Scott on your achievement.

Wayne Vardy returned to work at Woonona Bowling club late June. Wayne is currently doing 18 hrs/week as he settles back into working. A big effort, seeing what he went through eight months or so ago.

The Association's two day Conference at Bankstown Sports Club in mid-June went well. Congratulations to the committee for putting it together. I believe the open forum idea should be expanded where ongoing problems, such as Ground Pearl, Patch Disease etc. can be discussed amongst those present and different views on what has worked and not worked can be discussed. I think bouncing these thoughts off each other can only be of benefit to all.

SUPERGRASSE

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Rep's Report

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Hi all

I'd firstly like to introduce myself to all that read 'The Bowling Greenkeeper' and Members of the NSWBGA. My name is Stephen Sharpe, I've just made the transition from a Greenkeeper to Technical Sales Rep for

Globe Australia.

After 18 years in the trade (primarily bowling greenkeeping) I decided that I needed a change, but I still wanted to remain involved in the Turf Industry that I love so much, so for me this role was a perfect fit.

I have already received extensive training from suppliers such as Bayer, Syngenta, Turf Culture and Technical Managers within Globe Growing Solutions.

I am based in Sydney (but I will be traveling extensively around NSW) working closely with the other members of the Globe Team to provide our customers with solutions and results to any turf related issue. I can be contacted at any time on my mobile, 0429 959 511 or alternately via email, stephen.sharpe@globeaus.com.au

I'm looking forward to meeting new Greenkeepers, catching up with those that I already know and helping in any way possible to assist with agronomic solutions and service those working in the trade.

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Scott Denham honoured at Mosman Bowling Club

NSWBGA member Scott Denham has had one of the highest accolades in the Lawn Bowls community by having a bowling green named after him at Mosman Bowling Club. As most of us know, this high honour is usually only reserved for deceased life members! The Club obviously holds Scott in very high esteem.

Scott came to greenkeeping in the summer of 1979 after completing his HSC at Narrabeen High School. An accomplished sportsman even at a young age...playing junior Rugby League with the Narrabeen Sharks before moving on to u23s and reserve grade for Manly Sea Eagles RLFC. Scott fondly remembers playing against the great Arthur Beetson on the old Cumberland Oval. Not content with his achievements in Rugby League, he even managed to squeeze in becoming an Australian champion beach sprinter through his association with Surf Lifesaving. After retiring from these sports, Scott then took up squash, and as expected, he excelled, became a life member of the Elanora Club and has only very recently hung up his racquet.

Scott made many friends in all aspects of life, one being a fellow Rugby League player Tony Springall, who was the assistant GK at Mosman Bowling Club. Tony invited Scott to learn the fine art of mass plugging on one of the Mosman greens over the Christmas period. Sometime later, the Club's head greenkeeper succumbed to an accident and was unable to continue in his role. Tony took over as the head guy and subsequently called on Scott to take up the vacant apprenticeship. Despite his earlier plugging experience, he took up the job. He held this position till Tony was offered a contract to play first grade for the North Sydney Bears. As a third year apprentice the club offered Scott the position of head green keeper of what was then a three green club with 200 bowling members...he looked after the club on his own, forcing him to make a difficult choice between his sport and work commitments.

As a young Greenkeeper Scott also had a number of very experienced tradesman to call on for advice, Ralph Callaghan at Warringah Bowling Club and Dave Shearman at Harbord Bowling Club.

Many of you may have met Scott and his assistant Philip "Snowy" Kable with their work installing products of one of our loyal advertisers and supporters of the NSWBGA, ShadeX Industries. This association came about after Scott and Snowy installed shades at Mosman...20 years on and they're still installing for Shade X.

In 1989 Scott began to play competition bowls at Mosman Bowling Club with instant success that has continued for 30 years having won the Major Single title 15 times, pairs 17, triples 11 and fours 8 times, with success in zone and tournament play.



During his time at the club, Scott has trained 6 apprentices, been on the board and bowls secretary for 20 years, is currently the Senior Vice President and became a life member of the club in 2011.

Scott has seen the club go through some trials and tribulations, including the selling of land to become a two green club and other managerial decisions that would allow the club to survive and prosper.

On the day of the naming and the unveiling of the plaque by the Mayor of Mosman, more than 60 bowlers, friends, fellow greenkeepers and family were present. We heard Scott thank his wife of 29 years Michelle, their sons, Shane, Daniel and Nathan, for their support. Especially noting his family's understanding of the commitment a good turf manager needs to have to his job...the long hours in summer, weekend work and annual leave only being taken in the quieter times of the year. Forgiveness for times missed due to his work commitments.

Scott thanked the members of Mosman Bowling Club for making his 40 years a pleasurable experience. Snowy, of course, was also thanked for his hard working assistance for the last 25 years.

After the unveiling Scott was able to sit down and finally have a Tooheys New (or two) with a number of fellow greenkeepers, many of whom look up to him as the Northside's Big Daddy of bowling greens! Sometime after the second beer, one of Scott's fellow tech mates from the Ryde School of Horticulture, (from all those years ago) asked Scott what advice he would pass on to a young greenkeeper now... he said "be confident in your knowledge and don't let bowlers tell you what to do".

As many of us greenkeepers from the north side will testify, we could not have a more skilled, knowledgeable, resourceful and helpful person as our mentor for all things bowling greens!

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