



BOWLEDOVER



Newsletter of Aberfeldie Bowls Club Inc – Established 1910

21 February 2023 Issue: 20 of Season 2022/23

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Current Club Champions

Singles: Joe Engert

Minors: Paul Ives

Pairs: John Grogan &
Stuart O'Brien

Triples:
Sean Lee, Manny Flores &
Michael Bialczak

President's Handicap:
Michael Bialczak

Club Contacts:

Gabriel Forlani: 0409 036 386
Nigel Thompson: 0411 220 545

Website:
www.aberfeldie.bowls.com.au
Webmaster: Nigel Thompson

BOWLEDOVER – Norm Draper
Mobile: 0412 949 302
DraperNorm@bigpond.com

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A great finals week to date – two teams straight into Grand Finals & one needing to win a Preliminary Final to get there.

Saturday saw Aberfeldie 1 in a semi-final, taking on the highly fancied Moonee Ponds who had decisively beaten us just a week earlier on their home green. This time the tables were turned, when our team put in an outstanding effort to take the points, advance straight to the Grand Final, and earn promotion to Division 3 for next Season. It was a mighty effort in front of a strong contingent of Club supporters. With two Rinks getting out to good early leads, one holding its own and the fourth fighting hard, we set ourselves up for the win, as long as we could counter the almost certain Moonee Ponds charge home. Despite that charge, we were strong enough to hold on for a commendable 7 shot win – two Rinks up and two Rinks down. **Now for the Grand Final this coming Saturday.**

Earlier today, in Mid-week Pennant, Aberfeldie 1 suffered a loss, playing away, to Dousta Galla and must now win its Preliminary Final on Thursday to progress to the Grand Final. Aberfeldie 2, however, had a hard-fought win over Princes Park at Home to advance directly to its Grand Final next Tuesday.

Saturday Pennant – Aberfeldie 1 Semi Final (Match report from Michael Bialczak)

Playing the *semi-final against Moonee Ponds where we were soundly beaten last week, few would have given us a chance to win. Early on, we had 3 close Rinks and one well down, but the overall score after twenty ends was 19-23. From there, all our four Rinks fired up and we led 49-35 at the halfway mark. With about 5 ends remaining, we still held a comfortable lead of about 20 shots, but Moonee Ponds didn't give up and with two ends for each rink to go, got within 6 shots - but in a tense and loud finish, supported by our strong supporting contingent, we held on to win by 7 shots, 81-74. This was an amazing win against the odds, and for those who played a few years ago, nearly on par when we came from fourth to beat the highly fancied Flemington and Brunswick in consecutive finals weeks. We now meet Moonee Ponds in the final as they just held off Craigieburn by 3 shots in the Preliminary Final.*

Ian Ferretter, Endre Rakosi, Frank Piccolo, John Pater - 25-18

Things started badly dropping a 5 on the first end, but we responded quickly to go 10-6 up after five ends, 17-9 after eleven - and holding on to a 7-shot

win. A very even contribution saw a 17-shot turnaround from the previous week as Ian's side lost to the same Moonee Ponds side by 10 shots just seven days ago.

Don Leale, Nigel Thompson, Paul Ives, Lorenzo Di Sipio - 14-26

Coming up against the crack undefeated Moonee Ponds side, this was a roller coaster ride. Even though we kept getting shots in the head, the opposition kept knocking them out and it was 0-11 after five ends. We fought back however, and with Lorenzo consistently getting bowls on the head and everyone contributing, we went on a 14-1 run and actually took the lead back, 14-12. From there, it was tough going, with the opposition either putting multiple bowls on the head, or their Skipper converting shots down into shots up a number of times - and they finished with a 14-0 run of their own.

John Grogan, Joe Engert, Bill Walshe, Michael Bialczak - 26-9

Another even contribution with bowls on the head consistently - and John Grogan back to his best, we were 6-4 up after five ends, skipped away to 14-5 after eleven, and finished just as strongly with a 12-4 second half.

Manny Flores, Lynne Grogan, Robin Stoddart, Warwick Robinson - 16-21

It was a pretty even contest early on - 3-2 up after five ends, 11-9 after eleven ends before Moonee Ponds finished stronger in the second half, which we lost 5-12, for an overall 5 shot loss.



Our now Grand Finalists – with promotion to Division 3 achieved



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Mid-week Pennant Semi Finals

Aberfeldie 1 suffered a loss playing Doutta Galla on its Green, 35-46 and must now win a Preliminary Final on Thursday to advance to the Grand Final. Rink results:

Clay Beveridge, with Noel Greig & Greg French 14-28 and never able to get into a winning position.

Albert Considine, with John Pater & Gabriele Forlani 21-18 in a consistent performance to take a hard-fought win.

Aberfeldie 2 had a hard fought Home win over Princes Park in its Semi Final, and advances straight to the Grand Final next Tuesday. The win wasn't wrapped up until the concluding ends, with our players digging deep to secure it. We trailed 10-11 after twelve ends, 17-18 after twenty-one ends, before sneaking in front 31-26 after thirty-two ends, and then holding on for 41-34, 7 shot win. Rink results:

Manny Flores, with Sam Folino & Lynn Grogan - 17-22 after trailing for most of the game, but never letting the deficit grow too big – with 4 shots up on the sixteenth end proving vital.

John Grogan, with Endre Rakosi & Lorenzo Di Sipio – 24-12 after getting out of the blocks early and maintaining pressure to the end. A vital 4 shots on the fourteenth end, John converting from 3 shots down to 1 up with the last bowl on the seventeenth end – and a 5 on the nineteenth end to pretty much guarantee the overall win.

Night Pennant

It was back to winning form on Wednesday evening, when we took a 48-27 win over Footscray Park – winning three of the four games.

News around the Club

- Sorry to hear that Barry Baguley experienced a health episode when in Warrnambool for his son's wedding this past weekend. Fortunately, things are on the up after some heart surgery. On the downside, Barry missed the wedding – but he did have a helicopter flight to Geelong for his specialist cardiology surgery. Reports are all positive and we hope to see Barry back at the Club very soon.
- Sean Lee is suffering a leg injury. We are hoping for a speedy recovery.
- It was great that we had such a strong contingent of supporters at Saturday's Semi-final at Moonee Ponds – we certainly outnumbered the opposition.
- Some of our bowlers are so keen they lose track of time. One, who shall go nameless, was up and about and in uniform on Monday, ready for today's Mid-week Pennant Semi Final, before a team mate pointed out that it was only Monday!!!!

Club Diary – subject to Bowls Victoria confirmations

Thursday 23 February – Aberfeldie 2 in Mid-Week Sectional Preliminary Final against Essendon at Moonee Ponds. Winner goes through to Grand Final against Doutta Galla – venue to be determined

Saturday 25 February – Aberfeldie 1 in Sectional Grand Final against Moonee Ponds at Keilor

Tuesday 28 February – Aberfeldie 2 in Sectional Grand Final (venue to be determined) - against winner of Preliminary Final (Princes Park V Wallan)

Get along to support your Club mates if you possibly can – we saw on Saturday, and again today, the value of strong and vocal Aberfeldie support from non-playing team mates.

An Important Reminder

For those loading the dishwashers at the Club, please remember to take the wrapping off the dishwashing tablets - they're not soluble! One was found on the bottom of the dishwasher after the most recent wash. (But, please do check carefully, as some varieties of dishwashing tablets are soluble.) The ones being used at the Club at present are not!!



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