

Date: Monday 26 February 2024
Time: 3.00pm
Meeting Room: WhaoWhia Room,
Venue: Ground Floor,
Auckland War Memorial Museum
Auckland

Komiti mō te Papa Rēhia o Pukekawa / Auckland Domain Committee

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Auckland Bowling Club

The oldest club in the Southern Hemisphere



Item 5.1

Attachment A

Auckland Bowling Club

Founded in 1861, the Auckland Bowling Club was the first bowling club to be established in New Zealand, prior to Auckland City being inaugurated, with its members being founders of Auckland City. The club is believed to be the oldest bowling club in the southern hemisphere.

Located at the edge of the Auckland domain, the club boasts two world class greens, one natural and one carpet all weather green, a recently refurbished club house with full kitchen and bar facilities.

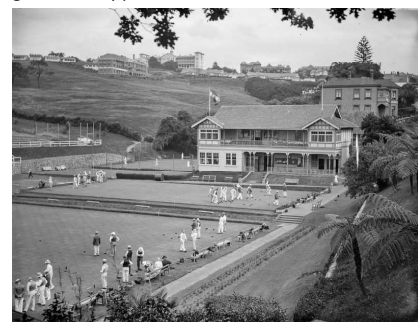
The clubhouse is lined with portraits of every president since the club was found, among them many prominent Aucklanders such as A. M. Myers, J. Pascoe and M. Thompson of Barfoot & Thompson.

In addition to hosting regular national and interclub bowling events, the club is also a popular choice for social and business functions with over 10,000 visitors passing through the doors each year.

The club is now embracing opportunities to introduce new players to the game; and where once would-be bowlers had to wait to be invited into the club, or to be introduced by a member, our plan is now to attract more people of all ages into the club.

Enjoyed in New Zealand by over 100,000 players, bowls ranks in popularity ahead of rugby or cricket and is rapidly attracting a new generation of players.

The game can be played by people of all ages and abilities and we are desirous of bringing together as much of the diverse Auckland community as possible. Our current membership includes multi cultural people from all walks of life and our intention is to expand this.



Success in Bowls

The Auckland Bowling Club (ABC) is a premier competitive bowls club. Over the past few years, the dedication shown by the bowls committee and board, in enhancing our player development programs and the structures we are building to introduce and nurture young and new bowlers is astounding.

Recently introducing professional coaching and mentorship initiatives to the members has proven popular and effective. These are unique offerings that set us apart from other clubs and underline our unwavering commitment to educating and building bowls as sport for all.

The main point of difference at ABC is that the club and members are professionally managed by a highly capable board, which includes seasoned bowlers, and successful business people. This encourages forward and lateral thinking to find solutions which promote the club and the sport. For example, traditional membership was depressing at a large rate so we introduced newer membership options and variations to categories such as full time member, social, student and family. The measure of success isn't just the number of full members, but also social people playing at ABC annually.

Only several years ago, ABC was a men's only club and now we have two female members on the board, a fantastic female competitive bowls team and continuous support and encouragement to introduce and involve our female members in playing professional bowls.

Success in Bowls continued..

In recent years, ABC has actively bolstered its membership and enhanced its player programs. With a strategic location, effective governance, and a passionate community, we've attracted top-tier talent, including a four-time World Singles Champion and prominent National and regional players. Our structured pathway supports new members, fostering their full potential, and we've also introduced a schools programme to promote early engagement in the sport.

In 2023, ABC achieved remarkable milestones:

We secured victory in the Auckland Interclub 7's, claiming the top club spot in the Auckland zone. This success led us to represent the Auckland bowling center at the National Interclub finals in Wellington, where we reached the quarter-finals, narrowly missing the semi-finals.

Young talent David Motu (16) triumphed in the NZ PBA, earning the privilege to represent New Zealand at the World Indoor Championships in Scotland in November. David has also won Junior Maori Sportsman of the year for 2023.

Another emerging star, Adam Baillee (21), represented New Zealand at the World Deaf Bowls competition, securing a gold medal for both New Zealand and ABC.

Our handpicked ABC team successfully challenged New Plymouth in a 160-year-old contest between the two oldest bowling clubs in New Zealand and possibly the Southern Hemisphere. These accomplishments showcase our commitment to nurturing a vibrant community of players and striving for excellence in the sport of bowls. We take pride in our progress, which reflects our dedication to promoting the sport and fostering a culture of excellence at ABC.



Adam Baillee with his Gold Medal

School Programme

Auckland Bowling Club is committed to fostering the growth and development of the sport of bowls within educational institutions in New Zealand.

Presently, we are actively engaged in mentoring high school students from Auckland schools such as Selwyn College, Auckland Girls Grammar, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate Senior, and Diocesan School for Girls. Our aim is to equip these students with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in Student and Junior events, where they will proudly represent our esteemed club. Our overarching objective is not only to nurture a new generation of bowlers but also to elevate the prominence of bowls within the New Zealand sporting landscape.

From this programme, we are creating the first blueprint for a youth programme training manual which will be shared with Bowls Auckland and then Nationally.

In addition to our school initiatives, Auckland Bowling Club is excited to announce our collaboration with the University of Auckland. Together, we are working towards establishing a dedicated Student league at our club, with the long-term vision of expanding this initiative to include other universities. This partnership reflects our commitment to not only developing the sport within schools but also at the tertiary level, thereby contributing to the continued growth and success of bowls in New Zealand.

Current Investments

- In 2023, Auckland Bowling Club installed a new \$320,000 carpet all weather green, ensuring year round play for the club. Funding was primarily achieved by \$100,000 of club funds, Dragon Trust \$85,000, Bowls Auckland \$50,000, Barfoot and Thompson \$50,000 and a number of other smaller grants.
- Over the past few years there has been \$250,000 of upgrades and maintenance to the club including outdoor umbrellas around the greens, covered outdoor patio area, new carpet in lounge area, new furniture indoors and outdoors – all funded by the club.
- 5 year Barfoot and Thompson sponsorship including tournament.
- Summerset Retirement sponsorship yearly with various items and merchandise.
- Swerve Limited sponsorship for bowls events such as social competitions.



Proposed future investments

The club is exploring the option of a cover over the All Weather Green. This would catapult ABC to the forefront of club suitability for televised events, capitalizing the strategic location, and promoting Auckland city. We have had discussions with Auckland tennis who are well advanced in their cover proposal and with covers on both facilities the location becomes a much more viable venue to expand events on a cross pollination basis.

We are advised that the approximate cost is \$1.250 million and the club is currently exploring funding options.

We have engaged Andy Adams of Visitor Solutions to provide a needs assessment and feasibility study.

The club is exploring ways in which the feasibility study can be submitted for consideration by the Sport and Recreation investment fund that is currently open for the 24/25 funding round. Other substantial funding sources are existing bowling club funds and Bowls Auckland.

Permission to build such a facility on the leased domain land is a prerequisite.

5 Year Plan

As of February 2020, the adoption of a 5-year Future Plan highlights the vision of the club being:

- Leading bowling club in central Auckland
- Provide outstanding facilities to local community and members
- Preserve heritage and legacy
- Grow membership at all levels (currently 100)
- Grow annual participation numbers (currently 6000) which is the highest of any bowling club in Auckland
- Develop coaching for members/ schools and participation numbers with a view to growing membership
- Implement an all-weather playing surface by 30/09/2020, at a capital cost of \$300,000. The Board of ABC have given approval to call an SGM for the approval of this expenditure
- Longer term to substantially upgrade buildings and provide all weather playing surface with a cover

The club enjoys strong support from prominent people within local and central government. Attending regular opening days are: Desley Simpson, Christine Fletcher (ex-Mayor of Auckland City), Paul Goldsmith (National Party MP), David Seymour (Act Party Leader) and Sarah Trotman (Waitemata Board Member)

The club is community conscious leading strong support on an ongoing basis to: Pink Ribbon Day, annually hosting an event at club rooms, Blue September (Prostate Cancer), Ronald McDonald House, local schools and communities.

The leasehold land the club occupies has historically been subject to 21-year renewable leases. The current lease runs through to 31/3/2026. At this point, there is no certainty past that date for the club.

