

**50 YEARS
OF
SERVICE THROUGH PLAYING**



**A HISTORY OF
COSGROVE PARK BOWLS CLUB
1956 - 2006**

by
Kerry E. Holloway

Cosgrove Park Bowls Club

Established 1956

Foundation Members

Barnes, C.	Boon, T. M.
Bowen, A. F.	Brent, A.
Brumby, W.	Clancy, E. W.
Cope, N.	Davies, J.
Donaldson, A. N.	Elwell, D.
Galvin, A.	Godfrey, D.
Griffiths, B. W. N.	Grove, J. L.
Higgins, F.	Hill, G.
Hoare, S. J.	Holloway, A.
Ick, T.	Jackson, P. E.
Jones, D.	Jones, R.
Kelly, E.	Keays, T.
Lane, A.	Lee, R.
Legg, J.	Machin, D.
Mason, L.	Noonan, J.
Orpwood, J. L.	Owen, D.
Porch, L. H.	Pike, P.
Ratcliffe, G.	Shaw, S. R.
Simonds, L. F.	Smith, A. P.
Smith, E.	Smith, F.
Statton, S. M.	Stevens, M. E.
Thompson, H.	Turner, W.

Presidents

1956 – 91	B. W. N. Griffiths, O.B.E.
1991 – 92	A. J. Johnson
1992 – 94	C. M. Routley
1994 – 96	K. C. Orchard
1996 – 97	P. C. Culley
1997 – 99	W. R. Foster
1999 – 2001	T. M. Boon
2001 – 02	P. C. Culley/ B. Clarke
2002 – 04	P. Prosser
2004 –	T. M. Boon

Presidents (Associates)

1959 – 66	M. Brumby
1966 – 67	I. Oakman
1967 – 68	B. Lawrence
1968 – 87	M. Brumby
1987 – 89	E. Herring
1989 – 92	J. McCarthy
1992 – 94	N. Peters
1994 – 96	M. Wallis
1996 – 98	C. Jensen
1998 – 2003	M. Reid
2003 – 04	L. Brown
2004 – 05	N. Sargent
2005 –	M. Walker

Life Members (Associates)

M. Brumby
D. Griffiths
N. Peters
E. Kendrick
B. Barker
N. Davis
J. McCarthy
C. Jensen

Secretaries

1956 – 57	S. R. Shaw
1957 – 64	D. H. Godfrey
1964 – 88	C. J. Walters
1988 – 89	K. Barnes
1989 – 90	T. M. Boon
1990 – 91	C. J. Walters
1991 – 92	S. Durkin
1992 – 93	D. F. Bannister
1993 – 95	T. M. Boon
1995 – 96	T. Cowen
1996 – 97	S. Stone
1997 – 98	J. Seymour
1998 – 99	G. Alexander
1999 – 2001	S. Hingston
2001 – 02	M. B. Clayton
2002 – 04	S. Hingston
2004 – 06	M. S. Rigby
2006 –	K. Rigby

Life Members

1964	D. H. Godfrey
1971	B. W. N. Griffiths, O.B.E.
1973	T. M. Boon
1973	S. M. Statton
1973	A. Bowen
1973	W. Brumby
1973	A. N. Donaldson
1973	D. Owen
1973	A. Smith
1973	F. Smith
1976	C. J. Walters
1988	J. L. Fox
1993	J. Tomlin
1995	J. R. Peters
1998	R. W. Lapthorne, O.A.M.
1998	K. C. Orchard
2001	W. R. Foster
2001	R. Parish
2004	W. House
2004	N. McCarthy
2005	P. V. Freeman

FORWARD

BY

TOM BOON

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDATION MEMBER

Just a little over 50 years ago I was walking through the grounds of the recently built Cosgrove Park Home for the Aged on my way home from work when I encountered an unfamiliar face whose owner said to me as he pointed to a green under preparation, "Hello, young fellow. How would you like to take up bowls"? Well, I had never bowled before, but the idea sounded good, so I said "Yes".

The person I had met, of course, was Bruce Griffiths, who was eager to start a bowling club for the reasons outlined on the first page of this book. And so, at the age of 28, I became one of the 44 men who comprised the Foundation Members of the Cosgrove Park Bowling Club.

Since that time I have been continuously involved in one way or another and have gained immense pleasure out of both the bowling and social sides of the Club. Cosgrove Park has produced many fine bowlers and there have been many highlights, a particular one for me being a member of the team that were runners up in the Mazda Trophy Competition.

Now there are only 5 Foundation Members still alive, and I count myself deeply privileged to be President during the Club's Golden Jubilee.

I would like to thank Kerry Holloway for taking on the project of delving through the Minutes and Annual Reports to prepare this History. When he read it to me as it was being proofed it recalled "those years and moments half forgotten", and brought back many, many pleasant, happy memories of the men and women who have bowled for Cosgrove Park, a number of whom are sadly no longer with us. I trust that you will gain as much pleasure from reading this book as I have done.

My wish is that this grand old Club, which has now gained "veteran" status, will continue to prosper for many years to come, and provide the fellowship and opportunity to enjoy the noble game of bowls as it has always done in the past, and hopefully win some pennants along the way. May we ever strive, one and all, to faithfully implement by practical example the motto on the badge we wear – Service Through Playing.

Tom Boon
President
Launceston
April, 2006

THE NEW FACILITY FOR AGED CARE

In 1954 the Cosgrove Park Home for the Aged, which replaced the old, dilapidated, and run down Home for Invalids in Mulgrave Street, was opened. With an initial capacity for 108 patients in 4 bed, 2 bed and single bed wards, state of the art facilities, and a superb view of the mountains and Tamar Valley, it quickly became regarded as providing the ultimate in accommodation for the elderly. Despite all this, though, there was still something lacking.

During a visit in 1953 to the Queen Elizabeth Home for the Aged in Ballarat, the Secretary of the Launceston General Hospital, Bruce Griffiths, had been profoundly impressed by the existence of a bowling green situated in the grounds of the Home. That Bruce Wallace Nicholas Griffiths was a remarkable man of great vision and tremendous motivation, would indeed be a drastic and serious understatement. He had already been able to accurately foresee what was required for the best possible welfare of the senior citizens in the community and set about implementing his ideas in a practical way. Out of this was born the establishment of Cosgrove Park Home for the Aged and later the many twilight cottages in the Home's surrounds. Being acutely aware of the effects of boredom due to idleness among the residents, he was instrumental in introducing a program of occupational and diversional therapy which was most successfully carried out in a large pavilion built for that purpose.

It was logical, then, with the Ballarat experience recently in his mind, and the realization that exercise was essential, even among the elderly who were mobile, that Bruce Griffiths proposed a similar plan to be incorporated into the new Cosgrove Park complex – an idea which to many at the time appeared outlandish and ludicrous: a bowling green at an Old Peoples' Home indeed! The opponents and scoffers, though, had reckoned without knowing the tenacity and driving force of Bruce Griffiths.

The Launceston General Hospital agreed in principle to the suggestion and an approach was made to the then Minister for Health, the Hon. Dr. R. J. D. Turnbull M.H.A., for funds. Initially this was not particularly enthusiastically received due to the unusualness of the proposal and the fact that it would set a precedent for similar projects. Eventually, though, the Government agreed to assist if a service club would also take on the project. The Apex Club of Launceston was accordingly contacted, and readily consented to sponsor an appeal for funds. Under these circumstances Dr. Turnbull agreed to make £800 available towards the overall cost.

To raise the money Apex applied for permission to conduct a State-wide Art Union – the prize being a Customline Ford car. Tickets were sold at £1 each (the 1st time in the history of art unions in Tasmania that such expensive tickets were sold), and sales limited to 2,500 tickets. Within 6 weeks all tickets had been sold. While all this was going on the site of the proposed green was cleared and, with a view to augmenting the Appeal, potatoes were planted. Unfortunately agriculture was not a forte of those concerned, and the results of the enterprise were somewhat disappointing.

The services of one of the most highly regarded green keepers of the time, Charles Fitzallen, of the A.B.C. Bowls Club, were enlisted, and work began on the proposed green in May, 1955. Mr. Fitzallen did not use vibrators or heavy rollers, but consolidated the soil by the arduous method of walking backwards and forwards on his heels. The green was sown in July and officially handed over on 14th October, 1956.

THE FORMATION OF THE CLUB

From the outset Bruce Griffiths had envisaged that besides the green providing diversional and occupational therapy for residents and patients associated with the Home, it could well be used as a means of encouraging members of the outside community to form a bowling club which would enable them to visit the Home to participate in various activities, and to meet and make personal contact with the residents. Accordingly a public meeting was held in the dining room at Cosgrove Park on 14th August, 1956. At this it was agreed that such a club, to be known as the Cosgrove Park Bowling Club, be formed. At a follow-up meeting held on 2nd October a draft constitution was presented for discussion. The new Club readily attracted people and the first season concluded most successfully with a membership of 44.

The first full year of operation proved to be an eventful one. Following approval by the Northern Tasmanian Bowling Association of an application for affiliation, a team was entered in the B Grade Pennant Competition. In view of the fact that of the membership, only 6 had played bowls before, the

performance of the Club on the playing field was considered more than satisfactory. The Australian Bowling Championships were held in Launceston during the year, and although Cosgrove Park was a new green which had not had time to settle, it was used during the course of these, the great Albert Newton playing his first singles games in the Championships on it.

THE EARLY YEARS

At the beginning of its 2nd year of operation the Club made a decision to split its members into 2 teams to play in the B Grade Pennant Competition under the names of Cosgrove Park and Cleveland. The Club held its 1st Annual Dinner on Thursday, 19th September, 1957. A major step forward was also taken in that year with a decision by the Cosgrove Park Home to build an occupational therapy centre. The news of the proposed development was welcomed by the Bowls Club which, besides finding it necessary to use toilet facilities in the Home proper, had been reduced to serving the traditional afternoon tea in the staff dining room, the main dining room or the patients' recreation room, depending on which was available at the time. The Apex Club of Launceston was approached again and agreed to sponsor a public appeal to raise the necessary funds, and earmarked the project as a permanent memorial to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Apex in Launceston. The new building eventually cost £14,500 of which the Apex Appeal yielded over £10,000 to which the Government added £4,000, and was opened by the Minister for Health, Dr. Turnbull, on 30th November, 1958. The 1st meeting of the Associates was held on 14th November of the same year with 13 ladies in attendance. Mollie Brumby was elected as the first President, a position she was to occupy for the next 29 years.

It was envisaged that contact by Club members with the residents of the Home would result in the Club developing into an Auxiliary of the Launceston General Hospital, which eventually proved to be the case. The Annual Report for 1958/59 mentions that most successful picnics had been organized for residents to Longford and Sandy Beach. Bowls Club members were usually accompanied by their families, and it was noted that members of the Club were never more united than during the years that such outings took place. Other highlights of the 3rd year of operation included the Club acting as host to the South African Team and the New South Wales Bowling Association, and members of the B 1 Team winning their 1st pennant. It was also decided at this time to promote a program of goodwill visits to Clubs in other parts of the State, and specifically to Bicheno, Burnie, Devonport, Penguin, St. Helens and St. Marys. By September, 1959 the membership stood at 56.

Service projects have varied over the years. The 6th Annual Report records the Club as contributing to special funds to enable a system of Hospital and Medical Benefits to be instituted for residents of the Home and necessitous cases in the L.G.H. Later on the Club also initiated the move to conduct an Art Union to raise funds for Cosgrove Park.

THE CLUB IN THE 1960s

In 1961 the Club made representation to the Hospital Board to the effect that a 2nd green be constructed to the east of the Home. The proposition was that the Government be requested to make available a grant, and as much as possible of the work to be undertaken by Hospital employees and Club members. The Board agreed to the proposal and the then Minister for Health, the Hon. W. D. McNeil, M.H.A. made available a grant of £1,200.

The new green was subsequently completed in 1962. At the handing over ceremony, in view of his support for the venture and the practical interest shown by him in both Cosgrove Park and the Hospital, the Board of Management announced that the green would be known as the W. D. McNeil Green. At the same time the Board decided that the first green would be called the Griffiths Green in appreciation of the Club President's outstanding services to Cosgrove Park.

At the AGM in August, 1961 it was decided that the annual subscription would remain at 6 guineas (£6/6/-).

Cabarets and social evenings have been regularly held since the Club's inception, and special attention has always been given to encouraging residents of both the cottages and the Home to attend. In October, 1961 a buffet tea and entertainment in the form of dancing and games was held at a cost of 7/6 per person

or 15/- per family. Later in the same month a picture evening took place, at a cost of 5/- per family, the film viewed being "Daddy Longlegs", starring Fred Astaire. Regular outings for members and residents continued to be held during these years, the first one for 1962 taking place at Deloraine. Another most successful one was held on 20th May, 1962 at Campbell Town where 100 residents of the Home and a large number of members enjoyed afternoon tea whilst being entertained by the Campbell Town Band. The Annual Dinner for this year was held in May at a cost of £1 per member. To raise funds for the new green it was decided in August to hold a poultry raffle each week at the pennant games at a cost of 1/- per ticket, and to levy each member 4/- a week during the bowling season.

Early in 1963 the St. Helens Bowls Club visited, with Cosgrove Park reciprocating in March. Enquiries were also made at this time re the Club installing a cigarette vending machine and a coca-cola dispensing machine.

1964 began with the recently donated trophy by Wes Jacobson for mixed pairs being won by Ted Whyman and Naida Davey. To raise funds for the Club it was decided to raffle 2 fowls each Saturday by means of bats with cards attached. Ray Cornish was delegated to manufacture the bats. The AGM held in August, 1964 elected Doug Godfrey as its first Life Member in recognition of his service to the Club as Secretary over the past 8 years. The bowling year finished with a membership of 70: - 55 financial and 15 honorary members.

Opening Day for the new year was held on 26th September, 1964 with the Ceremony being performed by the Minister for Health, the Hon. M. G. Everett, Q.C. before a representative gathering of 250 people. Frank Higgins, a Foundation Honorary Member, threw the 1st kitty and the Minister the first bowl.

During the year the Club was represented by 3 teams in Divisions 1 & 2 in the N.T.B.A. With its small membership this was indeed a very ambitious undertaking. However, the venture paid off and the Div 1 Team had the honour of winning, for the 1st time in the history of the Club, the top pennant in a fighting finish with the Launceston and Invermay Clubs. This meant that the Club had now won 6 pennants in its 8 years of existence. No mean feat indeed. The Club also had the honour to act as hosts to a team from the Royal Victorian Bowling Association, with the final test match between that Association and the Tasmanian Bowling Council being played on the Griffiths green.

A program of active community service work continued to be a focus of the Club with outings for residents to Clarendon House and Low Head. The members were advised in November that a Cock o' the Walk badge for Club competitions had been donated by E. Peacock. 1965 concluded in a most social way with a picnic for residents on 28th November, a cabaret on 4th December and the usual Christmas Party on the 15th of the same month.

On 20th February, 1966, 6 days after the introduction of decimal currency into Australia, the Club paid a very successful visit to the St. Helens Club. This was followed by an equally enjoyable visit to Burnie 5 weeks later. Trophies were also donated at this time by Harold Schramm and Alan Davey for mixed pairs competitions. A wine tasting was held by the Club in April, with the Annual Dinner in May.

The AGM in July increased the subscription of members to \$13 p.a., with honorary members \$5. It was also recorded with "pride and congratulations" that Norm Westcott had been selected to play in the State Team in Victoria during the season. In November the residents and a large number of Club members participated in a steam train journey to Deloraine. The month concluded with another visit to the Burnie Bowls Club. It was also decided at this time to offer, on a trial basis, the use of one green by the Midweek Bowls Association with the proviso that no facilities would be offered for afternoon tea.

Early in 1967 Burnie reciprocated with a visit to Cosgrove Park on 12th February, followed by a visit from St. Helens a fortnight later. The Annual Dinner was held this year on 26th May at a cost of \$3 per member, Associates \$2. In summarizing the year's activities in July, the President, Bruce Griffiths, noted that the season had been a most successful one, not from the point of view of winning trophies, but from the excellent fellowship that existed. The 2 greens were in 1st class condition due to the work of the green keeper, David Owen, this being evidenced by the fact that they had been chosen by the N.T.B.A. for the State Pennant Finals.

The Official Opening Ceremony for the 1967/68 season was performed by the Director-General of Health Services, Dr. John Edis. During this year a number of visiting mainland teams were entertained, including

the Royal Victorian Bowling Association, the South Australian Flyers and the Sunraysia Association. Most successful and well patronized visits were made to the St. Helens and Bicheno Clubs, and a visit was received from the Burnie Bowls Club. Congratulations were extended to Norm Westcott who won the N.T.B.A. Open Singles, and Jack Peters and Ern Peck in not only being successful in winning the N.T.B.A. Pairs, but capping this fine performance off by winning the Tasmanian Pairs Title.

As well as the usual social activities – cabarets, pie nights etc., the Social Committee organized dinners with pre-arranged menus, the actually cooking being undertaken by members themselves on a roster basis. The Annual Report records how successful these were and notes that the standard of cooking and presentation could not have been surpassed anywhere. Service work continued with 2 picnics being held for the residents and a contribution of \$450 being gratefully received from the Associates. Late in 1967 Alan McBeth presented a trophy for a competition to be known as the McBeth Pairs.

Indoor bowls, which were commenced in 1957 as a result of a donation of a set of bowls by C. Maeder to Dr. T. Ick, a Foundation Member of the Club and a Resident Medical Practitioner attached to the Home, continued to be played during winter months on Friday nights throughout this period. A highlight of the year was the visit of Glynn Bonisto who imparted much knowledge to the members and proved to be a great ambassador for the game of bowls. The bowling year concluded with a membership of 67.

At the AGM held on 12th July, 1968 a motion was carried to increase the annual subscription to \$21 for members and to abolish the pennant levy. The subscription for social members remained at \$5 p.a. Before closing the meeting the President, Bruce Griffiths, again reminded members of the importance of giving more attention to regular practice, not only to enhance their prospects of winning more pennants, but also as a means of promoting fellowship within the Club.

The Official Opening Ceremony for the 1968/69 year was performed by the Mayor of Launceston, Alderman Frank King. For this year the Club was represented by 3 teams in the N.T.B.A. Pennant Competition. All teams performed creditably, although it was noted that a limiting factor was the numerical strength of the Club's membership. This year also saw a greater number of social games in which the Associates participated. The Club was busy, as usual, on the social side, with the Committee, under the chairmanship of Rod Farrell, organizing a variety of activities, one of which was a cabaret in May which took the form of dancing to music provided by a radiogram, liquid refreshments, sandwiches, mini sabs and peanuts, at a cost of \$1.50 per person. Both greens were reported to be in excellent shape throughout the season due to the hard work of Dave Owen and Merv Donnelly. 1969 concluded on a pleasant, social note with the Childrens' Christmas Party being held on 16th December and the Club Christmas break-up, which this year took the form of a dinner, 4 days later.

THE 1970s – A TIME OF GROWTH

The first social bowls day for 1970 was held on 8th February. Although the event was successful, it was noted with disappointment that there was a lack of attendance by members. March was a busy month with a visit from Burnie on the 8th and a visit to St. Marys on the 15th. A proposed visit to St. Helens one week later had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The Club Dinner held on the 11th April at a cost of \$3 members, \$2 associates, was reported to be one of the best on record. Congratulations were extended during the year to Ray Carling who won the Club A Grade Title then went on to win the State Title, and Bob Laphorne who won the N.T.B.A. B Grade Champion of Champions Title. The year concluded quite successfully with a donation of \$500 by the Associates. At the AGM held on 15th July, 1970 Fred White, the Mayor of Launceston, was elected as Patron to replace Dr. John Groves. This year marks the retirement of David Owen as green keeper, a position to which he had diligently applied his considerable expertise since the formation of the Club, resulting in magnificent surfaces being provided and widely commented on. He was replaced by Merv Donnelly.

The dinner cabaret held on 7th November was successful but had a "noticeable lack" of members. More social events occupied the closing days of 1970 including a pie night, film evening (Camelot), the Christmas Dinner cabaret and the Senior Citizens picnic to Low Head.

A cabaret dinner held on 20th March, 1971 at a cost of \$2.50 per person was attended by 84. This year goes down in the Club's history, as with only 55 members it was able to gain 2nd place in Division 1,

Division 3 was elevated to Division 2, and Division 5 maintained its position. Moreover, the Club now had 2 State bowlers; Norm Westcott and Ray Carling. A particularly happy event took place at the AGM on 19th July, 1971 with the election of Bruce Griffiths to Life Membership in recognition of the enormous contribution he had made to the Club and through the Club to the Home. Bruce had been President since the Club's formation, and this well deserved honour was carried "without dissention and with acclamation". This is also the last occasion on which the Club is referred to as Cosgrove Park *Bowling* Club. Probably to avoid being confused with the newly opened Ten Pin Bowling Club, the Club is thereafter referred to as the Cosgrove Park *Bowls* Club.

In May, 1972, after ascertaining the feeling of the T.B.C. towards junior members being admitted to clubs, the Committee explored the possibility of canvassing St. Patrick's College and Kings Meadows High for 4 – 5 selected students from each to fill this category. Early in July it was reported that the concreting of the banks of the top green was underway with the help of 2 weekend working bees of members. It was also decided at this time to make a donation of \$1,000 to the L.G.H. Board of Management. On 27th July the Club received official confirmation that it was approved auxiliary of the Launceston General Hospital and Cosgrove Park. The 1971/72 season was another particularly successful one with Div 1 only narrowly missing out on winning the pennant. Geoff Robinson won the State Singles Title, and Ray Carling and Norm Westcott continued to be State representatives. The Associates, as always, continued to work hard to raise funds and were able to donate \$650 to the Club. A sad event occurred on 4th September with the death of the Club's Patron Fred J. C. White. After due consideration the Committee decided to invite a prominent Launceston lawyer, Eustace G. Butler, to take the position. At the same time the death of Selwyn Statton, the Club's Treasurer, was recorded with regret. It was later resolved that Life Membership be conferred posthumously on him for his outstanding work and dedication to the Club. The Club held a very successful pie night and film evening of the World Bowling Championship in Sydney on Thursday, 16th November.

1973 began on a positive note with an equally successful twilight mixed bowls and barbeque being held on 15th February. This was followed by a cabaret evening later in the same month at a cost of \$2.50 per person, with music being provided by Tom Boon's orchestra. A Senior Citizens' picnic was also held on 11th March. Ray Carling won the Club A Grade Singles for the 4th consecutive year and also won the N.T.B.A. Champion of Champions event. This year saw the introduction of the Statton Memorial Triples. (This competition was later changed to Fours). A note of appreciation was recorded at the AGM in June to the Associates for their donation of \$800 and to the Social Committee who were able to donate \$150 to the Club. Before the meeting closed a motion was unanimously passed with acclamation to make the remaining Foundation Members – Tom Boon, Arthur Bowen, Alan Donaldson, David Owen, Albert Smith and Fred Smith – Life Members. In the following December it was resolved to confer a similar honour on Wal Brumby. The Annual Dinner, held in July, 1973 was one of the most successful to date with 230 attending.

The 1974/75 season was officially opened by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Hedley Farquhar M.H.A. on Sunday, 29th September. As a means of increasing membership it was resolved at this time to explore the possibility of inviting hospital staff to join Club members in a social bowls evening under lights at the A.B.C. Early in 1974 it was decided to hold an annual Memorial Service in memory of past members of the Club and "to give members a few moments each year in which to reflect on the deeds and fellowship of those no longer with us". The first such service was held on 31st March on the bottom green with Canon Des Tyson, the Rector of St. Mark on the Hill, officiating. Canon Tyson continued to assist in this regard for a number of years, being assisted on occasions by Fathers Smith, O'Brien and Johnson. A most successful Annual Dinner was held in May with 150 attending, including 50 "senior citizens". The Club's first Bingo try out night was held early in August, 1974. This proved to be such an outstanding success that it was decided to hold the first "full scale" session on the 4th September, and there afterwards fortnightly, the proceeds going to the pavilion extensions. A working bee was also held at this time to erect concrete based seats around the lower green. Cosgrove Park's "Sister Club", Bass and Flinders at Low Head, was officially opened on 13th October, 1974 with Bruce Griffiths as its Foundation President.

1975 began with a meeting to assess the Club's pennant position. As there was a possibility of Div 1 being relegated and Div 3 being elevated, thus giving the Club two teams in Div 2, it was resolved

to try to retain Div 1 status at all costs. This year also saw a group of students from Kings Meadows High coming to the Club regularly on Friday afternoons to receive tuition in bowls. During the course of the year the Club congratulated Norm Westcott on again gaining State selection, Ian West for winning the N.T.B.A. Champion of Champions trophy, Bill Heap for his win in the N.T.B.A. Veteran Champion of Champions, and Bob Forsyth, Roy Smith and Charles Percy for taking out the N.T.B.A. and State B Grade Triples title. The year concluded with a membership of 70: 61 financial and 9 honorary and social members, the numerical strength of the Club again being mentioned as a limiting factor in the field of success for its teams. A happy event occurred at the AGM on 5th May, 1976 with the election of the Club's Secretary, Col Walters, to Life Membership. Members also extended best wishes and au revoir to Bruce and Doris Griffiths on the eve of their departure for an extended world tour. Regular cabarets continued to be held throughout this period, with Albert Smith offering 3 rhododendrons as a raffle prize for the one held in August.

THE LIQUOR SAGA

1976 is a very important year for the Club as during it a new Licensing Act was promulgated to allow clubs such as Cosgrove Park to apply for a "limited on" license to be able to provide bar facilities. These are taken for granted today, but they didn't *just* happen. In the early years the mere mention of alcohol in connection with Cosgrove Park, or for that matter any government institution caring for the aged and infirm, immediately created storm clouds of controversy. Initially the Club erected a small tarpaulin outside from which refreshments were served. These were provided at no cost to consumers, having been purchased by donations from a number of bowlers. There was nothing secretive about this, and the Club gained no financial benefit. However, it created a storm of protest and questions were asked of the Minister for Health in the House of Assembly. Part and parcel of the Bowls Club is that there be opportunity and facilities for Club members to enjoy the fellowship of each other and their opponents. The "tarpaulin" didn't really suffice, and for the first few years this lack of privilege was keenly felt. In 1961 it was decided to provide a "President's Cupboard" using the area under the pavilion which had been excavated for the foundations. It was extremely wet, though, due to drainage problems. With the ingenuity of the Hospital's Foreman Carpenter, Ray Cornish, though, the area was converted into a spacious and comfortable "watering place". Again, nothing was secret, but legend has it that a special "knock" was required to gain entry. A proper bar was still needed, however, and Bruce Griffiths and his Committee hung tenaciously on, despite narrow mindedness, ignorance and a lack of understanding that residents in nursing homes and hospitals were normal people who were entitled to the same privileges enjoyed by other members of the community.

In 1974 the first ray of light appeared on the horizon when the Government commissioned G. Savos to enquire into all aspects of licensing in Tasmania. The Club decided to place its case before the Enquiry, and after much research the President, Bruce Griffiths, and Dr. R. A. Mathews, a member of the Club and Acting Superintendent of the Hospital, were able to place before it a soundly prepared submission. In it the President outlined the history of the Club and Dr. Mathews presented medical evidence as to the advisability, and even necessity, for residents of the Home to be given access to limited amounts of alcoholic beverages. Mr. Savos must have been impressed because he immediately said that he was amazed that an elderly person on entering the Home was barred from enjoying a privilege which under normal circumstances would be available. Needless to say he recommended the Club's submission in his report.

When the new Licensing Act was passed late in 1976 the Club duly made application to the Hospital Board for permission to construct a bar and cool room in the billiard room of the pavilion. And so the dream eventually became a reality late in 1978 through "Project Co-operation" which involved the Lions Club of Launceston North, the L.G.H., the Tasmanian Government, the South Launceston Elderly Citizens' Club and members of the Cosgrove Park Bowls Club Auxiliary. Cosgrove Park thus became the **first** nursing home in the southern hemisphere to have a licensed bar! It was officially opened by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Michael Barnard, M.H.A. on 2nd December, and started, thereafter, to operate from 4pm – 8pm, Monday to Friday with extended hours on Saturday, a 6 oz beer costing 30 cents. Bar furniture was donated by the Lions Club and a cash register by Ken Orchard. The

responsibility for staffing the bar during the week was accepted, in the main, by members occupying accommodation at Cosgrove Park and Ainslie. On weekends the "younger" members of the Club were rostered for this duty. In March, 1979 it was decided to make application for a license from 11am - 11 pm, Wednesday to Saturday. On this being granted the Club started running fortnightly functions.

THE LATER 70s

During the 1976/77 season the Club was successful in winning the Div 4 pennant, much of the credit for this resting with the veteran members, and in winning the Open Triples and Veterans Competitions run by the N.T.B.A. The Associates were also congratulated on winning the Div 6 pennant, their first pennant success. During the course of the year Cosgrove Park's sister club, the Bass & Flinders Bowls Club, came of age and started operating as a separate identity. At the AGM for this year the Club was able to make a donation of \$2,900 to the Launceston General Hospital.

The Opening Ceremony for the 1977/78 season was performed by the Hon. Harry Holgate, M.H.A., Minister for Education, Recreation and the Arts. Early in the New Year members were informed that a proposal put forward at the N.T.B.A. Annual General Meeting to have a 14 game pennant roster instead of the usual 18 games had been defeated. That AGM also elected 3 Cosgrove Park members, Bruce Griffiths, Ben Wilmot and Jack Luck, as Life Members of the N.T.B.A. In May, 1978 members were advised that Mrs. Vera Lawson, in conjunction with several Insurance Companies, had donated a shield in memory of her son Max, on which would be recorded the name of the annual Club Open Singles winner. Later in the year Gerry Hibbink became the first player to have his name recorded on the trophy. The Annual Dinner was also held in May and had a record attendance. Many letters of thanks were received from senior citizens. One resident, Miss Beatrice Scully, was so impressed that she offered to donate a perpetual trophy to be known as the Thomas Ritchie Trophy after her former employer. This year saw veteran players taking an even more prominent part in the Club's activities, both in pennant play and socially. By June the membership stood at 64: 54 financial and 10 honorary and social members, the annual subscription being \$28 for full members, \$15 cottage members and \$7 social members.

As a result of representations to the Government, approval was obtained for the Club to appoint an apprentice green keeper. The first person chosen was Grant Goss who unfortunately had to resign due to personal circumstances at the end of his 1st year. In August the Club decided to purchase a beer ticket machine at a cost of \$425. A most successful wine bottling by members was held on 5th October, 1978. This year also saw the N.T.B.A. hosting the Australian Championships. Visiting bowlers who had the pleasure of playing at Cosgrove Park were loud in their praises of the hospitality extended to them and, needless to say, the Club's unique badge became the most sought after during the Championships to the extent that an additional 200 had to be ordered at a cost of \$2.50 each. Visits to the St. Marys and Burnie Clubs continued throughout these years, the ones being held early in 1979 being particularly successful. The Club reached the final four in Div 2 this year, but unfortunately was eliminated in the first semi-final. Late in 1979 members and associates were responsible for serving refreshments at a dinner attended by 350 people which had been organized by the Tasmanian Committee of the Olympic Federation to raise funds to send a team of athletes to the Games in Moscow.

THE DECADE OF THE EIGHTIES - A PERIOD OF STABILITY

This decade started with considerable success being achieved by the Cosgrove Park Div 2 team, consisting of Col Walters, Haidee McFarlane, Tom Boon and Ian West, being runners up in the State Final of the Mazda Trophy Competition, thereby winning \$1250 for the Club and an engraved tray for each of the team's members. Div 4 also achieved success at this time by winning the Lightning Premiership and \$150 for the Club. A bar statement tabled at the Committee Meeting on 5th February showed a profit of \$5043 for the period 20/6/79 - 31/1/80. The Burnie visit in February marked the 21st anniversary of such encounters, and to mark the occasion Cosgrove Park extended "special" hospitality to the visitors and presented honorary membership badges to 4 Burnie players, Merv Harrison, Cec Summers, John Munro and J. H. Rockcliffe, who had been on every visit. The Club also congratulated Arthur Hallam at this time on winning the Club Veterans Title and going on to become the N.T.B.A. Veteran Champion. A number of Club members flew to King Island at the beginning of March to

participate in a Centenary Bowls Carnival. The Annual Dinner this year was held on 23rd May at a cost of \$5 per person. At the AGM held in June, 1980 special mention was made of donations to the Club by the Associates (\$1650) and the Social Club (\$500). It was also decided to make donations to the following: Launceston General Hospital - \$8,000; the Cosgrove Park Library - \$7,500 and St. Paul's by the Sea at Low Head - \$500, to be used to maintain the pipe organ. During the year Merv Donnelly unfortunately had to retire as green keeper due to ill health, his place being taken by Hank van Noord. Congratulations were extended to the Associates Div 3 Pennant Team who "at last" won the pennant, and to cap off their performance went on to win the State Flag. At the election of Officers, Bill Zeeman, a Launceston Magistrate, replaced Eustace Butler as Patron.

THE CLUB'S SILVER JUBILEE

The 1980/81 season marks the Silver Jubilee of the Club, the Ceremony of Opening being performed by the Chairman of the Board of the L.G.H. and Patron of the Club, Bill Zeeman, on Sunday, 5th October, 1980. Later in the same month Div 2 won the Lightning Premiership and \$150 for the Club by defeating South Launceston. 1981 began with successful visits to Burnie and St. Marys. The Club was represented this year by 3 teams in the N.T.B.A. Pennant Competition, Divs 2, 4 and 6. Div 2 finished on top of the ladder then inexplicably faltered in the finals, and once again missed out on the pennant. The Annual Dinner this year was made the focal point of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations. In what proved to be a magnificent spectacle, over 200 members, guests and residents of the Home and cottages attended. To mark this historic occasion the following special arrangements were made:

- ❖ Invitations were extended to Foundation Members to be present, and it was noted that a large number were able to attend.
- ❖ The pictorial plaque depicting photographs of the Foundation Members was unveiled.
- ❖ A brochure setting out a brief history of the Club during its first 25 years was prepared.
- ❖ A portrait of the President, Bruce Griffiths, was commissioned from Audrey Wilson and presented to him at the Dinner. A full size framed photograph of the portrait was displayed and later hung in the pavilion.

The year concluded most happily and successfully with a donation of \$2,000 being handed over to the Club from the Social Committee by its Chairman, Ron Brown, and the Club making a huge donation of \$10,000 to the L.G.H. By July, 1981 the membership stood at 58; 53 financial and 5 honorary and social members.

THE EIGHTIES – Cont'd.

Bruce Griffiths was congratulated in September on being elected President of the N.T.B.A. It was in that capacity that he officially opened the 1981/82 season at the end of that month. A very successful Carols by Candlelight, organized by the Club for its members, residents and the wider community followed by supper, concluded the year. 1982 began with visits from Burnie and St. Marys, and a visit to Ulverstone. Congratulations were extended to Div 2 in April for gaining elevation to Div 1 by winning the Pennant Final and also the State Final, thereby winning for the Club two amounts of \$400, and also to Div 4 for earning \$100 for the Club by being runners up in their Pennant Final. This year also saw the initial visit of the Ulverstone Bowls Club. The year concluded with a membership of 75; 60 financial and 15 honorary and social members.

The AGM held at the end of July, 1982 increased annual subscriptions to \$30 full members, \$15 cottagers, \$10 social members. Motions were also passed to amend the Club's Constitution so that in future the name of the Club would be the Cosgrove Park Bowls Club Auxiliary, to change the age of admission from 21 to "male members approved by the Executive", and to change the age of admission to the bar from 21 to 18 years. At the end of September Div 4 were congratulated on winning the Lightning Premiership and \$150 for the Club. In November a minute of appreciation was recorded to Andy Johnson for manufacturing an equipment trolley. The year concluded with a successful Christmas cabaret at a cost of \$5.32 per head!

Forty one Club members journeyed to Burnie on 6th February, 1983 for a most successful visit. A week later an equally successful visit by 44 members was made to St. Marys, with another by 43

members to Ulverstone in March. Throughout this period an annual Memorial Service continued to be held, the one this year taking place on 17th April, with Canon Des Tyson officiating. A decision was also made at this time for Des Alexander to act in an advisory capacity in regard to the greens, for which he would be paid an honorarium. In August, 1983 it was decided to enter a 2nd team in Div 6 for the forthcoming season. Jack Fox was also invited to continue as Official Club Coach. Congratulations were extended in September to Div 2 on winning their final in the Lightning Premiership, and to Divs 3 and 6 (Team 1) in being runners up in their respective finals, thereby earning the Club \$250. In November the Club received approval from the Licensing Board to open the bar from 12 noon to 6.30pm on Sundays. The year concluded with a Christmas party on 10th December, the music as usual being provided by Tom Boon and his orchestra.

A most successful visit by the Burnie Club was made early in February, 1984, followed by visits from St. Marys and Ulverstone. The Annual Dinner was held this year on Friday, 18th April, the cost for which had risen by now to \$6 per person. Div 6 (Team 1) achieved considerable success this year by winning the Association Pennant and then going on to win the State Title. Subscriptions were reviewed at the AGM in July, and the following increases made: full members - \$35, cottagers - \$20, social members - \$15. A highlight of the meeting was the presentation to 80 year old Bill Heap of a Super Veterans badge. Christmas carols as usual were held in the Chapel in December for Club members, their families, residents of the Home and Ainslie House, followed by supper. Again a most pleasant and convivial occasion.

In February, 1985 a video camera was purchased as a means of assisting in coaching. A win by Div 2 in the Lightning Premiership was a highlight of this year, as was the win by Bill Brown of the Association Final for Veterans. A feature during the winter months was the introduction of crib evenings. Following the AGM in May, 1985 at which another substantial donation by the Club to the L.G.H. was noted, members enjoyed supper while watching the recently purchased video on bowls coaching entitled *"In the Groove"*.

The opening of the 1985/86 season took place on Sunday, 29th September, the Ceremony being performed by the Hon. Brendan Lyons, Minister for Recreation. It was decided not to field a Div 6 pennant side this year. A visit from Burnie scheduled for the following February unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. In its place Cosgrove Park held a mixed bowls day with lunch and high tea, an event which was voted to be a huge success. The 30th AGM, which was held at the end of April, 1986 makes particular mention of how busy the year just passed had been with Club commitments. A most generous donation of \$3,500 by the Associates was also noted, and at the election of Officers Kevin Newman, Chairman of the Hospital Board of Management, became the new Club Patron. During 1986 the Club made a substantial donation towards the construction of a brick belfry on the eastern side of the Memorial Chapel. The belfry was officially commissioned by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Roger Groom, M.H.A. in August. The Club also held a Memorial Service in the same month for one of its stalwarts, 96 year old Fred White, who had died during the year. Both events were very well attended.

The 1986/87 year was one of contrasts, but a very lean one from the point of view of success by the Club's pennant teams. Only a minimal number of evening functions were held during the year, mainly because of poor support by members. On a positive side, though, the Annual Dinner, which was attended by 120 members, guests and residents of the Home, and Carols by Candlelight were outstanding successes. The Associates continued their solid support and were able to make a donation of \$2,750 to the Club. This year also saw the retirement of Mollie Brumby as President of the Associates, a position she had most diligently and conscientiously occupied for the past 29 years. Annual subscriptions were increased to \$40 for full members and \$20 for social members, the year concluding with a membership of 86; 71 full and 15 honorary and social.

Bruce Griffiths was congratulated by the Club in June on being elected President of the N.T.B.A. for a 3rd term and also on his election as President of the Tasmanian Bowls Council. During August approaches were made to both St. Patrick's College and Kings Meadows High with a view to recruiting new school boy players. Opening day was held on 20th September this year, the Ceremony being preceded by a Memorial Service for the late Vic Pujdak. The minutes note that this was very well attended. 1987 concluded with a Christmas cabaret at a cost of \$12 per person and Carols by Candlelight in the Chapel. A resolution was passed in the following February to form a Social Club to promote social

activities. This month also saw a very successful visit from the Ulverstone Bowls Club. The Committee was particularly concerned at this time about "the apparent falling morale of members, particularly Div 5 members, and resolved to hold a pie night in order to address the perceived problem. A happy event occurred at the AGM in May with the bestowal of Life Membership on Jack Fox in appreciation of the contribution he had made to the Club over the past 30 years, particularly in his role as Officially Qualified Coach. A minute of appreciation was also recorded to Col Walters who was retiring after having most diligently served the Club as Secretary for 24 years and Secretary/Treasurer for 15 years. On learning that parts of Cosgrove Park may have to be closed due to insufficient funds, the Committee decided to donate a sum of money to the Board to enable alterations to the sitting room to be undertaken. In the following November the Club donated a further \$1,500 to the Home to assist in the refurbishment of the main dining room. A trip by the Club to Bass & Flinders in February, 1989 proved to be an outstanding success. Congratulations were extended to Bruce Griffiths in March, on being made a Life Member of the Tasmanian Bowls Council.

THE 1990s – A DECADE OF CHANGE AND INCORPORATION

The Opening Ceremony for the 1990/91 season was performed by Bruce Griffiths on Sunday, 23rd September. This year the Club entered pennant teams in Divs 2, 4 and 5, but unfortunately again failed to win any flags. The Club purchased a freezer in October at a cost of \$345 for the purpose of storing raffle prizes. 1990 concluded with a Christmas Dinner attended by 71 members and guests.

Forty five Club members visited St. Marys by Redline coach in the following February, a most enjoyable and successful event in terms of hospitality and the fellowship engendered. It was decided at this time to discontinue the Schramm Pairs competition. The Annual President's Day this year was held on Sunday, 10th March. Due to the impending privatization of the ownership of Cosgrove Park, a change that the Club had been aware of for some months, a combined meeting of the Members Committee and the Associates Committee was called at the end of April to consider the situation. In addressing the meeting Bruce Griffiths stressed that the future of the Bowls Club would depend on its ability to be self supportive. To this end it was felt essential that a combined Management Committee be formed to initiate a program to control the Club's affairs and maximize fund raising. The Annual Dinner was held in May with a somewhat disappointing attendance of only 63 people. The year concluded with a membership of 57 full and 8 honorary and social members.

The AGM for 1991 is particularly worthy of mention as for the first time since the Club's foundation in 1956 the President, Bruce Griffiths, chose not to seek re-election. In view of this, and in recognition of his remarkable expertise and leadership, which indeed provided privileges unmatched by any other Club, he was invited to be the Club's Patron and Financial Adviser. A ballot was necessary to decide the new President as nominations had been received from Andy Johnson and Pat Doolan. On this being cast Andy Johnson was declared to be elected President. The AGM also increased annual subscriptions for full members to \$60, social members to \$25 and junior members to \$20, and acknowledged a magnificent donation by the Associates of \$4,500 to Club funds.

At the beginning of 1992 the President and several Committee members met with the new owner of the Cosgrove Park complex, Robin Archer. Out of this came a decision by the Club to negotiate with Mr. Archer re the cost of employing the green keeper, the Club, if necessary bearing this completely in order to maintain his services. Coincidentally, at the time these discussions were taking place, the Club recorded with sadness the death of its current green keeper, Hank van Noord. A special meeting of the Committee was called on 10th February to discuss the progress of negotiations arising from the recent takeover. It was decided at this time to standardize all bank accounts relating to the Club and seek legal advice in respect to:

- The incorporation of the Club.
- The validity of the current Constitution.
- The legal status of the Club.
- Ownership and control of Club funds.

The Club received with regret the resignation of Jack Fox as Official Club Coach in March. A decision was made at the Committee meeting this month to employ Andrew Westwood as green keeper for 29

hours per week, with the balance of his time being used for general duties around the Club. As a result of a meeting between the President, Treasurer and a representative of the legal firm of Douglas & Collins, the Committee were informed of the following:

- Cosgrove Park Bowls Club was now an independent, unincorporated Club which had no legal ties to either the Launceston General Hospital or the Northern Regional Hospital Board.
- The present Constitution was valid, but should be broadened in the Club's own interests, especially if incorporation was considered.
- It was advisable, but not essential, that the Club become incorporated. The benefits of this would include the removal of personal legal liability of elected officers and also protection by registration of the Club's name.
- The funds of the Club belong to the Club by virtue of its Constitution.

"Armed" with this information the Committee resolved to:

- ❑ begin action immediately to incorporate the Club.
- ❑ update the Constitution to reflect current circumstances.
- ❑ write a letter to the Minister for Health requesting clarification of the status of the Club in reference to the Cosgrove Park complex, to seek his assistance in establishing the Club as an independent entity, and to request financial assistance as compensation for the hardship suffered by the Club as a direct result of the sale of the complex.
- ❑ take action to secure a lease of the bowling greens and associated buildings.
- ❑ take out public liability insurance as a matter of urgency.

In many ways the 1991/92 year was the most difficult to date for the Club, with big changes both around it and involving it. This was further reflected in the pennant games with Divs 2 and 4 reaching the finals then failing to take the flag, and Div 5 being relegated. But every cloud has a silver lining, and the members rallied strongly together to support their beloved Club, highlights of the year being a very successful visit to Ulverstone, a well attended Memorial Service and Carols by Candlelight, a hard working Social Committee who were able to raise \$500 for the Club, and the presentation to the Club by the Associates at the Annual Dinner of a massive donation of \$6,000. At the election of Officers at the AGM in May, 1992 Bob Laphorne replaced Andy Johnson as President. Unfortunately after only a few weeks in office, due to personal reasons, he found it necessary to resign. Carl Routley, as Senior Vice President, took over as President for the remainder of the bowling year. It was with great sadness that Club members and indeed the wider community of Northern Tasmania generally learned of the death of Bruce Griffiths on 16th August, 1992. As Bruce had played such an integral part in the foundation of the Club and had served it so diligently and loyally for 35 years as its President, it is fitting in this short history that some mention is made of this remarkable man's achievements outside the Club.

Bruce Wallace Nicholas Griffiths joined the staff of the L.G.H. early in his business life as a clerk, and through hard work, dedication and outstanding ability quickly rose through the ranks to become Secretary to the Board and Administrator of the Launceston General Hospital, a position he held from 1952 – 79. Developments at Cosgrove Park that took place while he was Secretary included the:

- Establishment of 70 twilight cottages
- Provision of occupational therapy in the convention centre
- Erection of the Memorial Chapel
- Construction of a rehabilitation unit
- Establishment of a day centre
- Foundation of the South Launceston Elderly Citizens Club

Bruce was instrumental in the foundation of the Ainslie House Association in May, 1962.

As CEO he was also responsible for the construction of units at Evandale and Westbury, the Ainslie complex at Low Head and the rebuilding there of St. Paul's by the Sea.

Bruce's work with the Cosgrove Park Bowls Club has already been well documented, however in the wider field of bowling he was President of the Bass & Flinders Bowls Club

from 1974 until his death, being made a Life Member in 1980. He was also a Life Member of the N.T.B.A. and Tasmanian Bowls Council. Bruce served as a Councillor for the Australian Bowls Council 1981 – 86, and was made a Life Member in 1979.

In the wider community he was Chairman of the Tasmanian Cancer Committee 1979 – 88 and a member and office bearer of the Royal Flying Doctor Service 1960 – 85. After 15 years he was made a Life Member of Apex. Bruce was Secretary of the Tuberculosis Society of Tasmania from 1951 until his death, and an officer bearer on the Federal body. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Launceston for 30 years and the St. John Ambulance Launceston Sub-branch for 14 years. Bruce joined the Board of Management of the Launceston Girls Home in 1947 and served as Treasurer from 1959 until his death. He founded the South Launceston Elderly Citizens Club in 1960 and was made a Life Member in 1980. Between 1954 – 1985 he had numerous writings published including histories of St. Paul's and Ainslie as well as being co-author with Dr. Clifford Craig of a History of the L.G.H. In recognition of his outstanding community work he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours for 1961.

Truly a lifetime spent helping others.

Opening day was held this year on Sunday, 20th September, the Ceremony being performed by the Hon. Don Wing, M.L.C. A most successful garage sale, which raised \$1,500 for the Club, was also organized at this time. The Club's Christmas Dinner was held at the King's Meadows Hotel on 2nd December, 1992. Prior to the actual dinner a short meeting took place appointing a new Patron for the Club. After a vote was taken it was decided to offer the position to Col Walters. (This offer was subsequently not taken up). In the following February the Club presented its green keeper, Andrew Westwood, with a gift to mark his forthcoming marriage. March saw the Club receive a most successful visit from Ulverstone and a return visit to St. Marys. The AGM for this year was held on 26th May. A minute of appreciation was recorded at the outset of this to the Associates for their donation of \$6,000 and to the Social Committee (Tom Boon, Norma Peters and Noeline Crawford) for their donation of \$1,500. The work of Don Bannister as Secretary, Licensee and selector, his wife Mary, who had given many hours of service to the Club and Jos Lyon for his organization of Club games was also particularly recognized. Before the meeting closed John Tomlin was elected to Life Membership for service to the Club, particularly in his role as Bar Steward.

As the election of a Patron had been left to the incoming Committee, it was decided at the meeting in July to offer the position to Robin Archer. The Club was requested in August to appoint a Public Officer to facilitate its transition to be an incorporated body. A special meeting of the Club was held on 12th October, 1993 with the express intent of ratifying changes to its Constitution to enable it to become incorporated. Members of the Club noted with sadness the death of the Secretary, Don Bannister, in the following February. Due to several break-ins early in 1994, the Club decided in March to install a security alarm system at a cost of \$775. As approval had previously been given by the N.T.B.A., this month also saw a most successful initial Bruce Griffiths Memorial Day held with teams competing from a number of Clubs. Discussions were also held at this time between the Committee and Robin Archer re future accommodation for the Club. In summary, the 1993/94 bowling year was a mixed one and in many ways a difficult time for the Club. No pennants were won, and Div 4 was relegated to Div 5. However, much of a positive nature was achieved including the Club gaining greater control over its finances and finally becoming incorporated. The greens continued to be in first class condition due to the hard work of Andrew Westwood, and the appointment of George Gowans to run the bar had proved to be a sound move. At the AGM held in June Ken Orchard replaced Carl Routley as President. The AGM also decided to reduce annual subscriptions from \$60 to \$40 for full members, and from \$25 to \$15 for social members in a bid to increase membership.

Opening Day for the 1994/95 season was Saturday, 3rd September, the Ceremony being performed the Club Patron, Robin Archer. A sub-committee was formed this month to meet with him to discuss the new Club rooms and bar. The death of George Gowans, a very active member of the Committee, was noted with regret in November. Another garage sale was also held this month and the year concluded with the Christmas Dinner on 16th December.

A most successful Bruce Griffiths Memorial Day was held in March, 1995 with donations of \$200 each being acknowledged from Tim Foley and Boral. The ladies, under the Presidency of Mary Wallis, continued to work hard for the Club, as they had always done, by catering for afternoon teas and special occasions. A highlight of the year was the erection of 16 sun and weather shelters, some of which were donated by members. The Annual Report notes the difficulties faced by the Bar Committee this year, especially with the death of George Gowans, and records a note of appreciation to Jim Young for his hard work and dedication to keep the bar operational, and to Bruce Pybus for his work on Saturdays. The AGM was held on 2nd June, but as only 16 members were present (a quorum of 20 being needed), it was adjourned until the following week. To address this problem, during the course of the meeting a motion was passed to change the quorum from 20 to 1/3 of the members. A highlight of the evening was the election of Jack Peters to Life Membership of the Club. Before the meeting closed a motion was also passed to enable the Associates to be amalgamated as full members of the Club. In November, 1995 a special general meeting of members was called to make a number of alterations to the Constitution. These included the non-admission of people to full membership until they were at least 18 years of age, the changing of the title "Associates" to "Lady Members" under which they would have equal voting rights with the men, defining the length of membership required to be able to serve on the Committee and the disciplining of members for inappropriate conduct. A report was also given to members by the President outlining the progress of negotiations with Robin Archer re the Club's contribution to rates, power etc. Towards the end of 1995 good news was received that the Club had gained a fully qualified Bowls Coach with the successful completion of the required course by Wayne Foster. The year ended with a Christmas Dinner at Carriages Restaurant.

Celebrations to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Club were discussed at the Committee meeting in January, 1996, but it was decided "that it would be better to wait until the 50th Anniversary"! The greens are reported to have been a "mixed bag" for this bowling year. However, after the purchase of a new grooming wheel and the work by the new greens keeper, Ray Hanson (who had replaced Andrew Westwood), they were brought back to top condition for the Bruce Griffiths Memorial Day in March. Negotiations continued throughout this period with Robin Archer re purchase of the building and the lower green, and compensation for the possible loss of the top green. The Annual Dinner and Presentation Night took the form of a spit roast this year, but was noted to be not a huge success due to lack of numbers. At the AGM Trevor Cowen was elected as President. Unfortunately due to work commitments he had to relinquish this position in July and was replaced by Peter Culley, the current Junior Vice President. The AGM also elected Eric Dunphy to replace Robin Archer as Patron. The subs for the 1996/97 season were set at \$40 for male and female members, and \$15 for social members.

In the following September the Committee appointed Charlie Carlson and B. Pearton as green keepers to replace Ray Hanson. They in turn were replaced by Ray Cleaver at the end of October. Discussions were held at this time re a possible merger between the R.S.L. Club and the Bowls Club. The Bruce Griffiths Memorial Day was held on Friday, 14th March, 1997, sponsorship being provided by Bass & Equitable, Boags, Trust Bank, the Commonwealth Bank, Northern Foods, Morrison & Bailey and Australian Liquor Marketers. The entrance fee for the day was set at \$10 per head. After further discussions with the R.S.L., the Club decided to decline their offer of amalgamation and instead commenced discussions with Patons Bowls Club re combining members to field pennant teams. These likewise, however, produced no result. The 1996/97 year proved to be one of the most difficult for the Club in a number of ways, this being emphasized by the President in his report at the AGM held at the beginning of June. Peter Culley was re-elected as President and the Hon. Don Wing, M.L.C. replaced Eric Dunphy as Patron. The Club continued throughout this time to hold discussions with Robin Archer over its future accommodation, with specific regard to the cost of renovations of Club buildings and the bill for power and rates.

At the first meeting of the new Committee in June Ray Boucher's position as greens advisor was ratified. In July the Launceston City Council gave its approval for a sign to be erected opposite the ambulance station to indicate the location of the Club. It was also decided at this time to have a monthly working bee by members. Due to health reasons Peter Culley had to resign as President in August and Wayne Foster agreed to act in a temporary capacity until a new President was decided. A motion was passed in September to purchase a new pool table at a cost of \$2,900. A special general meeting of the

Club attended by 44 members was held on 30th October, 1997. At this those present were informed that little progress had been made in talks between the Club and the owner of Cosgrove Park. Discussion then ensued on the purchase of a new lawn roller at a cost of \$5,600. A motion was unanimously passed to obtain this and approval was sought to build a storage shed to house it. Further discussion then took place as to whether the Club should purchase an 80cm Sony TV set (\$360), a Sony hifi video (\$650), a Sony hifi sound system (\$850) and a video camera (approx \$1,100). A secret ballot taken revealed that 98% of the members voting were in favour of purchasing the 4 items. Before the meeting closed Wayne Foster was unanimously elected as the Club's President. 1997 closed with the Christmas Dinner in the Convention Centre at a cost of \$14.50 per person. The Bruce Griffiths Memorial Day was held, as usual, in the following March with 16 teams participating. At the Committee meeting in April a note of appreciation was recorded for the effort by the ladies in raising \$1,304 for the Club over the past year. A donation of \$1,000 was also made by the meeting to the Park Group to help with the replacement of blinds. Social events held at this time included a barbeque and cabaret to mark the end of the pennant season, the commencement of chicken run mixed bowls and a soup and sandwich day organized by the ladies. In presenting a most comprehensive report at the AGM in June the President, Wayne Foster, mentioned the painting of the Clubhouse, both inside and out, (for the first time in many years), and the fact that a green had been kept open through winter – a first for the Club. The work of Carol Jensen and her team of helpers in supplying afternoon teas and raising money was also noted. This year saw the greens being maintained for the first time on a voluntary basis, and the allocation of a final series in an intrastate Ladies Carnival. A highlight of the AGM was the election of Bob Laphorne and Ken Orchard to Life Membership of the Club.

At the first meeting for the 1998/99 year the Committee endorsed motions to purchase a gas heater for the Club rooms (approx \$3,200), furniture for the bar and a number of items for the kitchen. A further donation was also made to Cosgrove Park for the purchase of vertical blinds. The Ladies held a casserole day at the end of June and raised \$163. September saw the Committee approve a donation of \$100 to Jimmy's Joggers Charity Run. At this stage the Club was still without a Patron and a decision was made to offer the position to the Hon. Peter Patmore, M.H.A. (He subsequently accepted this position in August, 1999). A Ladies Day held in October proved to be greatly successful and enjoyable, and raised \$300. 1998 closed on a pleasant, social note with a Fun day on Sunday, 13th December and the Christmas Dinner and cabaret on the following Saturday evening.

At the AGM held on 6th June, 1999 Tom Boon replaced Wayne Foster as President and the annual subscriptions were set at \$50 for full members and \$5 (reduced from \$15) for social members. The new bowling year began with successful soup and sandwich and casserole evenings being held by the ladies. The Club again assisted the Southern Cross TV Childrens Christmas Party and sent a donation of \$195 at the end of August. A donation of \$400 from the Ladies Indoor Bowls was also acknowledged at this time. Acknowledgement was made in October of the receipt of an Australian flag from Michelle O'Byrne, M.H.R. and a Tasmanian flag from Jim Cox, M.H.A. In November a donation of \$100 was gratefully received from the ladies. A note of gratitude was recorded at this time to Brian Khan for allowing the Ainslie bus to be used to transport pennant players to country clubs. The Christmas Dinner was held in the Convention Centre again this year on 11th December at a cost of \$15 per person.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM – 2000 AND BEYOND

2000 dawned and, despite prophetic sensationalism in some quarters, the computers didn't crash, nor was the millennium bug anywhere in evidence. The Club paid a visit to Bass & Flinders on Sunday, 27th February and in the following month the Bruce Griffiths Memorial Day was held with prize money of \$600 to the winning team and \$400 to the runners up. Negotiations continued throughout this time with the owner of Cosgrove Park re the Club leasing the premises. A motion was carried at the Committee meeting in March to provide an honorarium for the President of the Ladies Committee. At the AGM held on 28th May mention was made of the possibility of the members of the Masonic Club of Launceston joining the Club as social members. The beginning of June saw the Club engage the services of Brian Burnie as greens consultant. Opening Day for the 2000/01 season was held on 24th September in conjunction with President's Day. Permission was given at the Committee meeting this month for the

State Team to use Cosgrove Park's greens for practice. New shade cloth was purchased for the bottom green at a cost of \$546 and erected in October. In the following month, due to high winds, this had to be temporarily taken down. A donation of \$214 made by the Club to Southern Cross TV's Special Childrens Christmas Party was acknowledged by that body in February, 2001. A visit was made by Bass & Flinders Bowls Club to Cosgrove Park on Sunday, 22nd April for a social game of bowls. A highlight of this bowling season was Division 2 Reserve Team winning their pennant and then going on to win the State Finals. At the AGM held on 3rd June, 2001 Peter Culley was elected as President to succeed Tom Boon. After a unanimous vote in favour, Life Membership was conferred upon Joyce McCarthy, Nancy Davis, Wayne Foster and Ray Parish for their service to the Club. Annual subscriptions were also reviewed at this meeting and set at \$60 for full members and \$5 for social members. A decision was also made to introduce coloured shirts for the men, pending permission being received from the N.T.B.A. The year concluded with a Christmas Party for children in December, Santa Claus making a surprise visit on a fire engine. A most successful and happy event.

In February, 2002 the Committee ordered a new Club flag at a cost of \$490. A letter was received from Peter Culley this month resigning as President. Brian Clarke was appointed to act in his stead until the AGM at which time Pip Prosser was elected as the new President. In the following month a decision was made to invite the Hon. Ken Bacon, M.H.A. to be the Club's Patron. The Club purchased a new computer in August at a cost of \$1,100. The condition of the roof was of concern at this time and a number of quotes were received to replace it. The winter pennant series is noted as having been a great success this year. The Club again helped the Lions Club of Riverside with their community work by sending a donation of \$120 to sponsor children to visit the Magic Show. A new lawn edger costing \$700 was purchased in September. More donations were made by the Club this month including \$150 to Mrs. West's granddaughter's trip and \$100 to St. George's Special School.

Opening Day for the 2002/03 season was held on 21st September. The Club's new Patron, the Hon. Ken Bacon, M.H.A. was present at the Committee meeting in August on which occasion he was thanked for the work he done on behalf of the Club. Permission was given at this meeting for the N.T.W.B.A. to use Cosgrove Park's greens for championship games. A new cash register had to be purchased at the end of November at a cost of \$325 to replace the old one which "blew up in a power surge". 2002 ended on a pleasant, convivial note with the Childrens Christmas Party on 8th December (Santa Claus again making an appearance on a fire engine), the Club Christmas Dinner at the Galaxy Hotel on the 14th, and a social get together at the Club on the 21st. In the following February Edna O'Malley and Marge Reid were congratulated for their good effort in the Northern Pairs. In March the Bruce Griffiths Memorial Day attracted 22 teams, this now most popular event being sponsored by a number of companies including Bass & Equitable who gave \$200, Boags Brewery who donated 5 cartons of cheer and Taxi Combined who provided taxi vouchers. Congratulations were extended in April to Div 5 who reached the finals and the Ladies Div 3 Team who made it to the grand final. On Sunday, 25th May members journeyed to Low Head for a day of social bowls with their sister club, Bass & Flinders. Later in the same month \$132 was donated to Rotary for their Child Sponsorship Project. At the AGM in June Pip Prosser was re-elected as President.

The new Committee met for the first time on 15th July and appointed Derek Rigby as Bar Manager. As the condition of the roof had continued to deteriorate a major decision was made at this meeting to accept a quote from David Street for \$16,170 and have the Clubhouse re-roofed with colourbond. \$25,000 was taken out of a term deposit and put in the general account to facilitate this and other maintenance around the Club, which all up came to \$22,000. An insurance cover costing \$700 was also taken out for the two green keepers and the Bar Manager. In August the Committee were advised that the Hon. Ken Bacon, M.H.A. had again accepted the position of Patron and Bill Shaw had been appointed as the new green keeper. Opening Day for the 2003/4 bowling season took place on Sunday, 21st September, the Ceremony being performed by the Club Patron. A donation of \$50 was made to Newstead Heights School in November. During this time the Club endeavoured to sell the billiard table and ran a series of advertisements in *The Examiner* to that effect. It was envisaged that the proceeds would be used to purchase new curtains for the front room. A Christmas raffle held in November/December raised \$895. 2003 ended in a traditional social way with a dinner on 13th December (cost \$17.50 per person) and the Childrens Christmas Party on the 21st of the same month.

At a special general meeting attended by 30 members held on 27th March, 2004 it was unanimously resolved to empower the Committee to spend an amount in excess of the planned \$8,000 for the installation of a wall mounted heat pump for the bar and associated works. In addition to this and the provision of a new roof, the Club also spent \$6,000 on the top green and \$2,000 on umbrellas and shade cloths. A donation of \$165 was made to Rotary in May, 2004 to assist their work with disabled children. The resignation of Bill Shaw as green keeper was also received at this time so again the duties were split, with Wayne Foster attending to the top green and Brian Burnie to the lower green. This year also saw success on the greens, with 2 mens and 2 ladies teams making their respective pennant finals. At the AGM on 20th June, 2004 the Club Patron, the Hon. Ken Bacon, M.H.A. was particularly thanked for his involvement over the past 12 months and acknowledgement was made of service by Wayne Foster and Percy Scott in acting as Umpires during the N.T.B.A. games and finals played at Cosgrove Park. A motion was also passed to set the subs at \$70 p.a. for full members. At the election of Officers Tom Boon replaced Pip Prosser as President. Before the meeting closed Bill House and Noel McCarthy were elected as Life Members for their long and dedicated service to the Club.

The Club held a Trivia Night on 1st October to raise money to tile the bar floor. A subsequent minute noted that the money was in fact used to purchase a new fax (\$200) and a cordless phone (\$100). In the same month a new roller was purchased at a cost of \$6,112. The Club Christmas Dinner was held on 11th December with the Childrens Christmas Party 8 days later. The Bruce Griffiths Memorial Day took place, as usual in the following March, Bass & Equitable and Boags continuing to sponsor the event generously. Offers were received from Margaret Young and Mick Clayton in April to donate trophies for the most improved player in Div 2 and Div 5 respectively. In May a generous offer was made by Mark Turner to donate \$1,000 towards the cost of purchasing new shirts.

The AGM for 2005 was held on 19th June. At this Tom Boon was re-elected as President, and Carol Jensen and Peter Freeman had Life Membership bestowed upon them for their hard work and service to the Club. Derek Rigby was re-appointed as Bar Manager, and Wayne Foster and Brian Burnie were re-appointed as the green keepers. In the following month sub-committees for House, Match, Social, Greens & Maintenance and Ladies were formed to enable the Club to function more efficiently. A motion was also passed enabling lady members to receive a \$15 rebate when paying their subs, starting as of the 2005/06 season. Expenditure in August included the purchase a vacuum cleaner (\$350) and a fridge (\$500). In the following month the Committee endorsed the expenditure of \$500 on the eightball table and \$2,350 to replace the lino in the kitchen. The Club continued to support the work of the Lions Club of Riverside and in October sent a donation of \$175 which represented 5 tickets for the Magic Show. 2005 concluded with the usual Childrens Christmas Party and the Club Christmas Dinner.

And so our journey through the first 50 years of the Club begins to draw to a close. 2006 dawned fair with members looking forward with some anticipation to their Club's Golden Jubilee. Celebrations will centre on Sunday, 23rd April on which it is proposed to hold a gala smorgasbord luncheon and get together of members, both past and present, and a number of invited guests and representatives of other bowls clubs. When this has passed, and winter again turns into spring, a new bowling season will commence and this grand "veteran" Club will prepare to journey on through its second half century. May it continue to prosper and may its members bowl well, engender fellowship and ever strive to implement by practical example its motto, so wisely chosen by its founders – *Servare e Ludendo: Service Through Playing*.

APPENDIX

NORTHERN TASMANIAN BOWLS ASSOCIATION

YEAR	GRADE	EVENT	WINNERS
1956-57	B	Champion of Champions	P. Pike
	B	Singles	P. Pike
1958-59	B	Pairs	A. Donaldson, S. Statton
1960-61	A	Open Singles	A. Davey
	A	Pairs	J. Fox, N. Westcott
1961-62	A	Fours	H. Forth, T. Boon, J. Fox, N. Westcott
1962-63	A	Pairs	A. Donaldson, A. Smith
		Novice	J. Dixon
1963-64	A	Champion of Champions	A. Davey
1964-65		Novice	V. Young
1965-66	B	Singles	R. Laphorne
	B	Pairs	C. Walters, R. Laphorne
	A	Fours	J. Fox, N. Davey, A. Smith, N. Westcott
1966-67	A	Champion of Champions	N. Westcott
1967-68	A	Open Singles	N. Westcott
	B	Pairs	E. Peck, J. Peters
1969-70	A	Open Singles	R. Carling
	B	Champion of Champions	R. Laphorne
1971-72	A	Open Singles	G. Robinson
1972-73	A	Champion of Champions	R. Carling
1973-74	A	Triples	C. Walters, K. Orchard, N. Westcott
1974-75	A	Champion of Champions	I. West
	B	Triples	C. Pearcey, R. Smith, R. Forsyth
		Veterans	W. Heap
1976-77	A	Triples	P. Doolan, G. Hebbink, A. Robertson
		Veterans	W. Heap
1977-78		Veterans	W. Heap
1979-80		Veterans	A. Hallam
1987-88	B	Triples	A. White, K. Manson, K. Jensen
1984-85		Veterans	W. Brown
1991-92		Veterans	J. T. Lyon
1992-93		Veterans	J. T. Lyon

TASMANIAN BOWLS COUNCIL

1956-57	B	Singles	P. Pike
1958-59	B	Pairs	A. Donaldson, S. Statton
1967-68	B	Pairs	J. Peters, E. Peck
1969-70	A	Singles	R. Carling
1971-72	A	Singles	G. Robinson
1974-75	B	Triples	R. Forsyth, R. Smith, C. Pearcey