CLUB COMMENT

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BENDIGO CLUB

EDITOR: Frank Bourke

JUNE, 1974



Bendigo Club

PRESIDENT: Don Osborn

VICE-PRESIDENT: Lyle Blake

SECRETARY: Alan Power

TREASURER: Brian Jennings

COMMITTEE

Jack Slattery (I.P.P.)

Jim Bourke

Bryan Eskdale

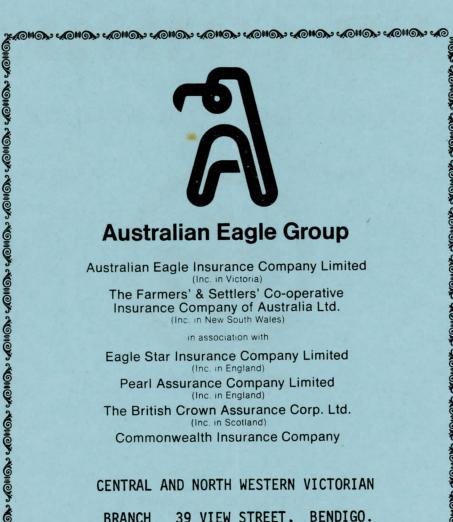
Frank Bourke

Alf Grierson

Doug Pain

Bob Davies

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BRANCH 39 VIEW STREET, BENDIGO.

MANAGER Mr. FRANK A. SAUNDERS

43 8355

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President Don was on holidays whilst this bulletin was being prepared and, as a result his report is separately printed with the financial statement.

THE BIG SHIFT

On Thursday, February 28th, we received word that the Liquor Control Commission had approved of the transfer of licence to the Reception Avenue premises and a special committee meeting on that same evening decided that trading would commence seven days later at the new premises. The committee meeting was marked by the general air of relief that at last things seemed to be going our way.

The following day, the various news media were informed and planning commenced for the shifting procedures.

During mid-afternoon, as a result of calls made by the Club Solicitor to the Liquor Control Commission, we were told that, contrary to earlier information, we could no longer trade at the Bull Street premises and, indeed, had been "sly grogging" by trading on Thursday night.

Immediately, President Don called in all available troops and within the hour, temporary facilities had been set up in the new premises, notices placed on the Bull Street doors and the media advised of the change.

Members who attended that night will recall the cheerful and congenial atmosphere as they intermingled with friends and their lady guests. Trading continued till the early hours and many a glass was raised to toast the success of the new venture.

On Saturday and Sunday, well-supported working bees soon had the old premises stripped of all but the billiard tables and the large fridge from behind the bar which stubbornly refused to take the corner on the stairs despite verbal and physical prodding by Dick Trahair and his team of "assistants". Boxes, bottles, furniture and papers were quickly shuttled to the new premises and hasty attempts made to restore some sort of order.



From this







" GREEN FINGER"
Stan and Kevin at
full gallop

THE BIG SHIFT Cont'd....

During this time, the pool table arrived and having been set up (on rather shaky legs) was immediately pounced on by Ian Reid and Ted Simm, much to the amusement of onlookers.

Following weeks saw the shifting and gradual re-erection of the billiard tables. The billiard room boys assisted greatly at this time and waited patiently while Phil Tarrant did an excellent job with the re-erection.

On reflection, the extraction was painless, the patient lived, and the Committee takes this opportunity to thank all those involved in the operation.

GREEN-FINGERED STAN AND HIS BAND.

Those of you who have remarked on the well-kept gardens and lawns around our entrance will probably be aware of our debt to Stan Chamberlin and his assistants who have worked long and hard in the maintenance of this area and of the two greenhouses. Well done, fellas!

In an attempt to upgrade the garden, we are inviting all members to donate one plant each which may be of the pot or garden variety. Those giving pot plants may wish to paint their name on the pot so that during future visits to the Club, they may inspect the progress or otherwise of their particular plant. If half the members assist in this manner, we shall have gardens to rival any in Bendigo.

DOUG'S DOWNFALL.

Head steward Doug Roberts was confidently predicting, as he went on holidays, that the shift to new premises would not occur during his absence. Our champion raffle ticket seller, and doyen of country punters, was persuaded to accept the challenge so Doug's return to an empty Bull Street was not a pleasant end to his vacation. J. S. was quite cheerful, however.

NEIGHBOURS AND NOISE.

Being now located in a residential area, we owe our neighbours some consideration regarding noise, etc.

While it is probably not necessary to remind the gentlemen of the Club about these matters, a brief list of DONT'S follows:-

- DO NOT (1) be noisy entering or leaving the Club, particularly late at night.
 - (2) drive too fast in the surrounding streets.
 - (3) leave any type of rubbish in the area.
 - (4) park in the street there is plenty of room in the Club's car park.

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MEMBERSHIP.

Nominations have continued to roll in since the last bulletin and membership at the end of the financial year (APRIL) was an all time high of 791, 102 more than at the end of last November. Present monthly average, which shows no sign of slackening, is 25 - 30 and, at this rate we expect that membership will close sometime during the forthcoming financial year. This will depend upon three factors:-

- (1) Membership limit approved by the Liquor Control Commission - we have applied for 1500.
- (2) Committee's decision on proportion of Associate Members - likely to be about 20% of total approved.
- (3) How many members fail to renew their subs.

Don't wait too long before you nominate that friend who has been asking.

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Father watching his Daughter select the most expensive wedding gown. "I don't mind giving you away, but must I gift wrap you?"

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ON VISITORS:

Some of the constitutional amendments adopted at the recent Special Meeting are of particular importance to members and their guests. The relevant clauses are explained below for your information.

You may introduce a visitor into the Club subject to:

(a) he/she may not enter more than twice per month or twelve times in any one year, unless he/she is your spouse or fiancee.

(b) the visitors good conduct is your responsibility.

the relevant entry must be made in the visitors book and signed by yourself, before the visitor enters the premises.

(d) the visitor must remain in your party whilst on

the premises.

(e) should you wish to leave and the visitor wish to stay, you must ask another member to accept responsibility before you leave.

COMMISSION CRACKS DOWN ON VISITORS.

The early months of this year saw the results of a severe crack-down on licensed Clubs by the Liquor Control Commission. At least two large Melbourne Clubs had their licences temporarily suspended and many others warned to mend their ways under penalty of similar consequences.

In both cases of suspension, the major reason was the failure of the Clubs concerned to adequately police the Commission's requirements concerning visitors. Licencing inpsectors had been able to enter unchallenged (as visitors) and many visitors had been on the premises more often than members.

The suspension of its licence is about the worst thing that can happen to a club as all trading must cease completely. In an attempt to avoid a similar occurrence here, your Committee has arranged for locks to be fitted to both front and rear doors and members will be issued with their own key, as they pay their subscription for the forthcoming year. Should you come to the Club without your key, then you must ring the bell, attract a steward or committee man, and be shown to be a member, before admittance will be allowed. We look forward to your support to ensure the workability of this system.

B.T.B. SMASH REPAIRS

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DUCOING



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By



CLAUDIE TOO GOOD.

Claudie Little showed his class with the long stick when he won both the Billiards Championship and Snooker Championship against the best in the Club. In billiards, Laurie Draper provided strong competition and Jack Phillips pushed Claudie to the limit in snooker. Well done, champ!

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SATURDAY TRADING.

Some members may not be aware that the Club has, in response to requests, extended it's Saturday trading hours and is now open from 11.30 a.m. till 11.45 p.m.

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HEATING THE CLUB.

At this time (early May), the Committee is considering alternative methods of providing suitable, effective, and efficient heating of all social areas within the premises. We would hope that when you are reading this, the decision will have been long made and the system installed. Which ever method is chosen, the Club will have spent well over \$1,000 to ensure the comfort of members during the winter months.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

Until our Constitutional amendments are approved by the Liquor Control Commission, we are unable to accept Associate Members. This approval should be granted any time now.

WANTED

ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE BENDIGO CLUB

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``

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Jim Daly performed a near perfect ballet pose after one exciting shot at the snooker table. Trouble was, Jim did not have his ballet shoes that night and the floor was not the only thing shaken by the resulting crash.

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Speaking in support of his motion to the recent Special Meeting, Syl Doyle got quite a reaction from his comment that " girls under 21 do not have the necessary equipment".

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Stan Leach had his ups and downs following one of our Friday efforts. Stan was quite pleased to score a prize but the excitement must have been too much and Stan headed to Parliament House, prize in hand. Maybe Stan lost concentration, but, whatever the cause, his grip relaxed and the prize, a bottle of Black Tulip, crashed down on one of those earthenware articles which normally accommodate the posterior. Black Tulip all over the floor? No! One less earthenwear article and one red faced club member.

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ANNUAL MEETING.

As the coming Annual Meeting is the first to be held in our new premises, we would hope that a large attendance will reflect the increased interest of members in the affairs of their Club.

Our assets are about \$200,000, liabilities about \$80,000, and trading about \$50,000. Income from nominations and subscriptions alone will probably be close to \$20,000 this coming year.

The Club is now BIG BUSINESS. New and exciting plans are being formulated. Come along to the Annual Meeting and hear all about it.

PETER HUTHNANCE

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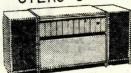
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NATIONAL BANK TRAVEL SERVICE

79 Mitchell Street, Bendigo Telephone: 43 6608 43 9086 WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BUILDING ALTERATIONS?

Most of you were aware of the plans which the Committee had proposed would form the basis of the alterations to our new premises and you are probably wondering why nothing has eventuated.

Early this year, the Club called tenders for these alterations and, after much difficulty, a number of tenders were received. These varied between \$80,000 and \$100,000, these sums were considerably in excess of the architect's estimate.

After deliberation, the Committee declined to accept these tenders and is currently developing alternative proposals.

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SPORTING NOTES.

We are in the process of attempting to organize teams to represent the Club in various forms of local sport and would be pleased to hear from any members who would like to participate for the Club, in any of the following:-

Ten Pin Bowls (1)

- Snooker and Billiards (2)
- Tennis (3)
- Table Tennis (4)
- (5) Darts
- Carpet Bowls (6)

Squash and Badminton (7)

Whilst we recognize that each sport has differing requirements we intend to sponsor any team fielded in the Club's name.

Any interested members should contact Alan Power for further information.

ENJOY YOURSELF

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welcome.

411-417 Hargreaves St. BENDIGO. Phone: 43 9633

Our Club Anthem could well be sung to the tune of "where have all the flowers gone". The first refrain could start:

Where do all our members go, Not to Woodbury. Seriously though, for a club with a membership in excess of 800, patronage can best be described as pretty poor. We now have the best premises of any club in Bendigo and intend to improve our facilities to a point where we can hold our own with any in Victoria. To do this we need a substantial increase in patronage as this will achieve two things:-

- (1) more profit to finance the intended improvements
- (2) indicate to the committee that members want a club with better facilities.

In comparison to our previous premises, we now have a palace. Show it off to your family and friends - enjoy the companionship of other members whenever you drop in. Remember, there is no need to sit alone in our club - join any group and you will be made welcome. For those who haven't yet been out, the following list may be of interest. We have:

- (1) Ample parking
- (2) Attractive outdoor garden area (soon to be licenced)
- (3) Spacious and comfortable mixed lounge with ample bar length.
- (4) Billiard room with two full-sized tables under first class lighting.
- (5) Pool Table
- (6) T.V. Room
- (7) Card Room
- (8) Snack facilities
- (9) Regular mid-week dinner dances
- (10) Saturday night socials

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CHILDREN IN THE CLUB.

During the recent visit by some Commissioners of the Liquor Control Commission, we were advised that the Commission preferred the exclusion of children from drinking areas in licenced Clubs. Consequently, the Committee decided to limit children to the TV room (just inside the main entrance) and then only until 8 p.m.

However, the need to provide a better spot for the pool table and dart board led the Committee to evaluate the TV room as a possibility and because of the very small use it has received, the decision was made to exclude children from the Club at all times and to use the room for pool table and darts. We hope this will not be an inconvenience.

TRANSFERS AND RESIGNATIONS

Vic Sheather's send-off in January was well attended by many friends. Vic, a club stalwart for many years, retired from the Police Force and has taken up residence in Bairnsdale.

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Noel Beaton, former Labor parliamentarian, moved to Albury in March after being appointed to a senior position in the local Development Commission. The Club wishes Noel every success in his new venture.

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John Goyne, a member for the past 18 years, submitted his resignation to the April committee meeting and will, by this time, have headed for his new position in Queensland. John always took an active interest in club affairs and will be greatly missed, particularly by the billiardroom boys.

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One of the unfortunate aspects of the move from Bull St. is the loss of members like Sid Quill. Sid, at 83, is probably our oldest member and owing to difficulty with transport, has submitted his resignation. The Saturday morning patrons, in particular, will be sorry to hear this.

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SHADES OF RIPLEY!

Club regulars were amazed when informed that bookie member (renowned for being a point or two under the ring), had displayed top odds all through a recent meeting. Questioned further, the informant admitted that our man had been the only fielder that day. Mystery solved.

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Dart enthusiasts have shown some club spirit in their support for our new dart baord. A goodly number weighed in with the necessary to ensure the purchase of a top class board. Thanks, fellas!

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Mid-week Dinner Dance Boys at play



BOWLS ENTHUSIASTS.

Our friendly rivalry with the Sandhurst Club in lawn bowls has continued over the years and is an event in which we must be as well represented as possible.

Jack Hains, "convenor" of our team, is always on the look-out for extra starters and has asked that any member who would be interested in having their name added to his list, contact Jack in the club at their earliest opportunity, or leave a note with the Stewards.

In these social events, enthusiasm often counts for more than expertise. Participants invariably have a most enjoyable time and budding bowlers are urged to "take the plunge".

PARKING.

On our busier nights, the parking area at the front fills very quickly and members are reminded that a large parking area is available at the rear of the premises with easy access to the Club through the rear door. Further parking is available in the block fronting Park St. but remember to keep away from the low side in wet weather as it becomes very soft.

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RECIPROCAL CLUBS.

Members visiting other cities and towns are urged to take advantage of the reciprocal arrangements which we have available. As a member of the Bendigo Club, you are entitled (upon production of your current membership card) to enter any of the clubs named on your card at any time during their normal trading hours, subject to occasional limitations with some clubs, eg., with Carlton Football Club Social Club, you cannot enter on days of "home"

Over the years, your Committees have been very selective in making these reciprocal arrangements and you can be sure that any Club named in the list, will provide first-

class facilities.

Should you, during your travels, have been invited into a Club which is not on our list but, in your opinion, should be, do not hesitate to mention this to any of the Committee and we will endeavour to make the necessary arrangement.

NORTHERN OFFSET PRINTING BENDIGO