



# THE CHOOK PEN

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

[www.nbcsportsclub.com.au](http://www.nbcsportsclub.com.au)

Edition 21



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## Vale Harold Stott

It was with great sadness that we recently learnt of the passing of Harold Stott. "The Mayor of Constitution Hill" as he was affectionately known, lost a long battle with illness and passed away on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> march.

Harold was the side manager of the Grade 1 Northmead team from 2004 until 2010 and was one of the great characters.

Harold was greatly respected by all that knew him, always had a well-meaning piece of advice and enjoyed stirring up bowlers no end.

On a trip to The Entrance in 2005 with the Grade 1 team to the State Finals, Harold gathered all the boys around for what they all thought was a motivational speech only to have Harold hand out two condoms to each of them, despite the average age of the side being in their mid 60's.

Few will forget his legendary clashes with opposition players and side managers, all designed to put them off their game. In fact, he played a major part in the 2005 Grade 1 Zone Pennant win after he got under the skin of a couple of the Merrylands "Stars", which he loved to call them. They began driving at shadows and 'H' taunted one of them with the classic line "that bloke wouldn't hit water if he fell out of a boat".

He always took a keen interest in new bowlers and in particular those he thought had real potential. He often played social bowls with new players and was always on hand to offer encouragement and advice.

One of the great memories of the Tuesday Social bowls were the days that Harold would arrive with the scallops and hand them out to his mates. If you offered to pay for them you were sweet, however if you took one and never offered, that was it, you were in the book forever.

RIP Harold Stott.

# "Presidents Message"



Hi everyone and welcome to our autumn edition of Chook pen.

Well we're in the home straight in the Men's Pennant season and we have 5 teams still in contention for Zone playoffs which is a credit to our players, selectors, side managers, and coaches. If like me, your team is out of contention or you've been bumped out of your team to make way for a stronger player, keep your commitment as it's teamwork we need from you now so give it your best shot!

The Ladies grade one, two and four have completed their pennant and grade three have two games left to play and are on top of the ladder. Unfortunately grade three is our only chance to win a flag and we wish the ladies the best over the next two weeks. I would also like to congratulate Cheryl Thompson, Joy Dennis, Roz Clarke & Carmel Byrne on winning the Senior District Fours.

With the support of our member's raffle and additional sponsorships secured, an order has now been placed by Brett to complete the purchase of a new club uniform and it's our plan that our pennant finalists will be the first players to wear this new uniform in the State playoffs.

I've been asked why we need a new club uniform and my answer is this. The club has just completed a brand recognition strategy with the NBC Sports Club logo representing our Bowling, Community and Sports identity. The new colours are taken from our roots with the Parramatta District (blue & gold) but retain our traditional colours green, gold and white.

Finally, our original pocket emblem is retained but the Rooster tag we play under has had a make-over to show his real strength so I hope all members support the new club uniform.

Elsewhere in this Chook pen we will advertise the names of some small business people, "our club sponsors" and I would like to take this opportunity to urge every one of our bowls players (men and women) to consider these sponsors when next you are out purchasing goods and services.

We've recently acquired a new sponsor TYREKING. Sean Gerard is a local small business operator and his business provides just about every type of automotive service available including his signature business of everything Tyres.

Sean has just agreed to become our naming sponsor for the Men's Major Singles title which means we have been able to substantially increase the prize money for this year's winner and runner-up.

You all know that we are a club that relies on the spending of own members to support our club's social and sporting amenities and likewise, we can only retain the support of our

sponsors like Sean by recognising them and supporting their businesses so take advantage of the offer in this edition and make sure you tell them their sponsorship is appreciated.

Members Forum – Don't forget this event has been moved to Monday, 11th May.

Regards

Norm Muir

President

## Guess Who, Don't Sue

Who is the bowler that recently went away on a bowling trip and got up close and personal with a refrigerator?

Who was the bowler that thought it would be a good idea to walk into a sponsorship lunch meeting and show the Bowls Manager and Operations Manager his broken Zipper on his bowls trousers? The managers were trying to seal the deal when they were exposed the bowlers coloured undies.

Who was the bowler that was refused entry into a high class quality establishment on a recent pennant trail at Warners Bay? The bowler went back to his room and kept the party going.

Also on the same trip to Warners Bay who was the bowler that was caught studding the form guide at the pub at 1am in the morning? So impressed the boys thought they would go and see what form he was studding only to find him asleep with his head in the form guide.

Who was the manager that recently gave his three points to a player in a completely different grade on a completely different green? It is no wonder the bowls manager is entering the points weekly.

Who is the bowler that will do anything for a game of bowls? The bowler was seen rolling up on Friday in the pouring rain even after social bowls was called off.

Who was the bowler that recently showed up to the recent Easter bowls tournament only to find out he forgot to enter his team?

## 295 Years Young

They may have told you that they were the under dogs and that they did not have a skip but for anybody that was at Northmead Bowling Club to witness the Major Fours you could be forgiven for thinking you were not watching the Australian Lawn Bowls Team. With 295 years of experience and fire in the belly to prove to the selectors they still have what it takes to play top grade the boys started off their campaign with a bye and a classy second round 23-12 victory over the inform Len Joyner team.

The Prince of Malta "Mick Debono" had returned to the nest and had teamed up with John Farr, Mick Kelly & Kurt Mottek to try and stamp their mark on the Major Fours title. Debono made light work of the newly recruited lower grade skip Rick Gordon and his side of Bob McIntosh, Mick Morris and Ron Findlay 28-12. The prince of Malta than lined up against another new recruit and big gun Keith Smith. Smith had Don Strickland, David Banasiak & Bruce Coggins who overcame a very good Rod Gordon team 20-19 in the first round. Debono got off to a great start against Smith and played some big bowls to save some crucial ends. Smith could not bridge the gap and the Prince of Malta went on for a comfortable victory 19-11.

In the other Semi-final Spurway was taking on the newly appointed bowls co-ordinator Brett Hughes. Hughes teamed up with Trevor Imer, John Morehead & Bob Holt. Hughes was left high and dry when he received an email from Imer 2 days before the event telling him he and his wife were looking at buying a caravan and traveling Australia so it would be in his best interest of both parties if he played at Merrylands. Hughes is still trying to work out why buying a caravan and travelling Australia means you have to leave and play at another club especially when you have committed to playing Championships with club members. Hughes subbed Imer as is the new conditions of play with Michael Lombardi. Spurway's teamed continued where they left off against Len Joyner pumping Hughes and his team 27-15.

Spurway and his team were quick to claim the underdog tag but we all new if they played to their ability they would be hard to beat. Spurway turned it on in the finals and Debono's side had no answer as they were but to the sword by "Dads Army". Spurway claimed the title with a 20-8 victory. Well done boys.

## Gordon Steers Side to Victory



The David Swindial Fours is always a popular event at Northmead Bowling Club and with some new recruits at the club this year we attracted 15 teams. The event is a graded Championship with each team needing 15 points or more to enter a team. If you play grade one pennant you are worth 1 point, if you play grade seven you are worth 7 points.

Gordon teamed up with John Farr, Dick Wallace and Allan Murrow but they also had a secret weapon in team manager Richard Freeman who organised Wallace after Gordon had booked his long lost cousin Rick Gordon only to find he was already in another team.

Gordon had to play one of Northmead's legends in Kurt Mottek who had teamed up with Harvey Platt, John Rogers & Trevor Giblin. Although Mottek played some great shots Gordon's team had little trouble accounting for Motteks team running away with a 25-15 victory.

The second round was an even bigger victory for Gordon who was playing Mick Newell who was the only team who received a bye. Newell teamed up with Steve Pace, Richard Freeman & Stan Morgan. Newell was positive Freeman was playing for Gordon's team as he claimed victory 23-10.

The Semi-final was to prove a harder game but Gordon had hit some form and with his second Dick Wallace on fire they were going to be hard to beat. Their opponents in the Semi-final was John Morehead, Bob Holt, John Spurway & Max Eades. It was an entertaining game but Gordon and Wallace took the game out of reach with some precise bowls and earned their side a 26-6 victory.

In the final Gordon was to take on his boss and new recruit Keith Smith. I'm sure Smith would have been doing some great sledging and would have some lovely jobs lined up for Gordon if he was to play too good. Smith teamed up with Graeme Callaghan, Barry Logan and Robert Cochrane and they had some good wins along to the final accounting for the teams of Damian Zoeller & Ken Brown. Gordon was a stand out in the final closely followed by Dick Wallace. Smith's team tried hard but had no answers with Gordon claiming the title with a 19-10 victory.

## Debono & Hughes Major Pairs Champions



Brett Hughes and Mick Debono have taken out the Major Pairs Championship in style with a comprehensive win over Shayne Garvin and Kevin Cooper in the final. A couple of phone calls from Hughes to Debono late in 2014 asking him to come back to NBC Sports Club and play the Club Pairs paid off as the two players have struck a good combination in 2015.

Hughes and Debono started their campaign on a Sunday morning after a heavy night of drinking and dancing to Jelly Bean Jam until the early hours of the morning and it didn't stop there as Hughes and his entourage kept the party alive back at Debonos place. Debono was so happy because he had asked his beautiful partner Nicole to marry him in front of the large crowd at NBC Sports Club and to the surprise of many she accepted. The pair lined up against Bob McIntosh & Ron Findlay with Hughes sending the Maltese Prince up the other end to skip as he was struggling to see the other end (a decision that turned out to be a master stroke). The boys got off to a great start and quickly ran away with the game 32-9.

The second round was sure to be a classic battle with the pair taking on John Farr and Michael Lombardi. The game was tight for the first few ends but Debono played a cracker to take Farr out of the head and make 5 shots. There was no turning back as Debono and Hughes won the game 21-12.

In the quarter final Debono and Hughes lined up against the inform pair of Shane Partridge and Steve Inglis. After an equal start Hughes and Debono showed why they were the favourites tearing through the opposition 24-9 before Inglis declared the game over with 4 ends to play.

Mick Kelly and Kurt Mottek were waiting in the wings as Debonos next opponent in the Semi-final and they were not going to be a walk over. The scores stayed very close with only a couple of shots separating the teams. A couple of good shots from Debono was the difference going on to win 17-14.

The final was played against new recruits Kevin Cooper and Shayne Garvin in front of a large crowd at NBC Sports Club. Unfortunately Cooper and Garvin ran into a red hot team. Hughes and Debono claiming the title 31-7.

## Northmead Make Final of Zone 10 Fours



The Northmead team of Mick Kelly, Andrew Chapman, Mick Debono & Brett Hughes competed extremely well to make the final of the Zone 10 Fours but were no match for the classy Merrylands side skipped by South African International Neil Burkett.

In the first round Northmead came up against David Casonato from Merrylands and the boys put in a solid first up performance

to come away with a 21-15 victory. In the second round Northmead played a team from Denistone Skipped by Peter Henry and they were inside to watch the 5<sup>th</sup> race at Rosehill with Henry calling it quits at 25-2 with 8 ends remaining.

The Northmead boys were not getting ahead of themselves as Craig Maythers and the Wenty boys were there next opponents. Mick Kelly was in sensational form and got the Northmead boys off to a great start and by the 8<sup>th</sup> end Chapman had found his line and length and it was turning into a great contest up front. On the 18<sup>th</sup> end Hughes sat the opposition bowl through the head and stay to claim 4 shots and that remained the difference in the game 20-16.

The final of the section was played against John Leonard and was always one way traffic in favour of the Northmead boys. Leonard tried hard but was unable to do any serious damage against the consistent bowling from Hughes and his team. Northmead won the section final 28-11.

The Semi-final saw the Northmead boy's line up against the Merrylands teams skipped by former Australian International Tom Ellem. Under pressure early Hughes played 5 of the best ends you will ever see to take his team out to an early lead. Hughes knew they would have to play well as Ellem would not go down without a fight. Ellen picked up a 5 to make the score all even going into the last end. The Northmead boys got an early shot and that's the way it stayed with Ellem failing to convert and Northmead winning 23-22.

In the Final it was again all one way traffic with the Merrylands team of Gareth Lewis, Mason Lewis, Michael Clarke & Neil Burkett dominating from start to finish to win 30-6. Burkett did say he was glad he was not playing the Northmead boys tomorrow as bowls is a funny game and the scores could easily be reversed.



## Favourites bundled out of 2015 Tyre King Major Singles

NBC Sports Club is very excited to have Sean Gerard and Tyre King on board as the Major Sponsor for our 2015 Major Singles. The highly anticipated event has even more interest now as the prize money has now risen to \$1,000.00 to the winner and \$500.00 to the runner up thanks to Sean Gerard and Tyre King.

Also introduced this year was the first ever 2015 Tyre King Major Singles Calcutta that brought a lot of interest from all over Australia. The Calcutta was held on a Saturday night after pennants with the starting pool at \$678.00.

As expected the club was a full house with standing room only. All the big punters had arrived from all parts of the world to take part in this prestigious event. When the limousine arrived out the front and the Sheik and his entourage jumped out we all knew they were here to buy the prince of Malta "Mick Debono". As the players were sold you could tell that there was going to be a bidding war for our finest bowlers.



As expected it was the Prince of Malta going for \$350 closely followed by Keith Smith for \$300 and Brett Hughes for \$160. The good news for most punters is that the top three money men have all been knocked out after the weekends play. That's right the top three seeds were bundled out early. We are now down to the Final and one of the favourites, the Milky Bar Kid "Kurt Mottek" chasing his 9<sup>th</sup> Major Singles title at NBC Sports Club. Kurt was brought by Graeme Callaghan in the Calcutta. Another favourite would have to be the giant killer Billy Harkins who defeated the Prince of Malta. Billy Harkins was brought by Andrew Sutton for \$50 in the Calcutta and his words were that is a steal for a quality player like "Billy the Kid". However, Stuart Dorahy, winner in 2013 will take on Mottek in Sunday's Final. Game starts at 1pm with limited tickets available.

## Upcoming events

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May Pennant Round 8

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May Club Triples Round 1 & 2.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May Pennant Round 9

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May (No Bowls Mother's Day)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May Pennants Round 10

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May Club Triples Quarter & Semi-Final

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May Regional Women's Pennant Play Off

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May Regional Women's Pennant Play Off

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May Zone 10 Pennant Final's

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May Club Triples Final

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May Novice Singles Entries Close

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 6 NBC Triples Tournament

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June Novice Singles Round 1 & 2

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June Novice Singles Semi-Final & Final



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## Friday Morning Social Bowls

If you are looking for another game of social bowls to get prepared for Saturday pennants, look no further than Friday Social Bowls which kicks off at 10am.

The competition has been running for a couple of months now and is getting near on 20 players each week.

Some of the biggest names in bowls have been regulars, with Kenny Brown and Billy Allen on deck each Friday.

Green Fees are \$7, with \$1 going towards the weekly jackpot.

It is a single name entry, with the sheet on the notice board and names must be in by COB Thursday.

## **Northmead Prepare for Zone 10 Pennant Finals**

The strategic planning from the board of directors to promote bowls at Northmead has paid dividends in the 2015 pennant season with an influx of players allowing us to fill 7 competitive pennant grades.

Our 2/1's have been a bit disappointing this year considering the amount of talent we have recruited. Although currently sitting in second spot we have no chance of catching Merrylands who are undefeated. It will take time to get the players to gel as a unit but if we can keep the same players next year I'm sure we will continue to improve as a unit.

Our 2/2's have been a real surprise package this year. The selectors have made a point to try and make each team competitive but the 2/2's have often copped the lower grade players to protect our other grades why they are performing well. Our 2/2's are currently third in their section but just one win from first place. With two rounds remaining we must win both games and hope results go our way.

The grade 3 pennant team has been outstanding all year in a very hard grade. We suffered our first defeat last week at the hands of Denistone Sports Club which will bring us back to earth. With three rounds remaining we are looking good at this stage.

Our grade 4 pennant team is locked in equal leader with The Hills Bowling Club. We have had a few players missing which has really made it hard for us the past two weeks but if we can get our best team on the paddock we will give it a shake.

Our grade 5 pennant team were in it for a long way but suffered a one shot loss to Dural Country Club that would hurt their season. Another loss the following week and absent players have been a major factor. Although the season has gone the boys are still keen to knock a few teams from the top of the ladder.

Our 7/2's are on fire and lead there section by six points. They have been undefeated and are looking the goods. Selector Mal Keys has been a valuable asset to the selection committee with his valuable knowledge of the lower grade players. With two games remaining it is all practice for the finals.

Our 7/1's are in a great position also undefeated and four points clear of their nearest rivals. They look set to skip straight into the Zone 10 final and will play the winner of section one and three.

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