

I begin today by acknowledging the Kauna people, traditional custodians of the land where we meet today and pay my respect to their elders past and present.

Men's singles champion

9 April 2022



I welcome the presence today of David Godfrey, representing the Godfrey family; Greg Ferris, General President; Dino De Corso, Bowls President; committee members; life members; fellow members and guests.

While I was very pleased and very honoured to win the men's singles championship this year, I did not expect to be standing here giving a speech. However, it has given me the opportunity to reflect on my own journey, the club's history, its successes, and why we are members of Tranmere Bowling Club.

Firstly, a little about myself. My first introduction to bowls was when a former Tranmere member, Mark G'Angelico, invited me here to the club many years ago. However, all he did was give me his bowls, told me to go and have a roll-up, and then went inside the club to drink! If he had spent time on the green with me, I could easily have started bowling much earlier and at Tranmere.... or perhaps not, as at the time I thought bowls was just a game for "old fogies"!

Instead, many years later, I started playing bowls at Walkerville – playing night owls and attending coaching clinics run by Colin Whyte. In 2009, I played my first pennant game at Walkerville after Colin encouraged me to do so, telling me I was good enough. I responded by telling him, and others, that I thought I was good enough to go on and win their club championship. It took longer than I thought. Not doing it at Walkerville but managing to achieve that goal at Tranmere this year after playing my first pennant game here on 9 December 2015.

Now you will hear from the serious, humbler Doug!!

This past pennant season has been extremely challenging for Tranmere due to members not playing because they had Covid, were a close contact or didn't want to risk getting Covid and/or passing it on to loved ones. As a result, there were times we had to forfeit teams.

Yet despite that, we managed to complete the season. We, unfortunately, had one team relegated, had sides play in the finals and we had our ladies' Premier side win their grand final after drawing at the end of the stipulated number of ends and having to play an extra end. Well done ladies. It was a huge achievement to win a Premier League competition and I believe, a first for our club.

If I may quote a passage from our website:
"Around the clubrooms, there are many Club Honour Boards, shields, cups, pennant flags, and plaques. They remember and honour the many members who have served as office-bearers. They also acknowledge those members who have achieved individual success with the club's many house championships and success awards for tennis and bowls. What cannot be seen is that so many members have given so much of their time to contribute to the progress and success of Tranmere as a sports and community Club".

I quoted these words because, in my opinion, it summarises why this club is so attractive to all of us. This year many members not only fulfilled their normal roles but also undertook significant other duties. Let me quickly summarise some of the tasks required to keep Tranmere functioning:

- * General Committee overseeing bowls & tennis
- * Bowls Committee
- * Maintenance of our buildings and greens
- * Game day preparation of greens
- * Cleaning
- * Kitchen stocking and afternoon tea preparation
- * Bar stocking, cleaning, and serving
- * Team selections
- * Entering teams and results onto the MBA website
- * Maintaining and updating our website
- * Organising club tournaments & club championships
- * Organising social bowls
- * Organising Night Owls
- * Coaching
- * Time spent by individuals training as coaches, umpires, measurers, first aid officers, Covid marshalls and for the responsible service of alcohol etc

To all who have undertaken these duties, I thank you on behalf of all of us who have participated in bowls this year. I give a special thank you to all involved in selection. It is a difficult task at any time, but this year was made especially difficult due to Covid, with many changes having to be made including in the morning of game days.

I note that the average age of our membership continues to rise, which happens to be good for us as individuals. However, for Tranmere to continue to progress and be successful, we all need to help recruit and develop younger players. This I see as our club's major challenge going forward.

In closing, I am both thrilled and honoured to have won the men's singles championship and to have my name added alongside many fine bowlers on the Harry Godfrey trophy. I also congratulate John Diestel-Feddersen, whose name will also be added as the runner-up. We had a very good game and I certainly had to fight for the win.

I also congratulate all other winners and runners-up and thank all members who entered the championship events.

I am very honoured to stand here today. Thank you.

Doug Jewels
Men's singles champion

