



Irene Bowling Club Newsletter

NO. 6, 6 June 2010

Revised 7 June 2010

I sent out the following Newsletter No.6 to all members yesterday (6 June), but this morning Claude informed me that I had made a mistake with regard to the instructions about paying money to Godfrey for the restoration of the banks on the upper green. So I have revised that part of the Newsletter in accordance with Claude's correction.

The last newsletter (No. 5) was sent out on 10 May, so the interval between the two newsletters is rather short. BUT THIS LETTER IS RATHER DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS ONES, AS IT REQUESTS A RESPONSE FROM MEMBERS:

- 1) To help raise money towards repairing the banks on the upper green**
- 2) To attend a meeting on Wednesday 9 June after bowls if you have any thoughts on the best way to rehabilitate the banks.**

This flows from June's Management Report by the Mark Wilshire Golf group, who have taken over the Management of the Irene Country Club. I think that most, if not all of us have been aware of this development, and a number of copies of their April report were circulated in our clubhouse. We have been hearing about this for some time, but now finally the event has arrived! To quote from their June report "the entire management team has started officially," with the aim of making "Irene Country Club the best facility in Pretoria with service and a sporting experience that we can all be proud of." They have ordered new uniforms for the staff and created a priority list of things to do. This includes improving the "halfway house flow and menus," the entrance gate to the club, and "tidying up the entrance road including the corner of Nellmapius Drive and Main Road." Bowlers will be particularly pleased to hear that plans are afoot to upgrade the sports shop "to include items relevant to all sporting codes." There has also been a recognition that in the kitchen "a vast improvement on the general hygiene is required."

So things are on the move. Carel has been appointed to look after our greens, and we have over the weekend had contact with Emile Bernhard, who is the Sports Director. Those of you who played bowls over the weekend may well have seen him wandering about examining various facilities around our clubhouse. Claude introduced him to the bowlers at teatime on Saturday, and Emile expressed concern at the state of the banks on the Daly (upper green) and said that management considered this as a priority. He had

undertaken a costing exercise and the material alone for the rehabilitation of the banks would be about R10,000. The cost of doing the actual work was not included as Claude had indicated that the bowlers would be responsible for this themselves.

IT IS AS THIS POINT THAT BOWLERS SHOULD PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION:

Emile indicated that Management did not expect the bowlers to pay the full amount for the repair of the banks, but that they should demonstrate their good faith by raising at least part of the cost – no specific figure was mentioned but there was a general indication that if we could raise about R3,000 this would prove our bona fides to Management and they would give the go ahead.

Danie Spangenberg immediately donated R100 - this was a great start. Other members both yesterday and at tea this morning (Sunday) indicated by a show of hands that they would be happy to contribute. We can do this! For example, if 30 bowlers were able to each contribute R100 this would give us the R3,000. Or if 60 of our 110 members each contributed R50, we could reach our goal. The initial response has been very encouraging, so the purpose of this letter is to inform all members that they may make contributions via Godfrey in the bar. Tell Godfrey you wish to give money towards the banks account and the receipt he issues should reflect “Fundraising.” Write on the receipt “Banks account” and ask Godfrey to keep the receipt for Claude, who will than keep a record of the fund. It is a case of all contributions being gratefully accepted! Whatever you can spare, helps to get us there.

ONE OTHER POINT. When Emile was outlining the cost of replacing the banks, members who were present queried the amount of R10,000, and suggested alternative plans for the repair work to be done. Various ideas and thoughts have been bandied about, and Claude has asked all those who have thoughts on the matter to meet after bowls on Wednesday (9 June) for a discussion on what we should do.

On the bowling front there is not much to report. In the office Megan is now in charge of finances, so any queries about membership should in future be directed to Michelle, who has taken over this function.

Ian Terry, a social member of the club, has joined the bowls section, while Eugene Gilliland has resigned as a full member to join Zwartkop, although he will remain a dual member of Irene with the intention of playing social bowls on Sundays. Hester remains a full member at Irene.

Go well, and remember when you deliver a bowl the large icon should be on the outside and the little icon on the inside. This is very important. If anyone has valuable tips like this please pass them on to me. Goodness knows I need them!

Ken Smith