



Jackhi

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am fully aware of the responsibility that is attached to the position of State President of the Royal Western Australian Bowling Association. I appreciate the honour that has been bestowed upon me. I can assure you all that throughout the next two years I will perform the duties associated with the position responsibly and to the very best of my ability, devoting whatever time it takes to do whatever has to be done.

Congratulations to the recently elected members of the Executive, Allan O'Shannassy, Bill Fitzgerald, Lou Meredith and Wally Clark. I am confident that in conjunction with the other 13 experienced Executive members they will work co-operatively and conscientiously in administering lawn bowls in this State.

By the time this issue of Jack Hi reaches the clubs we will have completed the Lawn Bowls Open Week exercise. To my knowledge this is the first time in Australia that such an intense bowls publicity and promotions programme has been attempted on a State wide basis. I have been greatly

encouraged by the way in which clubs have accepted the opportunity that has been offered by distributing thousands of the leaflet "Welcome to the Club" and introducing visitors to the game. Reports already being received, and I write in the middle of "Open Week", indicate that the project will have been worthwhile. The sponsorship of the Home Building Society, The Bowls Shop (Victoria Park and Wembley), and The W.A. Ladies Bowling Association was vital to the success of this programme and on behalf of the Association I thank them.

It is becoming apparent that some of our Association



THEO JOEL
Pres. R.W.A.B.A.

events will need careful reviewing before next season. Insufficient nominations resulted in the cancellation of the Mixed Fours and the postponement of the Mixed Pairs. The Sumpton, Lawrence and Dickenson Trophy events marking the official opening of the season were successfully completed despite one or two hiccups along the way, such as late withdrawals and the non-availability of greens. The satisfactory number of entries received and the spectator interest shown in the finals played at Cannington on 29th September, would seem to justify the continuation of this event. These are matters that Metropolitan Regional Committees could profitably discuss.

The pursuit of excellence, the provision of high levels of competition and the development of finely honed skills to enable champions to be identified is as important to the game of lawn bowls as it is to any other major sport. In recent years the Association has made considerable progress in this respect. The encouragement, the provision of opportunities and the assistance given to those aspiring to State selection has been considerable. State and Country Week Championships have been upgraded both in format and rewards.

The metropolitan first division pennant format, the Under 40 Two Bowls Singles, the Golden West Coast Classic and the National Dewars Championship of State Champions are other events which provide competition at the highest level and I believe we must continue to maintain the highest standards in regard to this aspect of the sport.

I am also firmly of the opinion that as an Association we should now be giving more attention to the "grass roots" level of our sport. The work of the Umpires Committee, the Greens Improvement Project Committee and the Coaching Panel are important in this respect and must be encouraged. The concept of "Open Week", and the introduction of guest speakers on Presidents' and Secretaries' night dealing with two pertinent topics, Insurance and Sponsorship, are a part of this pattern that I would like to see developed.

While it is not possible to be present at every club function for which invitations are received, I will make every endeavour, if invited, to attend personally or be represented by an Executive member where the club, be it in the metropolitan area or the country, has not received a recent official visit or if the occasion is significant.

I make a special plea to club Presidents and Secretaries to encourage their members to wear name badges when involved in pennants or open events. This used to be a common practice and adds much to the development of camaraderie and fellowship. Regretfully of late this custom is being ignored by many bowlers. Let's do what we can to revive it.

Good bowling and your fair share of good fortune for the coming bowling season.

THEO JOEL
President

COVER PICTURE

THEO JOEL — Pres. R.W.A.B.A.

Theo Joel, a retired school principal, took up the game of bowls some twenty five years ago when he was posted to a school in Coorow.

On his transfer to Perth in 1965 he joined Hollywood Bowling Club and for the past 15 years has served on the management committee at Hollywood.

He was club president from 1974-76 and delegate to the Council of Representatives from 1972-86.

Theo was elected to the State Executive as the Metropolitan representative in 1977, serving in this capacity for nine years and as Chairman of the Rules and Zoning committee for five years.

As Tournament Director, he was responsible for the mammoth task of organising the ABC National Championships held in Western Australia in 1985. Theo was elected vice President of the R.W.A.B.A. in 1982, Deputy President in 1984 and State President this year.

Our cover picture shows Theo seated in the chair which was presented to the Association in 1936 in memory of Josh Hammill, a former President of the Australian Bowls Council. The Josh Hammill chair, restored last year to prime condition by Ken Barber of Melville Bowling Club, has pride of place in the Council of Representatives Hall in headquarters as the President's chair.