

# Jack60

*Direct to real people*

## Multi Members clarification

The Board of Bowls NSW has decided to get rid of the membership category of multi member. In effect that means that if you want to belong to more than one club, you won't be paying BowlsNSW for the privilege. You can still belong to more than one club.

In the past the only thing you got for your multi-membership that I could understand was a bill. That has now been removed.

## A final thank you

I couldn't possibly leave the last edition of JACK without extending a HUGE and sincere thanks to all of the people that roll up their sleeves and get involved in our great game. You sit on boards, work in committees, get on the phone and ask questions (rather than just making s#@t up and passing it off as fact). You engage with your Zone or District and when something is wrong you don't blow up, you set about making it right.

You write on Facebook, but not after a few bevies, you send emails to people that can answer questions or get things changed (and not after a few bevies) and you try to be a little tiny bit respectful when you do that. HINT; beginning emails with words like "you bastard" is not a great way to get engagement.

You go to courses to get training and more information, you genuinely seek to improve those around you by sharing your knowledge openly and generously. You realise that you don't have to trip someone down to make yourself look good. You understand that 10pm is not a cool time to call my mobile.

We have so many great, involved people in this game that do themselves and the sport great credit. It still amazes me the number of blokes that get this horribly wrong. With the number of great role models around it should be nigh on impossible to stuff this up.

To each of the good guys, a HUGE thank you.

## Front page thank you

A huge and heartfelt thank-you to all those JACK readers that sent me a note about my son. He is into his fourth round of chemo and doing really well. He has lost all of his hair, which is a bit of a shock to a guy that took a real interest in his appearance. It has however renewed his interest in hats. I will write something about hospitals and the service standards etc on my blog soon.

thelifelogproject.com Thanks. MB



Welcome to the last  
edition of Jack

I hope you had as much fun as I did? Please note as the star says, this has been 100% unofficial. Was written in my spare time, not in office time. If you are thin skinned or easily offended, I'm glad you did not read any. If you have recently insulted me or offended me, there is every chance you will see a one sided reprint of the incident here. Read it at your own risk.

[beaumont.michael@gmail.com](mailto:beaumont.michael@gmail.com)

Michael Beaumont MBA

Please, if you get  
insulted easily, hang  
up now.

It's easy to unsubscribe to JACK. All you have to do is send me an email saying UNSUBSCRIBE, and I will take you off the list immediately. People do it all the time. I don't mind, my feelings won't be hurt I promise you. There are more than 2000 regular readers of JACK and it was never designed to please everybody.

If you get insulted, don't sook about it, don't whinge about it, simply unsubscribe. [michael@rnswwa.org.au](mailto:michael@rnswwa.org.au)

## Advanced Coach Course

Are you interested in doing the Advanced Coach Course? It is a week long training course and costs \$1000. If you are interested in taking your coaching to the next level, and are prepared to put in the hard work, get in touch with Chris Green from our office for more information. The course would be ideal for Zone coaches or perhaps coaches of clubs that have an elite performance philosophy.

If you are the sort of person that might get involved in our State system and cannot afford the \$1000, then give me a call.

We have no interest in people training just for the sake of getting a badge. We are looking for focussed coaches with something to contribute at the elite level.

### Manly Gymnastics Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Clinic

24 Middleton Rd, Cromer NSW 2099

T: 0499 037 569

Email: [mwgcphysio@gmail.com](mailto:mwgcphysio@gmail.com)

Mark Stewart and Sam Harrington both have expertise in treating people of all ages for sports and non sports-related injuries. They are also approved to treat work-related injuries through workcover.

The practice is located at the Manly Warringah Gymnastics Club, just around the corner from the Dee Why Bowling Club. And they are great blokes. If you need a physio and you are on that side of the bridge, get in touch.

## I am still looking for amazing people.

As many of you would know,  
I record life histories of interesting people.

Whatcha got?

Email me.

## What is your club worth?

With several clubs closing recently and several more under threat perhaps it is time that you worked out what your club is worth. I don't mean what the land is worth and how much you would get for the chairs and tables. I mean, what does your club give to its community? If it were to vanish, who would be effected, who would be missing it, what parts of your local community would be most effected? If the answer to those questions is none and no-one then maybe that should be the clarion call to get busy and realign yourselves. Get back in touch with your local community. When it is all said and done, Bowling clubs have always been, and should continue to be, an integral and hugely important part of the fabric of the local community.

You could start by counting member visits, and guest visits and the number of times charities use your club, and the bingo players, and anything else you do that is of some value to your local community.

Sponsorships, support, fundraising etc etc. You should know what value you bring to your local community. If you are ever in a position to have to defend your club, it is worth knowing.

## Stuffocation

Another book review. The premise of this riveting book is that more things, more stuff, buying bigger and better toys does not make us happy, in fact has the reverse result. We are literally drowning in our stuff.

The Author investigates the alternatives to buying more things and there are quite a few alternatives as it turns out. I read the book in almost one sitting. I found that it challenged many of the thoughts and beliefs I had around ownership.

## New Children Laws

As of April 1st, if you are working with children in any capacity at a club or district or zone, as coach or mentor or supervisor, you need to have the new Working With Children Check. If you are a volunteer, the check is free. If you are paid or receive an honorarium, you are regarded as paid, and the check will cost you \$80.

You can get more details by going online at <http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children>

The rule of thumb is, if you have any opportunity to groom a child, then you should have the check. So District and Zone selectors, all coaches and anyone that might be driving kids unsupervised. Call me if you need help. MB

## Book talk

I was asked the other day for a list of my favourite books on coaching. I thought you may also be interested. As this will be my last opportunity to rant about coaching, have a read of this lot.

Any Given Team by Ray McLean

Teamwork by Ray McLean

Scores on the board by Bill Lang

How to be a great coach by Marshall C Cook

How Tiger does it by Brad Kearns

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

The Making of Champions by Garry Lewis

Go Team by Blanchard Randolph & Grazier

In my experience good coaches are always reading new books to improve their understanding of the process and all aspects of coaching. Good coaches seek information and don't get bogged down in singular mantras.

## South Coast

What a great bunch of Umpires we had at the meeting in Bomaderry last week. Solid questions and considerate in the way they approached the topic. Well done!

## Clarification

In the last edition of JACK I had a whole hearted whinge about some of the umpires we encountered in the Nepean District at a meeting in St Marys. Well, one of the JACK subscribers took exception to my comments and demanded that he be removed as a subscriber, (which of course is his prerogative and I did immediately). He interpreted my comments to mean that all the umpires at that meeting were rude and inconsiderate.

I have re-read my comments, and I am pretty sure I didn't say that. So by way of clarification, may I say that not all that attended were considered rude. There were a few idiots at the meeting that thought it was an appropriate stage to have a real whinge. When asked to put it in writing, they couldn't, which of course goes a long way to explain why they were so angry and frustrated. If you have yet to master writing, the only tool you have at your disposal is verbal outrage.

I understand that, I really do, but there is a reasonable way to convey that feeling that is not offensive and doesn't waste the time of a lot of people. I also understand that some people just like to be aggrieved and that maybe I am one of them.

## 'Dirt from the Ditch'

*"Dirt from the Ditch" is scuttlebutt, rumour and worst practice to make your hair curl.*

*At a recent visit to a club I was speaking with their bowls committee and was asked "so what is the actual difference between BowlsNSW and the Royal?"*

*"They are the same organisation" I said, "it's just bringing the image up to speed."*

*"No they are different, one of them seems to get involved in things and the other doesn't" he said*

*"No, I work for them, they are one and the same organisation" I said*

*"No that can't be right, they are different."*

*"What can I say, it is the one organisation"*

*I don't think I convinced them.*

## Just like dad

I have visited a lot of clubs over the last 8 years and this is a first for me. The Secretary Manager at Bomaderry Bowling Club, Garry (which BTW is a very good example of a club that is being really well run) took over from his father. Two generations running the one club.

Garry is an absolute gentleman and clearly is doing something right as the staff are friendly and competent and the club seems to be flourishing.



## Tiny Book Review

Here is a really useful little book, you may even call it a booklet for all of you trainers out there. It is called the Trainers Pocketbook. by John Townsend. I have forgotten how much it cost me but it was probably about \$10 or something like that.

It is only 120 pages long but is cram packed full of great training tips. From how to best set up a room, through to how to handle idiots. (Not of course that you will ever need that when you are training in the bowls world.)

Highly recommended, I still refer to this little gem.

## Blog

I write a blog. It is a tiny bit like JACK.

Check it out at [thelifelogsproject.com](http://thelifelogsproject.com)

If you like it, click on **like**, if you want to get the latest version, click on **follow**. It is that simple. Go on I dare you.

## The average bowler

A few times I have heard bowlers say things like “CDOs, or development officers, or RBMs, we never see them, they may come out to clubs but they only talk with committees or directors. The average bowler never gets to see them, so why should we be paying for them?”

If I can have a minute of your time, I just want to clear that issue up folks. RBMs (Regional Bowls Managers) or development officers (as I was) visit clubs to help build or strengthen infrastructure. Constitutional updates, business planning, corporate governance, policy development, grants and the like. Unless you serve on a committee or on a board why in hell would you expect to “see” one of them. What would you be expecting them to do? Dance for you?

If you are indeed, “the average bowler” whoever that may be, you probably will never see one of these guys. In fact if you do, I would probably start to question how they use their time. Our sport needs to improve, strengthen and build our internal procedures, our corporate governance, our infrastructure if we are ever going to have a chance of growing the sport.

Without improved infrastructure which includes workable documents and policies, people will leave faster than join, without strong leadership they will wander and without planning and a coherent plan we will collectively meander.



Above. Two headlines and stories you will never ever ever in a million years, see.



## The best bits of JACK

I have really enjoyed writing JACK over the last 60 editions. There have been a few aspects I have enjoyed more than others of course. Writing the Dirt from the Ditch segment brought me no end of joy, as I felt I had an outlet to vent my frustration when I saw something stupid being done. I will really miss that.

Another part of JACK that put a smile on my face was the way it opened up the lines of communication with a big group of bowlers that take their sport seriously. Players, administrators and committee men from across the State emailed me with their questions or comments safe in the knowledge that I would take them seriously and at the very least listen and at best do something to fix the problem.

With sixteen zones, 550 clubs, districts, men's and women's groups, small bowling groups, representative groups both big and small, registered clubs, volunteers, committee men and individual bowlers all concerned about their stake in the game, it is little wonder that many of them felt disenfranchised and in need of being heard.

I also enjoyed the occasions when people waved JACK in my face and told me that the problem with the game was administrators like me and that I should be more like this JACK magazine. I enjoyed ruffling feathers, I always have. I hope that someone will fill that role. I tried always to do it in a respectful manner, mindful that I wouldn't always achieve that. I have always been a big believer in free speech but also understand that action is needed sometimes.

Writing 60 editions of JACK has been a huge undertaking, but worth every minute. We have a long way to go to get things back on track in this great sport of ours and many of us have different opinions or theories on the root cause of the issues that underpin the decline in membership.

I have also tried to use JACK to encourage those people that have the internet or can access it. I have worked with people in their 90's that are very internet savvy so no-one can say it is age stopping them for staying connected. We have some communication challenges ahead of us in the sport and I have tried to use JACK to improve that issue, sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't. Thank you to all of those subscribers that took the time to read it. Best wishes to you all. MB

## Type to enter text

No that heading is not a mistake. I wanted to write something under that heading as the last item in the last edition as a bit of a landmark. I have written about 1400 articles or snippets or bits in this newsletter over 60 editions and those four words have been at the top of every single dialogue box I have typed into. Then of course for anyone that has ever done this sort of thing, you start to type over it and it vanishes.

In addition to those 1400, I have written but not published another 200 or so articles. They did not pass the sobriety test. That test involves rereading the stuff I wrote after a few glasses of shiraz. The old red wine truth serum is not a great partner to writing, or more accurately I should say its not a bad partner to writing but is a shocking partner to remaining employed.

A final thanks to all those that sent in information, and those that read every page. Keep bowling, get involved, change the things that need to be changed.

## Calendar

**June 13- 25 Australian Opn Broadbeach**

**June 26 NSW Under 25s Finals @ Cabramatta**

**June 29-July1 NSW v QLD Under 18s @ Taren Pt**

**July 2-5 Drakes Junior Carnival @Windang**

**July 6-11 NSW Junior Championships @ Warilla**

**Get along to see the stars of tomorrow. I can highly recommend this one.**

## Contributors

MB1



Evil and often contemptuous of authority this horrible man contributes all of the nasty stuff. Gold for the skeptics.

MB2



20 years as an auctioneer, loquacious and rowdy and has pretty much an opinion on, well, everything.

MB3



This is the guy with the MBA and he really does know stuff. Infrequent contributor however and is not good with deadlines or direction. Read his stuff with a degree of suspicion.