



Portland RSL Memorial Bowling Club News Report Friday 3rd March 2023

After a week of finals participation for the Portland RSL Memorial Bowling Club we finally managed to come away with the Holy Grail at one level in what was a cliff hanger. Last weekend we saw Division 2 and 3 of Weekend Pennant being eliminated, but more on that later.

Division 1 of Weekday Pennant hit the perfectly kept green at Heywood little knowing of the prospective ins and outs, ups and downs that would ultimately culminate in a victory that left spectators astounded.

Bowling conditions at the start of the day were perfect with not a breath of breeze. Portland took to the green with a mantra of determinedness, leaving Memorial absolutely flat footed. Things were looking extremely grim to say the least and compounded further by a declared injury on rink 1. After reference to the rule book it meant that in taking on the emergency the team had to be reshuffled. This meant that the Lead on the rink had to take on the role of Skip without any previous experience.

At break time the deficit was 20 shots and for Memorial it was going to be a huge effort against a competent and confident opposition. But as everybody knows with the game of bowls the lay of the land can change very quickly and can be all to do with momentum. This, Memorial ran with and were able to claw their way back into the game to take the title by 1 shot on the very last bowl of the day.

On reflection, things began to get really tight from 48 ends with scores reading 45 all with the difference most times after that, only being a shot or two, Memorial managing to keep the lead. What followed was an absolute drama packed final end which had Memorial in front with 7 shots. However this shot advantage dissipated with two rinks finished and the final rink still in the throes of action. The score on the board showed Memorial with a deficit of 1; Portland 58 to Memorial 57.

The Fasoli rink (this being the rink that was reshuffled) was holding 2 shots until the opposition 3rd took the shot bowl out. The stand in Skip, Robyn McCabe had the unenviable job of trying to either draw or win the game. McCabe with the final bowl of the day played a magnificent up-shot to take the opposition bowl out and to sit alongside of kitty to get the two shots required to win the match! The scores on the Fasoli rink finally read McCabe 26 to Heather Burgess 14. This rink led all day and Robyn McCabe and her team of John Wallis, Robert Liddle and Leanne Evison were able to support her with consistent delivery of bowls throughout the day.

Marion Husson and her team trio of Kathryn Beaglehole, Terry Stanley and Peter Fasoli were slow to start but with a determined fortitude broke the deficit existing on the score board at the break; Memorial 6 shots to Portland 9 shots. They consistently worked at adding to their shot tally whilst attempting to keep Portland's gains to a minimum, only allowing them 4 shots after the break. It was a tight game throughout where every bowl was delivered under immense pressure. Final scores on this rink were Memorial 17 to Portland 13.

June Leahy had the support of Gerry Watt, Ted Leahy and Joan Englezos and found they were caught off guard with a very accurate opposition led by Shirley Rogers. The team found it very hard to score winning shots. At the break, the team were down by 13 shots; Portland 18 to Memorial 5. This however provided the impetus to put forth a challenge to minimise the scoring opportunities of the

opposition. This they did so, gaining 11 shots bringing their score within 6 shots of the opposition. Portland meanwhile had only added on 5 more shots within that time frame. Unfortunately, a significant multiple in the very late stages of the game bought the difference back to a similar deficit at the break. Final scores on this rink were Portland 31 to Memorial 16.

Congratulations to the Memorial Division 1 on their courageous win. There were some great bowls delivered by both sides, keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats in the second half of the game to the very end. As the Michael Jordan quote goes 'There is no 'i' in team but there is in win'. Well done on Division 1 on coming from fourth to win the Premiership. All contributed to the journey throughout the season to obtain the ultimate win. A special recognition to Robyn McCabe who on the day stood up to the role of Skip, faced the ultimate pressure in a game and produced the goods, to win by one shot.

Unfortunately, the Weekend Pennant results played last weekend saw our Division 2 & 3 teams falling short in their Preliminary Final endeavours to make it the Grand Final.

Division two was played at Heywood and the combatants were Hamilton Gold and Memorial. Gold finishing higher on the ladder. The game was close for most of the day, and Memorial had their opportunities but Gold moved ahead towards the end of the game and came out as the side to play Portland Gold in the grand final. Final scores on the day were Memorial 53 to Hamilton Gold 63.

Leonie Buchanan and her rink of player support being Ted Leahy, Terry Barclay and Uppie Angelino were 10 to 12 at the break. Despite the best of efforts by the team, gaining shots for either side was proving tricky with the developing wind creating some havoc on the green. The team were unable to close the gap. Final scores on this rink were Buchanan 17 to M. Jolly 22.

Peter Fasoli led his team combo of Bob McIntrye, Robert Little and June Leahy to a win of 20 shots to A. Crane 14. Memorial were quick off the mat and were able to have a lead of 6 shots at the break. They continued to combine well as a team and apply consistent bowls to lead comfortably for the remainder of the game.

Gerry Watt supported by Trevor Wynniat, Ian Benbow and Rod Beaglehole were able to claim a lead at the break of 2 shots. Unfortunately after the break the tide of gaining shots waned and Hamilton Gold, led by T.Shultz were able to step into top gear. Final scores on the rink were Memorial 16 to Hamilton Gold 27.

On the west side of that game, Hamilton and Memorial scrapped and scraped all day with scores never getting far apart. At 21 ends 23 all. At 42 ends Hamilton 39 Memorial 38. As ends wore away the tension was palpable. With one end on each rink to play scores were 54 all. Terry Stanley and his team of Meredith Fredericks, Jack Rees and Peter Sierat worked hard against B. Edge's combination. Despite being behind for most of the game they were able to maintain a steady margin deficit making the opposition work hard for their shots. Final scores on this rink were Stanley 20 to B.Edge 25.

David Garnier led Pearl Kitt, Robyn McCabe and Martin McKeever to a winning rink for the day. At the break they had a handy lead of 7. This they were able to maintain for the remainder of the game with the opposition getting to within 4 shots at one stage. Final scores on this rink had Garnier winning by 5 shots against G. Wallis; 18 to 13.

Tink Imbi and his support crew of Peter Pevitt, Ian Merrett and Ernie Arnold were always threatening to the H. McIntyre crew. At the final end, with the other two rinks completed the teams were two shots apart in the McIntyre team's favour. Peter Pevitt drew a pearler to be millimetres in front of the opposition's bowl. Skip, Tink put down a great last bowl that only missed by the narrowest of margins in creating a draw on the score card. Unfortunately, the best planned placements don't always happen in the game of bowls. This meant that the opposition won the game by three shots.

Tink's rink amassed 17 shots to H. McIntyre 20. The final overall scores on the day were Memorial 55 to Hamilton 58. A very close contest and a nail biter for all supporters on the day.

Up and Coming Events:

Monday 6th March Top Shot Bowls All Inclusive Abilities Tournament

Wednesday 8th March Monthly Invitation 4's

Saturday/ Sunday 11th & 12th March Men's 21 UP. Names in by Thursday 9th March

Friday 17th March St.Patrick's Day Mixed Triples. Lady Skip. Major sponsor Formplex. Minor Sponsors Drew Gleeson, Coastal Self Storage and Complete Bowls.

Saturday 18th March Men's Minor Championship

Thursday 23rd March Ladies 21Up Championship





