

The Club through the Years: a History of Jindalee Bowls Club

Composed by Sidney Taylor

INTRODUCTION:

The Jindalee Bowls Club is proud to present you with the details of our club, its history and up to date information which should be of interest to members of the club but, more importantly, to non members who may like to try the game of Lawn Bowls. We have the greens, the bowls and the coaches to get you started. (Without obligation). We would like to see people of all ages enjoying the best social sport and we welcome your participation. Our main mission is to fill the greens with bowlers as often as possible.

Club History:-

In the early 1960's, approximately 20 square miles of grazing paddocks were purchased by Centenary Estates or development and subdivision into housing estates. The first of these was named Jindalee, and aboriginal word meaning "Bare Hills". In 1965, the General Manager of Centenary Estates, Peter Lightfoot, recognised the need for a bowls club amongst other recreational facilities in the new suburb and called a public meeting which resolved to proceed with the formation of the Jindalee Bowls Club.

The first meeting of the new club was held on the 21st October, 1965, with 33 members. A further 22 early applicants were also granted Foundation Member status on 30th November 1965. Initially these members used facilities offered by Toowong Bowls Club, but in April 1966 the Brisbane City Council approved the lease of 2.5 acres of land where the club stands today.

The Tender of \$19,127 was accepted for the construction of two greens and a committee was formed to plan a clubhouse.

The first game was played on the new greens on Easter Sunday, 1967 and a tender of \$22,461 was accepted for the construction of stage one of the club house.

Seventeen Ladies joined the club on 31st January 1967 and were the foundation lady members of the club. A Ladies Club was formed in July 1967, and in December of the year the new clubhouse was officially opened by the then Patron, the late Hon. John Herbert, MLA. The entrance fee in those days was \$10 (still the same today) and the annual subscription was \$20 for men. A Pennants team was entered for the 1968 season and the Club Championships commenced.

Thus began the Jindalee Bowls Club.

In 1974 the disastrous Cyclone Wanda floods struck the Brisbane region and Jindalee was amongst the worst affected. The floodwaters rose to a level of fifteen feet above the roof-top of the clubhouse and when the waters finally receded the club house interior was wrecked and the greens were covered with tons and tons of silt. However, adversity brought out the best from the members and the volunteers toiled to clear off the silt and refurbish the clubhouse. So successful were these efforts that both greens survived and were in playing condition only a few weeks later

In 1975 the club won its first pennant (in 4th Division) and finances had improved sufficient to consider modest improvements to the clubhouse. Three years later, after many delays, the eastern extension was opened. In 1981, the couch grass on the greens was replaced by Tiff-dwarf, the cost again being held to a minimum through the efforts of the members. Club membership was by now growing towards the 250 mark and more space was required in the bar. This extension was completed in 1985.

In 1989 the club became an Incorporated body and in the same year both greens were completely rebuilt to improve drainage and therefore running speed. The Men's and Ladies' clubs amalgamated in 1994, poker machines having been installed in 1993. In 1997, although only moderately successful financially the pokies have enabled us to refurbish the clubhouse and set us on a firm program for future development. 1988-99 were busy periods with new shades being fitted to the clubhouse and around the greens, while flood lights were fitted to both greens for night bowls and security lights were updated. The Faux green underwent reconstruction with new ditches.

The success of the Jindalee Bowls Club has been very largely due to the dedication and efforts of office bearers and members of both the Men's and Ladies' clubs over the years. It is up to the present and future members to continue this fine tradition and to accept the obligations which come with membership to contribute to the future success of their club.

It is now September 28th 2003 and a major change has taken place. The Men's and Ladies' clubs have now amalgamated into one controlling body under the control of a MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

This step was taken to streamline the day to day financial business and reduce the number of accounting problems. The club will now function under the guidance of one secretary and treasurer with assistants from the Ladies and men's sections. Under the guiding hand of the new Chairman, John Cable, the club will improve its position in the

bowling community. We must pull together and pitch in with all the help we can provide to make the club the best in the district. (The words of our Chairman)

The Oakhill Green

The Oakhill green was closed for a complete reconstruction on Sunday 23rd November 2003.

We thank Queensland Sport and Recreation for their support and financial assistance with this major project.

The Oakhill green was back in service on January 21st 2004.

The Official Opening of the green was held on Sunday 29th February 2004.

A large crowd was present, including all our past Presidents and our Life Members, the Cunningham District President Mr. Arthur Smith, QLBA President Mrs. Betty Cullinan, and, representing the Queensland Government, Julie Attwood MLA.

At the conclusion of the proceedings Julie Attwood declared the green open for use and put the first bowl down. This was followed by a number of prominent persons bowling one bowl. It was a perfect day and a very well organized function

The FAUX Green.

This green was closed down on Monday 1st November 2004 for a full reconstruction job.

Dad's Army consisted of 20 odd willing workers who pitched in on Thursday 4th November to cut grass and supply barrow loads of new lawn clippings to be laid and become the new green surface. The green reopened on 1st February 2005.

2004 A Year of Changes.

Two important changes were made during 2004.

1. The club adopted a single club badge which will be used by both men and women to replace any other badges previously used.
2. The club also adopted a new Club Flag for both men and women.

2005 On the 25th January our club published its own web site.
www.jindaleebowlsclub.org.

Our Email address was jindaleeb@gmail.com. Webmaster Sid Taylor.

The start of year 2005 was not good because the Oakhill green suffered a soil problem which caused great concern to the management committee and was finally closed down for a complete overhaul. The green was reopened for use on Saturday 2nd April.

2007 During May of this year, Air conditioning was installed in the Bar area of the clubhouse. The remaining (the auditorium) will be completed at a later date.

Three other major changes were completed during December of this year. A covered outdoor BBQ area established at the eastern end of the club house close to the BBQ. It is playing a big part in the promotion of Barefoot Bowling on Friday and Sunday.

A new web site was introduced at this time with a change of Domain name. www.jindaleebc.com

The second change was the relocation of our poker machines to the southern wall at the end of the bar. The original area has been turned into a very nice observation lounge.

The third change was the installation of ten (10) 10 thousand litre water storage tanks under the building in the car park area. Pumping equipment and pipeline is connected to the main storage tank at the green keeper's work shed.

2008 A number of important changes have been made to Club's appearance this year.

Special flagpoles have been erected at the eastern end of the greens to fly the Club's Pennant flags. All the old hedges were removed and replaced with evergreen shrubs. The gardens were also cleaned up and replanted with fresh plants. Dudley Smith has worked hard to on the gardens. The wire fence was also replaced.

The Greens Coordinator and his assistants also laid a new pathway to the main entrance. He also manufactured and fitted new safety boundary pegs for all rinks. A major job of upgrading our parking area was completed by the council at a cost of \$56,000.

It should never sink or crack again. Our Poker machines were relocated to the southern side of the building and the original area was converted to a nice lounge area with TV

2009 During January of this year both greens received an annual service to put them back in top condition.

Also in January, the green carpeting was removed from the club entrance and walkway and replace with the Club's colour Blue. The hand rail was sanded and repainted by House Director Cobber Hallett. Hand rail from the car park was renewed

2011 What a start to a new year! January 11th is a date we will not forget.

Once again the Club experienced another 1974 flood disaster. Two and a half weeks after the water level dropped the greens were open for use. That was a remarkable effort by Warwick Smith, Scot Lapthorne and their group of willing workers. It is amazing the number of people, too many to be named, who gave their time and also money to help with the recovery. The opening date for the rebirth of the Club will be announced in the Club news.

A new Web Site was developed and published in March by Sid Taylor.

The new web address was <http://www.jindaleebc.com>

Click on this address to see Before and After the Flood

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/infographics/qld-floods/beforeafter.htm>

Six months after the flood

The Bar area, the second stage of rebuilding after the flood was officially opened on Saturday 11th June. Vicki Eddowes (Bar Manager) and Ken Watson (House Coordinator) cut the ribbons under the watchful eye of a large group of members. A great effort by all concerned.

After many hours of hard work by a large number of volunteers and selected tradesmen the club was officially reopened on Sunday 28th August by a combined cutting of the tape by Matthew Bourke (Brisbane Councilman), Club Chairman Peter Read, Men's President Graham Grundy and Ladies' President Sue Bourke.

2014. A new website was opened in August to improve the appearance and advertise the Club's activities and available facilities. The site name is now - www.jindaleebc2.org